
New York Primary Elections

How NDPCers cracked the Harriman machine

by Mary McCourt

National Democratic Policy Committee-backed candidates Mel Klenetsky and Fernando Oliver polled double-digit returns in the New York state primary Sept. 23. These results demonstrate, in the assessment of the NDPC, that the power base of the Democratic Party—the alliance of organized labor, the Italian, Jewish, Irish, Black and Hispanic populations, has begun to reassert itself after two decades of top-down destruction of the party by the Averell Harriman-led Democratic National Committee. The New York results followed primaries in Pennsylvania, Maryland and Minnesota where candidates of the wing of the Democratic Party led by economist and *EIR* founder Lyndon LaRouche got official returns in the range of 20 to 37 percent.

Klenetsky's campaign for Senate got an official return of 16 percent, and Oliver's in the 18th CD in the South Bronx, 13 percent. These returns were far lower, in the estimation of both candidates, than their actual vote, but the DNC was unable to reproduce the massive fraud operation run against NDPC-backed William Wertz in the California primary this June without the computerized voting apparatus used in that state. The vote in the megastate of New York, on top of the Pennsylvania results, critical to any national Democratic candidate, indicates that LaRouche will be a major factor in the 1984 elections.

Mel Klenetsky, who ran for the Democratic nomination for Mayor of New York City in 1981 against incumbent Ed Koch, received a total of over 160,000 votes. This vote, in response to a campaign run on minimal funds and faced with almost total press blackout in the New York metropolitan area, the major population concentration in the state, is apparently not a protest vote, but a response to the program Klenetsky presented in appearances statewide. Klenetsky's returns, in numbers of votes, were comparable to those for each of three candidates in the Republican primary for Senator.

What demonstrates most strikingly the effect of Klenetsky's campaign are the official 30 to 40 percent, ranging as high as 60 percent, returns in Black and Hispanic districts in New York, those areas designated for "benign neglect" by his opponent, incumbent Harriman-Democrat Daniel Patrick Moynihan. Klenetsky got returns of up to 30 percent in Jewish areas where Moynihan's campaign staff and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith had conducted a slander

campaign, calling Klenetsky an "anti-Semite" and "neo-Nazi" on the basis of his association with LaRouche. Klenetsky stated to his supporters at an election-night celebration that "The Big Lie backfired, because the perpetrators do not understand the Jewish mind" with its commitment to justice and Socratic dialogue. The real anti-Semite is Harriman, whose family was a leading organizer of the Nazi eugenics movement in the 1920s and 1930s.

The voters in these areas responded to the candidate's program to use the nationally important position of U.S. Senator from New York to rid the U.S. economy of the stranglehold of Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker's high interest rates, and make the state, the tenth largest economic entity in the world, a leader in revitalizing agriculture, steel, and energy production, and the creation of a highly educated, skilled labor force.

A series of half-hour television programs presenting the candidates and LaRouche on the steps necessary to reorganize debt and restart production, reached approximately 1.5 million viewers around New York State.

The South Bronx congressional race

Congressional candidate Fernando Oliver is charging that his returns in the 18th congressional district in the South Bronx were held down to an official 13 percent in the three-way race only by the use of massive vote fraud by his opponent, Robert Garcia. Oliver's campaign to rebuild the bombed-out South Bronx into the industrial and residential area it was only a generation ago, and to break the control of the Roy Cohn-allied machine of Stanley Friedman, which backs Garcia, has documented the ties of this machine to pushers of drugs and violent terrorism. A pre-election release by the Fact-Finding Division of the National Democratic Policy Committee stated that the man who ran Garcia's petitioning campaign, Ramon Velez is, a leader of the Lincoln Detoxification Center in the Bronx in 1970-76. Law-enforcement officials have documented that members of at least 10 terrorist organizations, including the Black Liberation Army and the FALN, were recruited from the Center.

Garcia also received support and funding against Oliver from the Jewish Community Relations Council, headed by Lawrence Tisch, one of the most powerful insurance and real-estate magnates in New York, embodying the interests responsible for the deliberate destruction of housing in the South Bronx. Oliver has already documented extensive irregularities in the 18th C.D.

In the Democratic gubernatorial race, the organized support of New York labor unions gave Lt.-Gov. Mario Cuomo a 52 to 48 percent victory over New York's austerity mayor, Ed Koch. The endorsements and mobilization of the vote for Cuomo by the AFL-CIO, IBEW, AFSCME and the building trades, focused particularly on the Italian-American population, in conjunction with Black church and community organizations, defeated Koch despite consistent awarding of victory to Koch by the press up to the eve of the election.