

'Kennedy for President' movement gets underway

A nationally coordinated movement to garner the 1980 Democratic Party presidential nomination for Senator Edward Kennedy has gone into full gear with the emergence of a highly vocal "Dump Carter" movement — dominated by leading Zionist lobby political operatives — in several key primary states.

The kick-off event for Kennedy's still "unofficial" challenge to Carter was a dinner staged in Los Angeles March 1 to protest the president's policies in general, and his scheduled appearance at a Democratic Party fundraising affair in the city the following evening in particular.

The dinner, attended by some 300 people ranging from veterans of the 1968 "Dump Johnson" campaign to such promoters of a showdown in the Middle East as guest speaker Gen. George Keegan, USAF (ret.), had been pulled together by Philip Blazer, publisher of *Israel Today* magazine, and two long-time financial backers of the left-liberal wing of the Democratic Party, Harold Willens and Stanley Sheinbaum.

Dubbing themselves "Democrats for Change," the anti-Carter organizers also took out full-page advertisements in the two principal Los Angeles dailies to air their complaints with the current Administration. The ads called specifically for a "new leader" to replace Carter as the Democrats' standard-bearer. It was signed by more than 200 individuals, drawn mainly from the entertainment industry. Among them were pornography czar Hugh Hefner, movie actress Jane Fonda (married to aging radical activist Tom Hayden), and TV producer Norman Lear.

Just who Democrats for Change want as the "new leader" of their party requires little guesswork. Despite the presence of Pat Brown, father of California governor and presidential hopeful Jerry Brown, at the protest dinner, the tenor of Democrats for Change is emphatically pro-Kennedy.

Kennedyites rev up in Iowa, New York

Similar anti-Carter, pro-Kennedy groups are emerging simultaneously in other parts of the country. Just a few days prior to the Los Angeles "counter dinner," two New York Democrats with long-standing ties to the Kennedy camp publicly called for a Democratic insurgency to deny Carter renomination. Manhattan Borough President Andrew Stein issued a statement

Feb. 23 denouncing Carter not only for his mishandling of domestic economic policy — the current liberal war-cry — but for his "lack of nerve" and "vacillation" in dealing with the alleged "Soviet threat to Israel and the Mideast." The statement also urged that Ted Kennedy be drafted as the party's presidential nominee, with Jerry Brown as "second choice" should Kennedy decline. A spokesman for Stein — whose father, *New York Law Review* publisher Jerry Finkelstein, travels in top Israeli lobby circles — told this news service why his boss is pushing the Massachusetts Senator's candidacy so strongly: "Kennedy won't let us get pushed around by the Soviets and all those little countries. And he won't lean on Israel the way Carter has."

Stein is coordinating his Kennedy boomlet with former City Council President Paul O'Dwyer. In an interview with the *New York Times* Feb. 23, O'Dwyer — perhaps best known as one of the earliest supporters of Eugene McCarthy's candidacy in the 1968 movement, and for his gun-running to the Irgun and Irish Republican Army terrorists, as well as for his outspoken advocacy of bringing the British model of "heroin maintenance" to New York City — disclosed that he is in the process of rallying his old colleagues from the "Dump Johnson" movement to give Carter the same treatment. While coyly denying that his efforts in this regard are intended to bolster the political fortunes of any particular candidate, O'Dwyer admits privately that he definitely favors Kennedy. O'Dwyer plans to formalize his operations at a press conference next week.

In Iowa, where the first voting in the 1980 election process occurs with the party caucuses next Jan. 21, a group of "left-liberal" unions have banded together to elect Kennedy delegates to the 1980 convention in the upcoming, psychologically crucial vote. The unions involved include the International Association of Machinists, the United Auto Workers, the Communications Workers of America, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees among others — i.e., the same ones that joined up behind UAW president Doug Fraser's call for "class warfare" in October 1978. This coalition will meet in Des Moines March 31 to map out strategy. The Machinists' Bill Tenton, who is one of the prime movers behind the March 31 meeting, ironically was key in organizing Iowa for Carter in 1976.

— Kathleen M. Murphy