

Democratic Party

Voters offered two flavors of fascism

by Susan Kokinda

A public falling-out has occurred between the Kennedy-linked Paul Kirk leadership of the Democratic Party and a self-described band of populist mavericks, over whether to market the party's image as "right-wing" or "left-wing." Whatever label is slapped on the product, the content of the Democratic Party's policy is the same—brutal austerity, administered on a post-industrial rubble-heap. This article will examine the content of what Libyan-linked Jesse Jackson calls his party's "radical shift to the right," while next week we will look behind the rhetoric of those advocating a "left" shift.

The hallmark of the right-shift is the effort by Democratic National Committee Chairman Paul Kirk, a long-time Ken-

neddy family retainer, to erase the image of the party as captive to "special interests" such as feminists, minorities, homosexuals, peaceniks, environmentalists, etc. Kirk has already instituted reforms to reduce the role and power of various special-interest caucuses.

However, under the guise of repatriating mainstream Democrats and reducing the influence of the "special interest" groups, Kirk is creating the conditions for the Democratic Party to become a vehicle for austerity. Under the color of not listening to the Gay Whale Lovers for Peace, the party will also no longer listen to a trade unionist demanding a decent industrial job or a community demanding support for health and education.

This was the theme of the inaugural meeting of Kirk's Democratic Policy Commission on July 10. Originally set up by Kirk, the DPC is composed of 100 elected Democratic Party officials ranging from U.S. senator down to local city councilman and is charged with developing a "new policy" for the party. Nebraska Gov. Bob Kerry sounded the theme of the meeting, declaring, "We must ask for a commitment to sacrifice for the community." Madeline Kunin, governor of Vermont, continued the theme: "There are limited resources. . . . The Democratic Party has to show that it, too, can make the hard-nosed financial decisions to make us worthy of support." Speaker after speaker declared that the party

Texas by-election: no 'new collar' Dems here

While Republican Party strategists dream of becoming the majority party, as a result of the "Reagan Revolution," and Democratic media whiz-kids coin phrases such as "new-collar Democrats" to describe their imaginary constituency, the vote in the 1st Congressional District in Texas on Aug. 3 demonstrated a very simple point: Democrats can still win elections in the South, if they distance themselves from the liberal, zero-growth Harrimanite orientation of the national party leadership.

Democrat Jim Chapman defeated Republican Edd Hargett by a slim 51-49% margin. The election was necessitated when freshman GOP Sen. Phil Gramm arranged the appointment of Democratic Rep. Sam Hall to the federal judiciary. Gramm, who is attempting to shore up his position as a party leader in Texas, thought it would be a feather in his cap if the Republicans captured this traditionally Democratic seat. He chose Hargett, a former Texas A&M quarterback, as an "electable" Republican, and brought in Vice President Bush and Treasury Secretary Baker to stump for him. Hargett spent more than \$1.5 million to campaign.

The Democrats are using Chapman's victory to push the trade deficit as the key to their future success. This issue emerged after Hargett said, "I don't know what trade policies have to do with bringing jobs to East Texas." Democrats jumped on this, pointing to the closing of the Lone Star Steel plant in the district, with more than 2,000 layoffs, as proof of the failure of Reagan trade policies.

Sen. Lloyd Bentsen stumped for Chapman on this issue, as did State Democratic Party chairman Bob Slagle (rumored on his way out due to his dismal record). DNC Chairman Kirk also said that the vote was a rejection of Reagan's policies, and points the way for Democrats in 1986.

Before popping the champagne corks in celebration of 1986 victories, Democrats should hear the assessment of a Chapman aide. "If Chapman would have been a typical, liberal Democrat," he said, "his stand on trade would have made no difference. He would have lost by a wide margin." Chapman distanced himself from the national party, referring to himself as an "East Texas Democrat." This means a lot in a district once represented by Wright Patman, a close ally of Sam Rayburn, where the Democratic majority still is made up of the "FDR coalition" of labor, minorities, farmers and small business, supporting both a strong national defense and an active government role in infrastructure projects.

had to learn to balance its commitment to compassion with the fiscal realities of the 1980s.

