

Three groups contend for Democratic leadership after Mondale debacle

by Mel Klenetsky

On Nov. 6, election day in the United States, radios blared nationally of high voter turnouts. A general hatred for Mondale and the legacy of the Carter-Mondale administration led to this turnout. Post-election Harris polls zeroed in on the second Mondale-Reagan debate and the President's commitment to the Strategic Defense Initiative, which included an offer to the Soviets to jointly develop this plan, as a crucial turning point in giving the President his overwhelming mandate.

Reagan's sweeping victory over Walter Mondale, with electoral college returns of 525 to 13, set an all-time record. Reagan chalked up 49 states and 59% of the popular vote. To say that the Democratic Party leadership of Manatt, Mondale, and Kirkland (the Averell Harriman faction) had lost touch with the electorate almost seems simplistic. Yet the Harriman wing has every intention of pursuing the policies that were developed by the Eastern Liberal Establishment in a series of reports issued by the New York Council of Foreign Relations, known as *Project 1980s*.

Today the Democratic Party is in shambles. There are basically three policy groupings in the Democratic Party, the last two of which will be contending for control of the electorate in the months ahead: 1) the followers of the late Sen. Henry Jackson, whose moderate, pro-defense constituencies have forced these Democrats to contest the nuclear freeze pro-Soviet stance of the Manatt-Mondale grouping; 2) the Harriman wing of the party, which is pro-freeze and out to destroy this country as an agricultural and industrial superpower; 3) the LaRouche Democrats, whose candidates' movement poses a serious threat to the current leadership of the Democratic Party.

The Scoop Jackson wing

This grouping of mostly southern and some western Democrats has found itself more and more disillusioned by the thug tactics of the Manatt-Kirkland crowd. In 1980 this was the "Boll Weevil" group that blocked with Reagan. Now people like Rep. Charlie Stenholm of Texas have talked about challenging Tip O'Neill for leadership of the House, although Stenholm quickly withdrew.

Some of these Democrats have, either formally or in effect, joined the Republican Party: Texas Sen. Phil Gramm; Dixy Lee Ray, the ex-Governor of Washington who was prominent in the Democrats-for-Reagan effort; and Jeanne

Kirkpatrick, Reagan's U.N. Ambassador. The remaining regular Democrats such as Louisiana Governor Edwards and Texas Governor Mark White are concentrating on statewide operations, while stating, shortly after Nov. 6, where they think the national party should go.

White spoke of the need to broaden the Democrats' traditional base of support to the job-holder as well as the unemployed, and to take a stronger position on defense. Edwards acknowledged that the Reagan victory showed a trend toward more conservative candidates and called for the Democratic Party to become more responsive to the Middle American approach to politics, government, and lifestyle. Even Bill Belk, the president of the Young Democrats of America, who saw Reagan outpoll Mondale 2-1 among young people, was very critical of the left-liberal control of the Democratic party through the DNC. Belk complained that the Democratic Party has not modernized its thoughts and that House Speaker Tip O'Neill, Jr. is out of touch with the majority of Americans.

This grouping recognizes the shortfalls, dangers, and even treachery of the Harriman Democrats. But it has neither the program, the national political machine, nor a national political figure that can rally the 70% of the Democratic Party disenfranchised by the Manatt-Harriman crowd. Nor do the Harrimanites have any intention of letting this grouping have a share in power—as the fight for the new DNC head will show.

The Harriman Democrats

From the Democratic 1982 Midterm Convention in Philadelphia, when Pamela Harriman & Co. took over writing the Democratic Party Platform on population control, disarmament, and deindustrialization, the familiar litany of post-industrialism has become the Democrats' official theme. The fact that the American electorate rejected this nonsense in the 1980 presidential race has not deterred this crowd from continuing to move toward institutional control.

The regular Democrats of the 1950s-1960s have been disenfranchised since the 1972 McGovern Reforms. Reagan captured the votes of these disenfranchised Democrats in 1980 and again in 1984. Starting in 1980, despite Carter's resounding defeat and mass defections of Democrats to the Republicans, DNC head Manatt, along with Lane Kirkland, the head of the AFL-CIO labor confederation, and Mondale, renewed the thug tactics of the Carter years to secure more absolute

control of the Democratic Party. The new ingredient was Kirkland handing over organized labor to the Harrimanites.

After Carter's defeat Kirkland had an overall plan which was perfectly willing to sacrifice both organized labor and the party to further the geopolitical deal that was struck between the Soviet Union and its agents of influence in the party. By September 1983 that deal was made public, when Manatt insisted that every Democratic presidential candidate must endorse the Soviet-sponsored nuclear freeze movement. It was at this point that patriotic Democrat, Lyndon H. LaRouche, made his decision to run for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination.

