

Williams, and with a number of individuals in Abscam. . . . You can trap anybody; you can trap the President of the United States under those circumstances. . . . I was extremely happy to have had the opportunity to travel around the country fighting for justice for a man whom I not only believe was being persecuted, but who showed the kind of spirit that our democratic institutions should be proud of.

EIR: How do you think Ronald Reagan should handle America's economic and foreign policy crisis?

Jack: I believe that there is a vast vacuum between Ronald Reagan and the men who are responsible for the various areas of government, such as Volcker. It seems to me that the President ought to assert himself, that as long as the U.S. keeps its high interest rates, we're going to have trouble, and we're inviting a collapse. . . . We have no budget either. Mr. Reagan has been fighting for a budget for a long time, and now he's going to Versailles . . . to try to bring about some sort of understanding among our allies. If he has failed in the business of adjusting the economy of the United States, what kind of leadership can he offer to those countries?

It's almost shocking to recognize the struggle that's going on in his cabinet. . . . I don't think that the President knows all of the implications of what we were getting involved with in the Malvinas. . . .

Our credibility had been tarnished by the Malvinas situation where Latin America has been pitted against us. . . . I shall never forget that England has been the greatest trademaster in slavery, in denying other than Anglo-Saxon people their rights and ambitions.

EIR: Looking ahead to 1984, what kind of leadership can the NDPC provide?

Jack: Come 1984, both the Democratic and the Republican Party are going to be in serious trouble. . . . I want every American who goes to the polls and votes to recognize that he is a King and she is a Queen in this democracy, for without their votes no one can be elected to the high office of President.

Neither the Republican Party nor the Democratic Party—as it is constituted now—will be able to produce. I say that the NDPC offers the best program for the development and redevelopment of the economy of our nation. I frankly believe that we have a good candidate to offer to the people, and that is Lyndon LaRouche.

EIR: Do you think that your political autobiography, which will be published soon, will help the voters?

Jack: I hope that my book will help establish within each of us the pride of citizenship, the importance of being a participant—remembering that you play an important role in the continued existence of the best government on the face of the earth.

Will the Democratic Party survive its midterm session?

by Freyda Greenberg

On June 25, the Democratic Party will hold its midterm convention in Philadelphia, the party's first national meeting since the 1980 election of Republican Ronald Reagan. Although the "mini-convention" is billed as a consolidation point for a Democratic alternative to the Reagan administration, a tactical split within the party leadership, and strong constituency pressures for specific policy solutions to the intensifying political and economic disorder in the United States, threaten to turn it into a battle royal.

Potential flashpoints

Private and public clashes can be expected to arise at the convention around the following issues:

Party accountability: The Democratic National Committee (DNC) voted at its May 28 meeting to introduce a controversial resolution into the midterm convention that "elected Democrats must be held accountable not merely in rhetoric but in action to the principles of this party and its leadership."

The defeat of incumbent Rep. Ron Mottl in the June 8 Democratic primary in Ohio sets a precedent for efforts to purge elected representatives who diverge from DNC positions. The national AFL-CIO and the state and Cuyahoga County Democratic Party mounted a campaign to defeat Mottl because of his opposition to Paul Volcker's high interest rates, and support for Reagan's tax and budget. Mottl introduced a resolution in January 1981 stating that the Federal Reserve was not autonomous, and that interest rates should be held below 10 percent. Although the national leadership, including House Speaker Tip O'Neill (Mass.), gave lip service to defending Mottl, as an incumbent, the policy of Lane Kirkland and Democratic National Chairman Charles Manatt to divert anti-Volcker sentiment to opposition to Reagan's budget prevailed. O'Neill called Mottl's defeat an "important lesson" for incumbents.

Party platform: Votes on specific political policies at the convention are being strongly discouraged by the congressional incumbents and an increasingly nervous DNC, who are concerned to avoid any major policy splits prior to the November 1982 elections. If anything,

party policy will be to channel policy discussion into votes *against* Reagan programs instead.