Those "fiscal realities," as defined by the international banking community, translate into policies of genocide for which Richard Lamm, the Democratic governor of Colorado, has already become notorious. Lamm's arguments that the United States can no longer afford to keep the elderly and the very ill alive is only an advanced version of Kirk's "break" with constituency groups.

Sen. Ted Kennedy's headline-grabbing support of the "line-item veto," a shibboleth of right-wing Republicans, is cut from the same cloth. The line-item veto allows the President to veto specific programs in a bill, rather than the cumbersome and constitutionally established process of vetoing an entire bill. This will emasculate the spending powers of Congress, which (for good or ill) are a crucial aspect of the American representative system of government, and will make austerity easy to administer.

Of course, the Democratic Party doesn't come out and declare that its 1986 program is a rewarmed version of Nazi Economics Minister Hjalmar Schacht's policies. It has cloaked its policies in the technobabble of a media-dominated society and has even discovered a new class of Americans who allegedly will support these policies. Dubbed the "New Collar Class," by MIT professor Ralph Whitehead, Jr., these Americans outnumber the much-publicized Yuppies by a 7:1 ratio. The member of the "New Collar Class," is young, family-oriented, earns a low to low middle class income, and works in the service sector. The new-collar worker is a heavy TV watcher, whose favorite programs are *Saturday Night Live*, *Entertainment Tonight*, and *Monday Night Football*, reads *People*, *TV Guide*, *Women's Day*, *Sports Illustrated*, and *Road and Track*, and has the highest incidence of VCRs in the home.

This "new collar class" is what used to be a blue-collar, industrial worker. The Democratic Party has abandoned the technologically progressive, productive worker who sought a better life for his children than himself, as a dying breed. Instead they preach advertising slogans to the "new collars"—post-industrial, service-sector workers who have turned to *Dallas* and *Dynasty* as solace, while the American Dream and Western industrial society disintegrate outside their viewing room.

Indeed, outside of the calls for austerity and sacrifice put forward at the June 10 Democratic Policy Commission, the "policy-makers" sounded like a series of TV commercials gone berserk:

"I think the greatest challenge facing us is to find the metaphors."

"We must remember three things: modern, moderate, and mainstream."

"Our problems have been perception, message, and messenger."

"We have to remold a structurally sound model."

Welcome to the new Democratic Party!

Interview: Steve Trott

'We'll fight drugs with Colombia'

U.S. Assistant Attorney General Steve Trott, in charge of the Department of Justice Criminal Division, gave the following interview to Executive Intelligence Review Washington Bureau Chief Nicholas Benton live on EIR's daily Washington radio show on Aug. 6:

EIR: We have learned of the extraordinary raids which have been undertaken by combined federal, state and local authorities to root out the marijuana production in the United States. Can you give us an update on how it went during the first day?

Trott: The first day showed productivity in 32 out of the 50 states where this is going on. We were able to identify 336 different plots where marijuana was being cultivated. We were able to seize 105,000 plants by 8 p.m. last night. We made 54 arrests, recovered a number of weapons, a number of booby-traps and unfortunately there was even one shooting at a helicopter in Arkansas.

EIR: This is all on what is technically federal property, is that right?

Trott: It is really on a combination of both federal and state property. This is a program that is aimed at both. But you are right in pointing out that a lot of marijuana cultivation is going on on federal property, which is, of course, held by the federal government in trust for the American citizens.

EIR: 106,000 marijuana plants. How much marijuana is that?

Trott: I don't exactly know what size they were, in what condition they were. Let me just say it is a very sizable amount. But the more important thing is that this is the beginning of a long-range program that is being conducted by law enforcement, not just federal law enforcement but state law enforcement and local law enforcement, to attack the marijuana cultivation problem in the United States. We're in this program for the long haul, not just a one, two, three day program, or for a month. This is a serious problem and we are going to follow it to the end.

EIR: I understand that the Drug Enforcement Administration just completed an environmental impact study which indicates that you may be again using herbicide in dealing