

Barrett's Last Stand

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 28 (IPS) — A Pennsylvania state judge has reserved decision for two weeks on Democratic Congressman William Barrett's panicky attempt to have his Labor Party opponent Bernie Salera thrown off the ballot.

As Labor Party organizers hit the streets to expose Barrett's pathetic attempt at election tampering, Labor Committee attorneys argued at today's hearing before Chief Commonwealth Judge Bowman that Salera's electoral petitions legally gathered under procedures specified to candidates by the Board of Elections are valid — even if subsequent court decisions alter the procedures. This simple reminder of the Constitutional prescription against ex post facto laws drove Barrett's lawyer into a frenzy of illegal proposals for removing Salera. Apparently, this alerted Judge Bowman to the real political issue behind the legal arguments.

Barrett's attempted subversion of the law adds further evidence of Nelson Rockefeller's effort to destroy the Labor Party's Stop Rockefeller campaign by "cancelling" selected elections this fall, hoping that workers, sick of politics after Watergate, will tolerate it. The Barrett moves came shortly after aggressive police inter-

ference with the Labor Party's New York State petitioning led to Federal court injunctions against Buffalo and New York City police departments.

An aging fossil of the broken-down Democratic machine, Barrett obviously was terrified by the Labor Party's explosive summer petitioning campaign for Salera. His pathetic challenge is an effective admission that his other option — vote-stealing from Salera in November — may be too risky politically.

So Barrett made his last stand on the basis of a successful suit — brought before Commonwealth Judge Kramer by Barrett stooge William Sykes — to overturn a Federal court decision which extended the state's 1974 petition period through August. Despite the fact that the petition period, conducted entirely under the Federal court guidelines as implemented by the Board of Elections, ended before Kramer's ruling, Barrett immediately demanded that all candidates who had petitioned during the extended period be thrown off the ballot. Removing any doubt as to which candidate they were really after, Barrett's errand boys also spent days combing Salera's petitions looking for invalid signatures.

Labor Committee Brings Politics to Arab Student Conference

Sept. 2 (IPS) — Reflecting the current state of politics in the Middle East where nominally socialist forces are under attack by both Israel and the Arab countries under Sadat's wing, a recent Arab student convention was nearly devoid of any serious political discussion — except that raised by the Labor Committees. The conference took place in East Lansing, Michigan the weekend of August 23.

The organizers of the conference preferred to maintain the fiction of "Arab unity" in spite of the vicious attacks on the Arab and Palestinian left by their so-called brother Arabs like Egyptian President Anwar el Sadat and Palestinian traitor Yasser Arafat.

In spite of the hysterical attempts to squash political discussion and to intimidate Arab students from buying Labor Committee literature, nearly 50 copies of *New Solidarity* were purchased by the 150 students there, and the groundwork was laid for future International Caucus of Labor Committees organizing among Arab students. Next month, the Middle East Labor Committee will publish an Arabic-language bulletin for circulation both in North America and Western Europe among emigre

and student groups, as well as in the Arab Middle East and North Africa.

Provoking the most hysterical response was a recent IPS article which documented the history of Yasser Arafat, boss of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and top counterinsurgency operative for Rockefeller and the CIA in the Palestinian movement. [See IPS No. 7] As is well known, Arafat and his allies in the PLO are supported financially by millions of dollars from reactionary Saudi Arabia, whose puppet King Faisal oversees Rockefeller's number one base in the Middle East for the Standard Oil cartel. For years, the rightwing nationalists led by Arafat ruthlessly have suppressed the development of a socialist perspective among Palestinians, steering potential socialists into futile and impotent terrorism. By manipulating both Palestinian nationalism and Zionism, the CIA has exercised fingertip control over the Middle East working class.

"The Problem Is The Others"

Ironically, there was no attempt by the Arab students at the conference to defend Arafat. "I hate that man

more than you do," said one delegate, referring to Arafat. With the exception of a few rabid nationalists and probable police agents, nearly everyone recognized that Arafat was, if not a conscious traitor, at least an aid to reactionaries and the CIA in the Middle East. But the serious leftists at the conference could not accept the implications of denouncing Arafat. The prospect of declaring political warfare on Arafat's leadership terrified them.

The excuse offered by many of these potential revolutionaries for why they could not support the Labor Committee in its polemic against Arafat was summed up by one conference participant: "I understand what you are saying," he said, "but the problem is the others — they will never accept this." At least 20 students repeated this same thing to the Labor Committee organizers! Others feared that the so-called "masses" are not ready to hear advanced ideas.

Of course these lame excuses are designed to cover up the **real** fear among these Arab students: the fear of breaking up the Arab "family" and the temporary isolation that such a courageous act would entail. To come out from under the protective cover of "mother" Arafat and stand up for one's political principles — as the PFLP's George Habash has threatened to do — nevertheless is the first step in building a political movement uniting Arab and Israeli workers around a socialist program.

At the end of the conference, Labor Committee organizers confronted the recycled CIA mouthpiece Stokely Carmichael, who had addressed the conference. Before an audience of 25 Arab students, the organizers briefed Carmichael on the Labor Committee campaign



against Rockefeller's population genocide and the program for development of nuclear fusion power-based technology as the solution to Zero Growth destruction in the third world. Carmichael could respond only by spouting incoherent nonsense from Mao's Little Red Book and mouthing the CIA line that "objective conditions do not permit black workers to join with white workers," something he is doing his best to ensure.

Gallup Polls for Slave Labor, Relocation

NEW YORK, Aug. 26 (IPS) — While the working class is taking a poll to find out just how much workers hate Rockefeller, the Gallup organization, long employed as the Rockefeller cabal's private pollsters, released the findings of a national poll on relocation of the poor.

In a nationally syndicated column headlined, "Relocation of the Poor Shown to Be Appealing," Gallup states that he finds wide support for government-sponsored relocation of jobless ghetto residents, especially among "non-whites." Nearly 70 per cent of that "category" allegedly support relocation.

Gallup pollsters asked their select sample: "A plan has been proposed to invite welfare families now living in ghetto areas in large cities to move where living conditions and job opportunities are better. The government

would pay the costs of moving as well as living costs until these families found jobs. Would you favor or oppose such a plan?" The pollsters thus made a special effort to steer clear of unpleasant details about relocation — jobs will be labor-intensive, working conditions will be subhuman, and pay rates will make workers no more than indentured servants.

Rockefeller is employing Reesian suggestion methods to dupe the working class into believing that it supports full employment resettlement schemes — prior to their scheduled implementation. Rockefeller will continue to probe the class about how they feel about critical economic and social issues in an effort to shape that opinion. Gallup soon may be asking how workers feel about cannibalism.