The agenda for the convention is to include presentations by the 1984 presidential hopefuls; a day of "issues" groups; and a day of resolutions. Issues discussion at the convention will be shaped by the *Democratic Fact Book, Issues for 1982*, prepared by Pamela Harriman's political action committee, Democrats for the '80s and consisting of some 17 topic areas from agriculture to arms control to social security to women. The DNC is preparing policy papers for the seven Issues Workshops on June 26 which include: Food and Agriculture Policy; Citizens Rights and Personal Security; Protecting the Environment and Promoting Energy Security; Investing in Human Capital; Promoting Economic Growth and Opportunity; Foreign Policy, Defense, and Arms Control; and Making Government Work Better. According to the office of the Vice-Chairman, however, "The midterm is by charter *not a convention*. We want to shape policy discussion but this is not a party platform. Votes are not binding."

But the DNC has been spending the majority of its time arranging a sideshow of presidential hopefuls in hopes of diverting delegates' interests away from policy decisions and toward the personalities of the candidates. To date, the lineup includes former Vice-President Walter Mondale; Sens. Gary Hart of Colorado, John Glenn of Ohio, Alan Cranston of California, and Ted Kennedy of Massachusetts; and Govs. Jay Rockefeller of West Virginia, John Y. Brown of Kentucky, and Ruben Askew of Florida.

Depending on the delegate representation at the convention, the DNC's attempted diversion may fail. On the one hand, the hard-core Socialist International elements within the party and affiliated trade unions plan a radical policy fight. To the extent traditional party constituents are represented on the floor, strong demands for platform debate, especially for a Democratic alternative to Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker's high-interest-rate policy, are expected.

Delegate selection: Recently enacted changes in the selection of delegates for the Democratic presidential nominating convention reverse the liberal procedures set by the McGovern Commission following the 1968 convention. The new rules, which emphasize the role of elected officials and impose strict state and national party scrutiny of delegates, have been applied to the selection of delegates and "participants" to the mini-convention as well.

Affirmative action delegate selection quotas have already been dropped, sparking reactions from black and Hispanic constituents. In one of several planned actions, Philadelphia City Councilman Lucian Blackwell will be leading a picket line at the convention.

At its May 28 meeting, DNC executives under the

direction of Chairman Charles Manatt quickly appointed 100 "delegates-at-large" as an attempt to, according to the vice-chairman's office, "correct any imbalances in affirmative action representation caused by the selection process." There is no indication that the leadership's corrective actions will satisfy the disenfranchised constituencies.

According to Manatt's office, the National Democratic Policy Committee is being deliberately denied admittance to the midterm convention. Manatt is confident that LaRouche delegates have not been chosen during the election of delegates by the state parties, said a source at the DNC national headquarters on June 8. With this accomplished, Manatt's office is now denying "non-participant credentials" to individuals affiliated with Mr. LaRouche. A request by the NDPC to permit Mr. LaRouche to address the mini-convention will also be refused, said the source. The 35 percent of the Democratic electorate in Philadelphia, the site of the convention, which voted for LaRouche-backed candidate Steve Douglas in the recent gubernatorial primary will hence be denied representation.

The post-November 1980 strategy

Immediately following the 1980 presidential election defeat, there was an agreed-upon strategy among the party leadership encompassing the Harriman wing of the party, the circles around Cyrus Vance, as well as Ted Kennedy, Walter Mondale, House Speaker Tip O'Neill, and the Democratic congressional leadership, to transform the party into an American branch of the British Labour Party. This strategy, developed at the Dec. 5-7, 1980 conference of the Socialist International in Washington, D.C., titled, "Eurosocialism and America," was reported on at length by *EIR* in early 1981.

The essential plan as it pertained to the Democratic Party called for radicalizing the party around the anti-capitalist, anti-technology planks most commonly associated with "Democrats" Tom Hayden and California Gov. Jerry Brown, thus deliberately driving conservatives and moderates out of the party. With this accomplished, party rule changes which reversed the liberal pluralist policies known as the "McGovern reforms" would be replaced with British-modeled party accountability rules which would link Democratic membership with adherence to the Hayden-Brown policies.

In the aftermath of the 1980 Democratic Party convention, the party established a Party Accountability Commission and a Commission on Presidential Selection, later known as the Hunt Commission, to prepare for the adoption of party rules that would truncate primary seasons, give greater delegate power to already elected officials, and mandate candidate accountability to party line. Groups like the Committee for Party Renewal, the Democratic Conference, the Duke Forum,

and Cyrus Vance's Public Agenda Foundation were spawned to dovetail the DNC's own groups, to publish studies and promote a consensus for the changes.

