

The issue before us is that of articulating a policy and policy options which are consistent applications of American republican constitutional principles to the strategic configurations of the quarter century now unfolding before us. In other words, it is a matter of defining what our American Neoplatonic-humanist conceptions of a constitutional democratic republic mean in conceptions of outlook and practice for the specific circumstances of this period.

The "silent majority" of the electorate is composed essentially of American Whigs. They are for continuation of technological progress, for educational policies and practices consistent with the requirements of technological progress, and are opposed to turning our youth into a mass of such pot-headed freaks as are of no real use to themselves or anyone else. They do not know how to formulate national domestic and foreign policies consistent with their objectives, but with sufficient patience and effort applied, this electorate can recognize which policies do and do not meet the requirements in terms of results.

Among the industrialists, scientists, trade union leaders, bankers, and so forth, there are circles which are better than 50 percent right in their policy outlook on one or more areas of national and foreign policy. However, in no known case do these circles assess adequately the interconnections among policy goals in one area of policy and the way in which policies in other areas affect the possibility of meeting those goals.

In many specific areas of policy the U.S. Labor Party has benefited considerably from the knowledge of persons and circles which knew more about that specific area than we did. The point is that in no such experience have these same circles and persons been able to put the whole issue into an efficient, competent, comprehensive perspective. This person, eminently sound on economic policy, is often wholly defective in his or her thinking on monetary policy. In general, leading circles study policy areas one or two at a time, and overlook the way in which excluded areas of policy affect even those areas in which they have competent expertise.

The crucial role of the U.S. Labor Party in American policy-formulating processes is that the U.S. Labor

Party is, so far, the only agency which competently accounts for the interconnections among all the principal components of national domestic and foreign policy. It is for this same reason that Labor Party intelligence evaluations are often vastly superior in accuracy and other features of quality to the political intelligence developed by agencies of much vaster material resources. It is understanding how all the elements of policy interreact to form a whole effect which is the most crucial requirement of political-intelligence work.

With the aid of our collaborators and discussion partners from among leading circles, the U.S. Labor Party has developed a comprehensive set of policy conceptions which are consistent with the most vital interests of the United States. What is lacking respecting the content of this policy is tactical elaboration in various areas; the policy conceptions are nonetheless the proper ones within whose terms specific tactical applications must be developed.

What is needed as a next step is a publicly visible, nonpartisan cooperating force of typical national spokesmen from various aspects of the American Whig spectrum as a whole. This cooperating group of persons must thrash out its internal discussions, including discussions of differences, publicly, using the Labor Party's comprehensive conceptual policy framework as the matrix for organizing the discussions and interrelating the elements as elements of a functional whole.

Such an agency must concentrate immediately on servicing the Administration, Congress and other policy making elements of the United States. It must serve as a policy-options resource, and as a counterforce against the London-centered nonsense and other sorts of idiocies which currently play so disruptive and dangerous a role in our national life. In this process, such a counterpole will set the hard core of the "silent majority" into political motion, and thus move the "silent majority" as a whole — to take the usurped power away from the anglophile "liberals" and "radicals," and to put control of the selection of government efficiently back into the hands of the majority of the electorate.

Forcing The Old Guard Out

...so that the Kennedy crowd can move in

In the post-Watergate atmosphere of fear and demoralization pervading Capitol Hill, a combination of wholesale resignations, electoral defeats, a new round of

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"scandals," and cumulative impact of internal "reforms" is threatening to bring about a major transfer of power from traditionalist, constituency-oriented power blocks to the Kennedyites and their cohorts. A

decades-long campaign by self-styled "reform" organizations led by Common Cause, the National Committee for an Effective Congress and the Democratic Study Group to turn the U.S. Congress into a U.S. version of the pathetic British Parliament is beginning to pay off.

When the 96th session of Congress opens for business next January, the most visible effects of this power shift will be in the Senate, where several key committee chairmanships are slated to pass from the grip of old-line Southern conservatives — men who have maintained a bottom-line commitment to the country's industrial and constitutional principles — into the hands of some of the

worst "liberals" on Capitol Hill.

The committees that will be hardest hit are the powerful Judiciary and Foreign Relations units, whose current chairmen — James Eastland (D-Miss.) and John Sparkman (D-Ala.), — will be replaced by Ted Kennedy of Massachusetts and Frank Church of Idaho respectively.

