

Wofford beats Thornburgh in anti-Bush upset vote

by Philip Valenti

"If I win this election," said Harris Wofford to a *Newsweek* reporter two weeks before the 1991 elections, "that will be the first day of the end of the Bush administration."

On Nov. 5, the 65-year-old Wofford, running for public office for the first time, trounced former Pennsylvania governor and U.S. Attorney General Richard Thornburgh, in a special election for the U.S. Senate. Wofford received 55% of the vote cast, with unusually high voter turnout reported around the state. The 68.2% turnout in Allegheny County, which includes Pittsburgh, was the highest in 24 years for a non-presidential election.

The vote vindicated the warnings of *EIR* that George Bush's economic policies can spell his political downfall, and once again exposed the shoddiness of "opinion polls."

"It was a watershed election," Pennsylvania Gov. Robert Casey told the press the morning of Nov. 6. "The first presidential primary was not in Iowa, but in Pennsylvania. If national Democrats want to know how to defeat George Bush, they should come to Pennsylvania."

Wofford carried Philadelphia, a Democratic stronghold, by a 3-to-1 margin, and won 60% in Thornburgh's home base of Allegheny County. However, observers were stunned that Wofford carried three of the four suburban-Philadelphia Republican counties, and either carried or ran almost even with Thornburgh in central Pennsylvania's conservative Republican "Bible Belt."

These results could signal a revolt against Bush economic policies by even white-collar, service-sector professionals, who are suffering record unemployment with the collapse of banks, insurance companies, real estate, and defense contractors. Also, farmers responded strongly to Wofford's attack on "free trade," which is being used by the Bush administration to destroy independent farmers through the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

In other important election results:

- Initiative 119 in the state of Washington was defeated by 54% against to 46% in favor. The proposal would have legalized euthanasia. In the week before the election, supporters of presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche blanketed the state with 50,000 offprints of a full-page article in *New Federalist* newspaper, titled: "Stop Washington's Nazi Euthanasia Bill." Media in the state credited the LaRouche presidential campaign with helping to defeat the measure.

- The Texas referendum, called "Amendment 8," was rejected by 60% of the voters. The proposal would have allowed public employee pension funds to be invested in speculative real estate ventures, including devalued real estate held by the Resolution Trust Corp. Particularly targeted was the \$29 billion Teachers Retirement System. Public unions, joined by LaRouche supporters in the state, organized to defeat the measure. The result is seen as a repudiation of the "junk bond" economy promoted by the Bush administration.

- In New Jersey, voters rejected the economic austerity program of "Bush Democrat" Gov. James Florio, and elected 23 new Republican members to the legislature.

Underdog candidate

Harris Wofford was appointed in May of this year by Governor Casey to replace John Heinz, who was killed in a plane crash. Before choosing Wofford, Casey had made a highly publicized trip to Michigan, in an unsuccessful attempt to convince Lee Iacocca to accept the position.

Wofford, the author of four books on history and politics, and former president of Bryn Mawr College, was derided as a "fuzzy-headed intellectual" by most pragmatic political know-it-alls, who also characterized Thornburgh as an "800-pound gorilla" whom no one dared challenge. Thornburgh began his campaign last summer with universal name recognition and an alleged 40-point lead in opinion polls. President Bush visited Pennsylvania three times to support Thornburgh

and raise money for his campaign.

Thornburgh, as a member of Bush's cabinet, had acted zealously to protect money-laundering, drug-running, and other criminal activity of the "secret" or "parallel" government. Thornburgh was also a key architect of the "new world order," having drafted the Thornburgh Doctrine, a Nazi-style legal pretext for kidnaping and overthrowing foreign heads of state. One of Thornburgh's first acts as Attorney General in October 1988 was to authorize the indictment and railroading of Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. in the federal court in Alexandria, Virginia.

After Labor Day, the much-derided Wofford launched an offensive against the economic heart of the "new world order", i.e., "free trade." He bucked the Democratic Party leadership with a no-holds-barred attack on the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) with Mexico and Canada, denouncing Thornburgh for backing "fast track" authorization for NAFTA and GATT. The Democrats in Congress had surrendered to Bush and supported "fast track" in July.