To help this process, Kirkland first brought the United Auto Workers union into the AFL-CIO. Then he established a multimillion-dollar war-chest for COPE, the AFL-CIO's political action committee. Finally, he rammed the early endorsement of Mondale down the throats of organized labor despite the objections of many in the Maritime and Building Trades sectors.

Kirkland's unprecedented act, which violated labor's previous policy of not committing itself to any candidate before the nomination, proved how little control the Kirkland leadership has over the 13.7 million-member labor federation. Kirkland's mobilization of labor cost an estimated \$40 million. He personally campaigned across the country in a two-week get-out-the vote operation leading up to Nov. 6. In 1964, 73% of labor households voted for Democrat Lyndon Johnson. Carter got 50% in 1980. *Despite* Kirkland's huge effort, Mondale did about the same as Carter, garnering 53% of labor households.

During Mondale's year-long effort to secure the nomination, the weaknesses and fissures in the Democratic Party came to the fore. To the Kremlin, the Democratic Party Platform was a dream. It called for canceling the MX and B-1 programs, instituting a nuclear freeze, opening negotiations with the Soviets to withdraw the Euromissiles, and eliminating weapons in space—Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative. The platform upset Middle America by advocating "reproductive rights" for women and "equal justice" for homosexuals. This platform, under the guiding hand of Mondale, the frontrunner candidate, and Geraldine Ferraro, who chaired the Platform Committee, actually embraced a "right to sodomy" plank otherwise known as anything goes.

The Harriman wing's dedication to "anything goes" became crystal clear to the American public as the scandal surrounding vice-presidential candidate Ferraro and her slum- and smut-lord husband, New York real-estate speculator John Zaccaro, spread. According to *New York Tribune* articles, Zaccaro was manager and part-owner of a building which housed a major pornography distribution center linked to the DeCavalcante and Gambino organized crime families. The building housed Star Enterprises and other pornography operations disseminating such hardcore filth as *Whips and Chains*, *Screw*, and *Smut* magazines.

Undaunted by the humiliating defeat of the Mondale-

Ferraro ticket, the Harriman wing is moving to secure the chairmanship of the Democratic National Committee on Feb. 1 from outgoing chairman Manatt. Every choice reflects one of the groups associated with the left-liberal dogma of Pam Harriman's minions.

Paul Kirk, the DNC treasurer, a close ally of Sen. Edward Kennedy, is currently the frontrunner. Robert Keefe, a Washington political consultant, is close to Harriman-controlled Party wheeler-dealer Robert Strauss. Nancy Pelosi, former California State Party chair, is a Manatt enforcer who was assigned to block the influence of LaRouche in California. New York's Governor Cuomo, a rising star of the Harriman stable, has endorsed Pelosi.

Other choices include Sharon Pratt Dixon, a DNC member from the District of Columbia who is with Jesse Jackson's machine. The recent Jackson/Black Congressional Caucus/Anti-Defamation League promotion of the anti-apartheid demonstrations is an attempt to put together the old civil rights combination, to stop the growing influence of the LaRouche-led campaign to industrialize Africa and stop the famine there.

John Cavanaugh, a Nebraskan and former two-term Congressman, lines up with the ultra-liberal wing of the Democratic Party embodied in the Colorado Democrats around Gary Hart, who say that Mondale lost because he didn't go far enough in breaking with special interest groups like organized labor. Other Harriman clones, like George Pillsbury, of the Pillsbury family, connected to Swiss-run Minneapolis grain cartels, want to "green" the Democratic Party—in other words, turn it into an equivalent of the pro-fascist, anti-growth Green Party of West Germany. As reported in *EIR* Nov. 13, Pillsbury foresees the party's shedding its conservative half whereupon the "progressives" will adopt a full-fledged Green program (cf. p. 42). He sees Mario Cuomo and Jesse Jackson as the torchbearers of this movement.

The LaRouche Democrats

Since the Boll Weevil grouping lacks a perspective for securing the leadership of the Democratic party, only the movement that the LaRouche Democrats have initiated presents a viable option for rebuilding the Democratic Party. In 1984 more than 2,000 candidates were backed by the National Democratic Policy Committee (NDPC), the fastest-growing political action committee in the Democratic Party. Lyndon LaRouche, former chairman of the advisory committee of the NDPC, headed the slate with his presidential campaign (see page 7). Today, LaRouche Democrats are rebuilding the civil rights movement and regularly rallying in Washington, D.C. on a program of support for Reagan's beam policy and feeding a starving Africa. Farmers, civil rights leaders, trade unionists, and other traditional Democratic constituents have joined this growing movement. As the candidates' movement of 1985 gets off the ground the Harriman Democrats will find themselves in a head to head battle for control of the Party with the LaRouche forces.