

## LABOR PERISCOPE

### Winpisinger stumps for Ted Kennedy

International Association of Machinists (IAM) President William Winpisinger is stumping the country, pushing a 1980 Presidential bid by Massachusetts Senator Ted Kennedy. Winpisinger, who has announced a formal break with the Carter Administration, has already appeared in several cities, speaking to "Labor action" groups, terming the policies of the Administration a betrayal, and hyping the Kennedy alternative.

At a recent event in a New Haven, Conn. suburb, Winpisinger, the most outspoken proponent of solar energy in the labor movement, refers to Kennedy as "the next President of the U.S."

IAM leaders in Iowa, under orders from "Wimpy," hold a "dump Carter" meeting in Des Moines and prepare a draft Kennedy apparatus.

Winpisinger is only one of several labor leaders known to favor Kennedy and to be leaning towards a draft Kennedy push in the Democratic Party. Others include Jerry Wurf of AFSCME, Glenn Watts of the Communication Workers, and Murray Finley of the Clothing Workers.

Doug Fraser of United Auto-workers is also known privately to be pro-Kennedy, but must remain impartial in public for now. The White House is said to trust Fraser, and to be open to his advice. Fraser is critical of the Administration, but won't openly

break. He sends letters to UAW local leaders instructing them not to join any dump Carter movement and to remain neutral for now; the talk is that the UAW would back Kennedy if he runs and local leaders work covertly for his cause. A UAW leader attends the IAM meeting in Iowa and warns against splitting the Democratic Party. Watts and Wurf also tell their people to back off, but give Wimpy room.

Wimpy seems pleased with being the labor point man in a dump Carter push. He boasts

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privately of a big coalition of solar power advocates, environmentalists, "poor people" and grass roots community organizations coming behind Kennedy "when the time is right." He is sure that the UAW will "come on board." A top staff member of the Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee is given a salary by Wimpy out of IAM funds to organize a dump Carter, draft Kennedy movement.

#### **A fog in the steel union**

Lloyd McBride, the president of the United Steelworkers, last

week endorsed a plan developed by Institute for Policy Studies fellow Gar Alperovitz for a "community buy back" of the now closed Youngstown Sheet and Tube facility in Campbell, Ohio. The plan put forward by the Ecumenical Coalition calls for the workers and the community to raise capital from sources including workers' pensions to purchase the plant from the parent LTV Corporation and to lobby for more than \$235 million in government-guaranteed loans to reopen and refurbish the plant. The union also agrees to waive seniority and other contract privileges and to approve a reduction in the overall plant workforce from 4500 to about 2600.

The plant, which would be called Community Steel, Inc., would be operated under the Alperovitz scheme by a coalition of workers, the community, and professional managers.

Some people in the steel union are reportedly disgusted by the action of McBride and the USW leadership. They term the Alperovitz scheme a form of fascism and point out that Alperovitz is part of the same Institute for Policy Studies crowd which created the no-growth, environmentalist Sadlowski operation inside the steel union; Staughton Lynd, one of the plan's biggest backers, was a key controller of no-growther Ed Sadlowski, the dissident McBride defeated for USW President in 1978.

These steelworker leaders, all of whom supported McBride, wonder when the USW will support a program to expand steel production.

— L. Wolfe