

Eye on Democrats by Anita Gallagher

A challenge to Manatt's freeze'nik 'consensus'

The Democratic National Committee's \$1,000-a-plate annual gala on Sept. 28 in Washington, D.C. was like Halloween come early—befitting the ghoulish policies Charles T. Manatt and Gov. Averell Harriman have foisted on the Party sheep.

On Sept. 20 at Georgetown University, national chairman Manatt, with Governor Harriman at his side, had announced a Democratic Party "consensus" in support of the nuclear freeze and missile reductions among all seven of its presidential candidates and its congressional leadership.

Thus, it was fitting that Soviet Marshal Ogarkov and Neville Chamberlain look-alikes were on hand to greet the Democrats as they drove up in their limousines. Marshal Ogarkov, flaunting his medals, strode up to Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.) and told him, "Ve vant peace . . . a piece of the U.S.!" and, "You do very good work," as the congressman hurried by stonefaced.

Others of the congressional staff crowd (\$1,000 ticket holders were in the minority) met Neville Chamberlain, complete with umbrella, and stopped to shake his hand as he introduced himself, "We aim to appease; support the freeze!"

Inside, things did not go as exactly as planned either. Featured speaker Jimmy Carter, a contender as the most hated President in the 20th century, had cancelled his appearance to attend

the funeral of his faith-healer sister, Ruth Stapleton Carter.

DNC chairman Manatt, standing in the receiving line, shrieked "It's LaRouche!" and ducked behind his comrades at the mention of *EIR* founder Lyndon LaRouche's announcement that he is a candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination. Manatt was asked if he would run the 1984 presidential nomination with KGB tactics.

The chairman might well be edgy, given the circumstances of the Georgetown promulgation of the nuclear freeze policy. *EIR* has learned that no party leaders were consulted, not even the Democratic "sixpack without a head," much less the party's constituency leaders.

Governor Harry Hughes of Maryland, queried on the Manatt *diktat* that the party supports the freeze, declared, "I'm not here to discuss politics. I'm here to have fun." Harriman protégé and would-be hawk Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan of New York, asked if he would repudiate the freeze in the wake of the KAL airline massacre, blustered, "Absolutely not. I feel stronger about the freeze than ever before. I read Manatt's speech and I think it's excellent!"

The touchiest moment of the evening came when a reporter asked Carter intimate Bob Strauss and Mrs. Strauss if Bob's good friend Pam Harriman had dictated Manatt's line on the freeze. While Mrs. Strauss froze, the old power broker declined "to talk about that here."

Moe Udall, whose aborted presidential candidacy made the nuclear freeze its principal theme, was asked if he were still working for the Kremlin. "Yes indeed," he answered, "are you?" Walter Mondale, asked the same question, pretended to be deaf.

Former Florida Gov. Reubin Askew readily put aside his peevishness about Manatt's inclusion of him as a freeze supporter and showed up at the dinner. Askew has insisted that he has praised

the propaganda efforts of the freeze'niks, but he doesn't want to be bound to every pronouncement of the freeze movement, especially if it would lose him votes.

More trouble ahead for Walter Mondale

The bevy of October straw polls and Democratic conventions in Maine, Iowa, Florida, and the AFL-CIO meeting itself on Oct. 2, will break open, as the LaRouche candidacy provides a rallying point against the Democratic leadership's KGB policies.

All the "sixpack" candidacies are collapsing at the same time. In desperation, Walter Mondale is putting out the word that he will definitely name a woman vice-presidential running mate if he gets the nomination, demonstrating once more his smelly opportunism.

Mondale's inability to win support among voters has caused opposition to an early Mondale endorsement among the AFL-CIO leaders, not because they recognize that he would be a national disaster, but for reasons of *Realpolitik*. The machinists' president, Socialist International leader William Winpisinger, is reported to be stumping nationwide against an early endorsement. The "no endorsement" efforts have fallen on fertile ground in the United Auto Workers union, by all accounts.

At the same time, Mike Brennan, the brother of former Secretary of Labor Peter Brennan, is trying to overcome the natural opposition to a Mondale endorsement on the part of the pro-growth, pro-nuclear Building Trades Conference.

The Pennsylvania straw poll announced for Oct. 1 had to be postponed until December when western Pennsylvania Glenn supporters threatened to oust state party chairman Ed Mezvinsky if he tried to rig a quick victory for Mondale.