Wofford pounded away at the disastrous Bush economic policies, calling for a national health care system and an extension of unemployment benefits. Meanwhile, Wofford aides had expected nationally known Democratic and civil rights leaders to campaign for him in Pennsylvania. Wofford, a graduate of Howard University Law School in Washington, D.C. and trusted friend of Martin Luther King, Jr., had been the special assistant to President John F. Kennedy on civil rights. As an organizer in the Kennedy presidential campaign of 1960, Wofford advised John Kennedy to make the famous phone call of support to Coretta King while her husband was in jail in Georgia. Wofford then organized the printing and mass distribution of millions of pamphlets to the black churches on the weekend before the election.

In late September, with Wofford still supposedly trailing by 24 points in the polls, the projected visits by civil rights leaders had failed to materialize. But on Sept. 26, the Wofford campaign received the unsolicited endorsement of Amelia Boynton Robinson, a board member of the Schiller Institute with Helga Zepp-LaRouche, and associate of Dr. King in the struggle for voting rights in Selma, Alabama in 1965.

Mrs. Robinson was in Philadelphia speaking about her recently published book, and discussing her years of work with Lyndon LaRouche, whom she had recently endorsed for President. During her appearance for a total of over six hours of prime air time on two black radio stations, Mrs. Robinson revealed that she had known Wofford since 1952, when he visited her in Selma to document the denial of black voting rights in Dallas County. Later, he joined Mrs. Robinson and Dr. King on the famous march from Selma to Montgomery in 1965. Mrs. Robinson's impact on the African-American community was so deep, that Wofford joined her on the air for one-half hour on Sept. 29 to personally receive her endorsement. The host of one of the radio programs commented: "We were leaning towards Senator Wofford, but the endorsement

by such a great lady as Mrs. Robinson has convinced us that he deserves our wholehearted support."

Mrs. Robinson, who had been beaten unconscious and gassed by Alabama state troopers during the Selma struggle, demanded that the African-American community "get out and beat the bushes for registered voters." Wofford promptly added: "That's right, we've got to beat the Bushes and get them out of the White House."

Thornburgh cornered on Bush economic agenda

In October, Wofford successfully cornered Thornburgh repeatedly on economic issues, in their only debate, which was aired on public television stations around the state. When Wofford asked him to name any domestic policies he initiated while Attorney General, Thornburgh bragged that he was chairman of Bush's Domestic Policy Council. "Then you take responsibility for all of the Bush administration domestic policies," Wofford replied. Thornburgh's jaw dropped as he realized his blunder. Wofford reiterated that the election would be a referendum on Bush, and challenged the visibly enraged Thornburgh on every issue.

With Thornburgh on the defensive, unable to defend any of Bush's economic policies, the labor movement escalated to defeat him. Phone banks were set up in almost every union hall, to call lists with every registered Democrat three and four times, and get out the vote.

Thousands of voters were informed about the issues with the mass distribution of the Oct. 14 *New Federalist*, which featured a full-page exposé of Thornburgh's policies and connections. A condensed leaflet-sized version of the article, headlined "The Crimes of Richard Thornburgh," was circulated, photocopied, and re-copied into the tens of thousands of copies, by both Democratic and dissident Republican factions, labor unions, and LaRouche supporters.

In the last week of the election, with Thornburgh's supposed lead having clearly evaporated, Wofford's labor supporters were further mobilized by mass circulation of the LaRouche in '92 presidential campaign pamphlet, "Stop George 'Hitler' Bush's Auschwitz Below the Border—Derail NAFTA." Individual labor unions and Democratic activists distributed over 30,000 copies within a week.

In the final three days, Wofford traveled the state in a borrowed Winnebago camper. He began a 24-hour a day mobilization, including a midnight labor rally in the western Pennsylvania town of Greensburg. "Many are cold, but few are frozen," he assured his supporters, rallying in frigid weather in Pittsburgh on election eve. Wofford explained to the *Pittsburgh Press*: "In high school, they called me a 'young Paul Revere.' "

George Bush may have added personal reasons to fear the influence of Harris Wofford. In his book *Of Kennedys and Kings*, Wofford frankly discussed the probable role of the CIA and FBI in the assassinations of John and Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr;