

Eye on Democrats by Anita Gallagher

Mondale reels under terror exposé

A spark of life has now entered the Democratic Party eight-pack's presidential campaign, which up to now has had all the excitement of a Supreme Soviet election. From Nov. 10 through 17, frontrunner Walter Mondale has been confronted in every press conference he has attempted to hold by the exposé that his foreign policy adviser, Robert Pastor, wrote the "constitution" for the Soviet-backed cutthroats in Grenada who murdered Prime Minister Maurice Bishop.

The revelations about Mondale's close connections, going back to 1976, to the supporters of the Coard-Austin puppet regime in Grenada has him sweating bullets. And, the U.S. press has begun to break the story.

The facts, first reported in this journal (see *EIR*, Nov. 9 and Nov. 22), were posed to Mondale at a Chicago press conference on Nov. 10 by the Fact-Finding Division of the National Democratic Policy Committee, the political action committee founded by Lyndon LaRouche: "Is it true that your foreign policy adviser Robert Pastor wrote the constitution for the Soviet-backed government of Coard and Austin in Grenada, and that you are opposed to President Reagan's intervention in Grenada?"

Mondale gasped, "Your question takes my breath away. I'm not involved in things like that. These facts you present I'm not aware of."

Asked "You are aware that Robert Pastor is your foreign policy adviser?" Mondale declined to answer.

The same day, *The Washington Times* ran a prominent op-ed attributed to "Val Victors, a pseudonym for a White House aide who has followed Caribbean developments closely." The

story exposes 1) Pastor's and former Carter drug advisor Peter Bourne's role in attempting to prevent the White House intervention against the Soviet puppet regime in Grenada and 2) their attempts to legitimize it after Bishop's murder with a "strategy paper." *The Washington Times* calls for a thorough investigation by Congress of "the strings pulled by Pastor and Bourne in Washington on behalf of their clients in Grenada."

Ambushed in Tulsa; NBC seeks a reply

On Nov. 12, NDPC Fact-Finding Division spokesman Nick Benton opened Mondale's Tulsa press conference by calling for Mondale's withdrawal from the Presidential race. "Since your foreign policy adviser wrote the constitution for the regime that perpetrated the coup in Grenada and since you have joined in criticizing Reagan's rescue mission, you are complicit in aiding and abetting the strategic adversaries of the United States," Benton declared.

Manchurian candidate Mondale lurched away from the podium at the mention of Robert Pastor, "Your question is so profound I can't answer it." To a followup on his attack on Reagan's intervention, Mondale limply countered, "I hate communism . . . next question!"

But an NBC reporter next asked, "I find the gentleman's question about Mr. Pastor very interesting. Do you plan to follow up on it?"

Mondale exploded, "Look, there is this group that goes around the country spreading scurrilous accusations and outrageous abuse. I refuse to answer such questions. . . ."

"I don't know if I'm a credible journalist in your eyes or not," prefaced a third journalist attempting to ask about Grenada. The press conference was shut down.

Manchurian candidate Mondale's speechlessness was the lead item on

the NBC-TV's evening news in Tulsa. "Walter Mondale came to town today and the NDPC released a dossier which implicates Mondale and Carter aides in a plan to seize U.S. citizens hostage in Grenada. . . ." The camera then switched to footage of U.S. students kissing the ground on their return to the United States, then back to Benton's question, and Mondale's blushing refusal to answer questions that are "too profound." Next, NBC's own reporter is shown asking Mondale about Grenada, and Mondale's reply, "I don't answer questions from people who are not responsible journalists." "Mondale never did answer the charges, which were confirmed by an independent research firm in New York" the item ends.

On Nov. 13, Tulsa's NBC affiliate re-aired the Mondale spot, adding an interview with the Tulsa GOP chairman. He found it "very strange" that Mondale "did not give some sort of explanation" on Pastor, adding "We intend to ask him that question at every press conference we can until he gives a satisfactory answer!"

Mondale's case was hardly helped by Robert Pastor, currently on the faculty of the University of Maryland, who viciously assaulted a male and a female member of the NDPC Fact-Find Division when they visited his College Park classroom on Nov. 14 to indict him for treason. The State's Attorney is currently weighing whether to press charges, which could cost Pastor his job.

On Nov. 15, after parading as "always a strong advocate of defense" at the Coalition for a Democratic Majority meeting in Washington D.C., Mondale ducked *EIR*'s question with the help of chair Ben Wattenberg.

But the story has already leaked into the *New York Post*, *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times* and *Boston Globe*. Mondale has never been known to stand up to stress—recalling to many the vision of Ed Muskie in the snows of New Hampshire.