

Campaign 1980 by Kathleen Murphy

Pa. primary signals wrecking of Dem. party

Senator Edward Kennedy squeaked out a narrow victory over President Carter and George Bush won a nonbinding beauty contest over Ronald Reagan in the April 22 Pennsylvania primary.

To those people who read the thousands of column inches devoted to election analysis last week or saw CBS commentator Walter Cronkite pontificating about "voting trends in the keystone state," the results should come as no surprise. All commentary had predicted a narrow Kennedy victory and an upset for Bush; even the margins were predicted.

The real news is not what happened, but why.

On the Democratic side, there are two interconnected operations afoot. Commentators have stressed that Carter's lack of decisiveness on Iran until recently had eroded his support. Sources close to the Carter campaign reported prior to the counting of the votes, that a defeat in Pennsylvania would make Carter more resolute in his determination to go to the brink in the Persian Gulf. "Carter is clearly going to try for a foreign policy breakthrough to stop his slide," a Washington source stated.

Moreover, the Pennsylvania results signal a major escalation in efforts to wreck what is left of the Democratic party machinery. Nearly a month ago, following "surprise" victories in New York and Connecticut, top Kennedy strategists, including Paul Kirk and Steven Smith, leaked that they planned to "open up" the Democratic Party convention by a floor vote of the delegates. They would ask for a suspension of rules, freeing delegates to vote for whomever they wanted and hope-

fully wiping out Carter's wide margin in primary and caucus won delegates.

As the votes came in, CBS's Walter Cronkite played back this strategy as now "unavoidable" and said that this year's Democratic Convention in August will be even more chaotic than the 1968 Chicago convention, which was placed under a siege by proterrorist anti-Vietnam war demonstrators and others.

Anderson could throw election into House

Presidential candidate John Anderson's decision to run an independent campaign could well throw the November election into the House of Representatives—an eventuality which could elevate Fritz Mondale to the Oval Office.

With major polls predicting that Anderson will garner 18 to 30 percent of the popular vote in the November elections, political analysts are speculating openly that the Illinois Congressman might draw enough electoral votes to keep either major party candidate from obtaining the 270 needed to win. If that happens, then the selection of the next U.S. President is left to the newly-elected House of Representatives; if the House cannot choose a President by March 4, by Amendment XII to the U.S. Constitution "then the Vice-President shall act as President, as in case of the death or other constitutional disability of the President." Given the current economic and political crisis sweeping the U.S., throwing the election into the House—which could mean a four-month hiatus between the election and the selection of a President—the country could easily be thrown into chaos. Some observers believe that some

kind of "emergency government," along the lines of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, could be imposed on the country.

Citizens party nominates Commoner

The Citizens Party, a crew of terrorists, environmentalists, and antinuclear fanatics, nominated Barry Commoner, a leading popularizer of "ecological" rubbish, as its presidential candidate at its convention April 10 in Cleveland. Commoner's vice-presidential running mate will be LaDonna Harris, wife of former Senator Fred Harris of Oklahoma, and an activist in the native American Indian movement.

Run from the top by Eastern Establishment patricians, including Archibald Gillies, a former assistant to New York Governor Nelson Rockefeller and head of the John Hay Whitney Foundation, the Citizens Party is being deployed to help wreck the Democratic Party and to begin organizing an outright "left-wing" fascist movement in the U.S.

The draft platform for the convention borrows heavily from Benito Mussolini's corporatist program. The economic plank reads in part: "The Citizens Party is pledged to redistribution of income... The Citizen's Party supports broad initiatives and experimentation in social ownership, and/or social control of business, workers self-management. ... The Citizens Party supports the development of agencies at all levels of government, state, local and national to pursue coordination and facilitation needed to rationalize economic planning... The Citizen's Party considers this to be the framework for a full scale restructuring of the American economy."