At the March 26, 1982 meeting of the DNC, the recommendations of the Hunt Commission on Presidential Selection were unanimously adopted, including:

1) A rule that 14 percent of the presidential nomination convention must be composed of elected and state officials. In the DNC discussion, Glenn Watts, current president of the Communications Workers of America and member of the zero-growth Club of Rome, supported having 30 percent of the delegates be elected officials, emphasizing that officials must be chosen "in a manner which screens, challenges, or discourages those who do not support party positions." By elevating the role of elected officials, the party is directing potential candidates to woo incumbents in order to prove their viability rather than build grassroots organization.

2) Candidates may win all the delegates to the nominating convention from a single district, rather than having these delegates divided among the candidates according to their share of the popular vote in the primary. In this fashion a candidate receiving less than 50 percent of the vote will get no delegates at all.

3) The primary-caucus season will be reduced to a set number of weeks during the campaign year, thus favoring the well-known, well-funded candidates who have a distinct advantage early in the primary campaign.

The centrists

While the DNC and its overlapping Socialist International circles under the leadership of Chairman Charles Manatt are sticking close to the initial plan, congressional incumbents have been increasingly overcome with the reality principle of facing re-election, especially as November 1982 nears. Although the most radical of the initial conspirators acknowledged and supported the fact that the planned transformation of the party would hopelessly splinter it, others, including the Harriman-Vance circles, had projected an ability to control the electorate around synthetic issues and candidates along the lines of the Jimmy Carter campaign.

However, of late, a party centrist position has been steadily growing, even among Harrimanites, that supports avoiding the adoption of party positions and instead focusing on maximizing Democratic victories in the November 1982 elections. This can be seen in the controversy over party accountability. While the Hunt Commission's recommendations passed with no objection from within the party leadership, the issue of party accountability has become a point of dissention.

There is significant trepidation over the accountability clause not only because it seriously challenges the independence of elected officials, but more significantly, especially at this time, because it raises the question of

specific party platform. If elected officials are to be held accountable, what are they to be accountable to? Even a close associate of Cyrus Vance—the architect of most of the British-style rule changes—admitted recently that "party accountability has got to be several steps away. We're not like a European party even though everyone thinks we need to be. . . . As far as the convention goes, let's hope there are not votes on platform."

The constituency problem

The split in the party leadership does not have to do with differences with the policy outlined at the 1980 Socialist International conference. Upcoming elections can usually be expected to upset congressional incumbents and cause them to moderate from post-election ideology. The hesitancy on the part of the Cyrus Vance circles, however, to enact British parliamentary party accountability rules at this time derives from recently developed doubts that even the marginal percentage of the electorate needed to justify the media label "party constituency" could be mustered should the party formally adopt the Brown-Hayden line.

Behind these doubts is the popular uproar over Paul Volcker's credit policies—a sentiment now demanding a Democratic Party response despite all attempts to channel the ferment into opposition to Reagan's budget. The 20 percent vote in the Pennsylvania Democratic gubernatorial primary earned by National Democratic Policy Committee-backed candidate Steve Douglas is being read seriously by leading Democrats as further confirmation that the electorate will not be so easily subverted as in 1976. Douglas won his vote by systematically activating Democratic constituency machines throughout the state around a specific programmatic alternative to Gov. Richard Thornburgh's enforcement of Paul Volcker's depression policies. By contrast, the national leadership of the Democratic Party has virtually abandoned county and local organizations since the media-created victory of Jimmy Carter in 1976.

Will the party survive?

A longtime campaign aide to Democratic liberal George McGovern summed up the tension leading into the mini-convention, "most people wish the convention could be put off until after the November elections." Against this backdrop, the main questions for the party leadership are: 1) will they be able to skirt the issue of party policy at the convention and keep the party from splitting before the November congressional elections? and 2) if they can, will they be able to skirt the issues at the polls in November?

For the present and potential constituencies of the Democratic Party, a more urgent question is whether a traditional alliance of labor, farmers, businessmen, and minorities can wrest control of the party and revive the tradition of progress.

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