It is common knowledge that both Church and Kennedy intend to use these positions to promote their own 1980 presidential aspirations, as well as to enhance their immediate leverage over congressional and Administration policy-making. Both men will exercise their newly acquired clout to pressure President Carter into adapting his own policies to theirs. Unfortunately, Carter, who is now fixated on his standing in the popularity polls and worried about his reelection prospects is dangerously vulnerable to manipulation.

Kennedy: King of Judiciary

Kennedy's take-over of the Judiciary Committee will be detrimental to the United States' constitutional form of government. As a member of the committee, Kennedy has been the principal sponsor of the notorious criminal code reform bill, S-1434, and has also used his chairmanship of the Antitrust and Monopoly subcommittee to push a variety of attacks on U.S. corporations on bogus grounds. Now, with his long-coveted ascension to the committee chairmanship in reach, Congressional sources are confidently predicting that Kennedy will proceed with a number of his pet projects. These include an avalanche of antimonopoly maneuvers featuring oil-company divestiture and trucking deregulation, criminal code reform, and related sabotage of the country's judicial system. Kennedy is also expected to use his position to try to force Attorney General Griffin Bell and other traditionalists out of the Justice Department.

The Massachusetts Democrat is taking every precaution to eliminate potential resistance to his plans within the committee. Sources there report that Kennedy's first item of business come January will be to establish complete control over the committee's operations. Under outgoing chairman Eastland's rule, each of the committee's Democratic members were given their own subcommittee and allowed to run it on a semi-autonomous basis. Now, sources say, Chappaquidick Senator plans to eliminate all of Judiciary's subcommittees, leaving him in undisputed control.

While several subcommittee chairmen, including Birch Bayh (D-Ind.) and Howard Metzenbaum (D-Ohio) are expected to object, Kennedy will probably succeed. He'll be helped by reforms the Senate adopted last year, under prodding from Common Cause, which place all funds allocated to Senate committees for operating expenses at the sole disposal of the chairman. Before, each subcommittee could obtain its own funding from the

Senate purse, thereby gaining some degree of independence.

Kennedy's shameless plan to turn the Judiciary Committee into the Capitol Hill branch of the family political machine — aping JFK's infamous take-over of the Justice Department — is being aided by a recent succession of changes in the committee's membership.

Three key conservatives will be definitely out of the picture: Eastland, who's resigning from politics due to age; William Scott (R-Va.), who's leaving the Senate after one term in office; and Sen. James Allen (D-Ala.), who died suddenly last month. John McClellan (D-Ark.) like Allen a strong supporter of the Constitution despite his misguided support for Kennedy's S-1434, died last year.

In addition, ranking Republican Strom Thurmond of South Carolina is facing a tough reelection campaign, fueled by Watergate-style corruption allegations leveled at his brother. Two other Republicans, Senators Paul Laxalt of Nevada and Malcolm Wallop of Wyoming, may also leave the committee when Congress reconvenes.

Church's Game

While membership changes in the Foreign Relations committee will be less extensive than in Judiciary, Church's accession to the chairmanship poses a real danger to the future course of U.S. foreign policy. Underneath his "soft" veneer, Church is a raving proponent of British geopolitical doctrine, as evidenced most clearly by his persistent attempts to rupture relations between the U.S. and Saudi Arabia. Already largely responsible for the destruction of U.S. intelligence capabilities through his 1975 "investigation" of the CIA, Church will soon be situated to exploit this dangerous flaw in American policymaking to the fullest. Church is also doing his best to convince Carter he'd better begin kowtowing if he wants to avoid trouble from the Foreign Relations Committee next year: His last-minute decision to vote against the Administration's proposed plane sale to the Saudis and Egyptians was, in part, meant to convey this message to the President.

Recent developments indicate that the Kennedyites are positioning themselves for purging other key committees of potentially troublesome members. A spate of "watergatings" targeting Herman Talmadge (D-Ga.), chairman of the Agriculture Committee and a close ally of Carter, Edward Brooke (R-Mass.), ranking Republican on the Banking Committee, and several other powerful Senators could force their resignations. The announcement June 7 that the Senate Ethics Committee will conduct an official investigation into the charges against Brooke and Talmadge represents a definite escalation of the attack on the two.

—Kate Murphy