
Congressional Profile

A challenge to the Pennsylvania Democratic Party

by Ronald Kokinda in Washington, D.C.

The first Democratic presidential primary effort by The LaRouche Campaign, now being mounted in Pennsylvania, poses an interesting question: Can the constituency base in the Pennsylvania Democratic Party be mobilized to help pull the nation through the current economic and strategic crisis?

The LaRouche vote in Pennsylvania's April 10 primary will signal how the healthier elements in the party are responding to the crisis. Most Pennsylvania Democratic activists strongly opposed the renomination of Jimmy Carter in 1980. The current potential was evidenced by the 1982 vote for LaRouche-backed Democratic candidate Steve Douglas who polled 20%, finishing a strong second in a four-man gubernatorial race, and winning up to 35% in Philadelphia districts. The 1984 LaRouche slate of 150 candidates for state and local office includes candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives in 13 congressional districts.

Meanwhile, a survey of the current congressional delegation yields a pale hint that the state's constituency organizations have not shrunken as badly, nor become quite as Aquarian or post-industrial in outlook, as they have elsewhere. Democrats abound in family farms, conservatively-oriented labor unions, and industrial firms.

A target of Abscam-style operations

Over recent years, constituency-based Democrats in Pennsylvania have suffered their share of frameups, attacks, and political losses as the Aquarians, the dope lobby, and the Eastern Establishment families who have sought to eliminate the production-oriented base from any say in Democratic Party policy. In the 1970s, Rep. Dan Flood, from northern Pennsylvania "coal country," an eccentric but important proponent of infrastructural and military development—keys to the American system of economic growth—was labeled a "porkbarreller" and driven from office. Reps. Fred Rooney, John Dent, Robert Nix, and others, while not politically homogeneous, reflected constituency politics; they were scandalmongered out of office or decided not to seek reelection.

In the 1980s the FBI attacks on constituency politics became overt; with operations such as Abscam, Reps. Raymond Lederer and Ozzie Meyers were jailed. The 1980 redistricting and the loss of two seats, both held by more conservative Democratic congressmen, Don Bailey and Joseph Smith, combined with the liberal Democratic defeat of Republicans James Coyne and James Nelligan in 1982, strengthened the radical side of the state delegation.

Military voting tally

At first glance, almost the entirety of the Pennsylvania delegation might be considered political write-offs. With the exception of three conservative Republicans, Don Ritter, Robert Walker, and George Gekas, they voted for the nuclear freeze resolution which would aid a growing Soviet strategic superiority and potential first strike threat against the United States. But their voting records on the individual weapons systems that make up the administration's strategic modernization effort, including the MX missile, the B-1 bomber, anti-satellite (ASAT) weapons, and the Pershing II missile, show a split among the Democrats.

Leading the rabid environmentalist, post-industrial and anti-defense side is Robert Edgar, a vocal proponent of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the genocidal *Global 2000 Report* who votes consistently against defense programs.

In this orientation are Thomas Foglietta, a member of the Armed Services Committee, William Gray, Peter Kostmayer, William Coyne, Doug Walgren, Robert Borski, and Joseph Kolter. Kolter and Borski were the only ones of this group to vote to allow the deployment of Pershing II missiles into Europe to proceed on schedule. Also, apart from Kolter and Walgren, every member of this group voted last year to back the quota increase for the IMF, which is destroying U.S. allies and would-be allies in the developing sector.

Clearly on the pro-defense side are John Murtha, a member of the Appropriations Defense Subcommittee, and Gus Yatron, both of whom supported the strategic modernization across the board. Joseph Gaydos, chairman of the delegation, and Austin Murphy, a former Marine, are closer to this camp; their single major defection has been their opposition to the development of the MX missile. Frank Harrison is probably closer to the anti-defense group, voting against the MX and B-1, and for the ASATs and Pershing IIs.

Volcker and the IMF

Despite the depression in Pennsylvania caused by Paul Volcker's high interest rates, only a couple of members of the delegation have addressed the crisis. Rep. Austin Murphy was the most vocal critic of Federal Reserve chairman Paul Volcker and supported numerous resolutions seeking to change Volcker's high interest rates. Yatron also cosponsored such resolutions, and he and Murphy were also opponents of the IMF. Of the three other Democrats to oppose Volcker during 1980-82, two were forced out of office by redistricting and one left to run for statewide office.

Joseph Gaydos, epitomizes the defeatist response to Volcker's depression—the slide into the fight for protectionism, domestic content legislation, and other battles with the Japanese and Europeans over who will take in more of the other's laundry, instead of industrially and agriculturally developing the rest of the potential world markets for American output. In 1982, when a labor-union delegation visited Gaydos's office demanding that he act to remove Volcker, they were told that Volcker should be ignored, and were solicited to involve themselves in protectionist lobbying instead. Gaydos also backed the IMF, whose policies have been shutting down the demand for U.S. exports.

Other members of the delegation such as Bill Coyne, who has a seat on the Banking Committee, defended Volcker then, and still do. Bill Gray, the Black Caucus point man for Africa policy, also supported the IMF, even though it is estimated that millions of Africans will die of starvation this year—a situation largely attributable to IMF policies.

Among the largely pro-defense Republicans, there are some obvious Henry Kissinger backers. Chief among these is William Goodling, who backs the IMF to the hilt, promotes Kissinger's style of negotiations with the Soviets, and voted against the strategic modernization program with the exception of the B-1. Lawrence Coughlin only voted for the Pershing IIs and the MX. Several others had at least one major anti-defense vote, such as William Clinger, who opposed the B-1, and Thomas Ridge, who opposed the MX.

Joseph McDade of the 10th District (northern Pennsylvania), as the man next in line to become ranking member of the House Appropriations Committee, will be key in future defense fights; the committee has emerged as a stumbling block to the modernization programs. McDade has been described by Capitol Hill intimates as someone who will do the right thing if he understands the importance of the program. If he is re-elected, any lack of understanding on military questions would become a dangerous shortcoming.

Attacks on infrastructure

The biggest problem among the Republicans, as in other states, is economic ideology and growing hostility to government spending in such areas as the Clinch River Breeder, the space program, and infrastructure projects, all crucial to future economic growth.

This outlook is most conspicuous in William Clinger, who, as a fiscal conservative with proposals for capital budgeting and similar schemes to close down these investments, fought side by side the rabid environmentalist Robert Edgar to stop the Clinch River Breeder Reactor. In the final vote on Clinch River and on the Tennessee-Tombigbee waterway, the last major water project authorized by Congress, "nays" were cast by Clinger, Goodling, Ritter, and Coughlin. Robert Walker and Richard Schulze voted against Tenn-Tom, and McDade voted against Clinch River. Only Bud Shuster voted for both projects.

The Real 'ENEMY WITHIN'

This soon-to-be-released report, the follow-up to the recent **EIR Special Report, "Will Moscow Become the Third Rome? How the KGB Controls the Peace Movement,"** documents the channels through which Soviet intelligence and its assets are attempting to carry out a plan to destroy the United States as an economic and military threat to Soviet world dominance.

The report will include:

- The role of Moscow and German-speaking central bankers in attempting to precipitate an international financial crisis.
- The background of Soviet orchestration of the "Briefinggate" scandal, including the June 5 closed-door session in Moscow, where Averell and Pamela Churchill Harriman conspired with Yuri Andropov days before Briefinggate broke.
- Soviet influence in the FBI and other government institutions ensuring disinformation on Soviet subversion of the United States.

The report will be available for \$250.00.

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