

# National News

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## State leaders hear DNC chairman candidates

The Association of Democratic State Chairs elected Marjorie Thurman of Georgia to a four-year term as chairman by a unanimous vote at its meeting at the Washington, D.C. Sheraton on Jan. 23. Thurman, an Atlanta lawyer at odds with the Carter campaign during the summer of 1980, replaces social democrat Morley Winograd of Michigan.

Among machine Democrats across the country, the State Chairs Association has a reputation for standing up to outgoing DNC Chairman John White for his use of the Democratic Party as a Carter campaign asset. It was in this climate that the four announced candidates for chairman of the Democratic National Committee (DNC) addressed the State Chairs Jan. 23, with approximately 200 persons in attendance.

Charles Manatt of Los Angeles, the current chairman of the DNC Finance Committee, told the state chairs that "There can be no honeymoon for the Reagan type of Republicanism . . . for those who would repeal OSHA, support a subminimum wage, who would govern the country without a commitment to equal rights. We cannot relax our commitment to civil rights, to anti-trust, to ethics in government." "The Democratic Party is not the party of \$10,000 mink coats at Inaugural balls."

Patrick Cunningham, former chairman of the New York State Democratic Party from Bronx, New York, called the state chairs, "together with your state organizations, the most important organization in the Democratic Party." Cunningham proposed "watchdog committees" composed of DNC members, congressmen and outside consultants to monitor the Reagan administration as a kind of shadow cabinet. This, Cunningham said, would serve both as a basis for an issues debate in the party and the foundation for the 1984 platform.

Charles Curry, DNC Midwest Caucus chairman, called the chairs "the key

group" in the party. The DNC, Curry said, should "make resources available to state parties and provide training for candidates in the purpose and policies of the party." "We must not go back on the reforms, but we must bring party people in," Curry said.

Joseph Crangle, Democratic Party leader from Buffalo, New York, stated that, "The DNC chairman should be a politician, not as an avocation, but as a vocation." "I am in the trenches and the command posts every day, and I know the importance of the state organizations," said Crangle. "The DNC has to be the creation of the 50 state parties; the 50 state parties are not the creation of the DNC." According to a Curry campaign spokesman, the latest polls show only 11 of the 50 state chairs committed to a candidate. The selection of the chair by the 363 members of the DNC takes place on Feb. 26.

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## 'Global 2000': ready for Implementation

On Jan. 14, the Carter State Department and the anti-growth Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) quietly released a 250-page document designed to implement the features of the "Global 2000" blueprint that advocates reduction of the world's population by 2 billion people, and advocates "appropriate technologies" and labor-intensive cottage industry for the developing countries.

According to Nick Yost, the CEQ lawyer who oversaw preparation of the new report, titled "Global Future: Time to Act," the report advocates three courses of action for the U.S. First, America must adapt all its institutions to future planning based on zero population growth. "We must not allow the repeat of unbridled industrial growth of the U.S. in the developing sector," said Yost. "We must improve the quality of life by building a global society based on fewer people. Growth must be linked to environmental concerns. The real scarcity of resources must place a limit on growth."

Yost said that the Global 2000 policy has its advocates in the Reagan administration, citing Secretary of State Alexander Haig, whom Yost called a "closet environmentalist."

In addition, a bipartisan committee has been formed to push for implementation of Global 2000. It includes ARCO chairman Robert O. Anderson, Russell Train, head of the World Wildlife Fund, and former Attorney General Elliot Richardson, and former Carter Secretary of State Cyrus Vance.

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## Illinois Democrats haul governor into court

Liberal Republican Governor Jim Thompson of Illinois has been charged with illegally usurping control of the state senate, and with attempted blackmail and corruption. This month the governor, a political ally of Chicago's austerity mayor, Jane Byrne, wrangled the election of a Republican as president pro tem of the senate, although the Democrats hold a one-seat majority, by holding a vote in the absence of a quorum.

State Senator Richard Gitz (D-Rockford) charges that Thompson attempted to entice and blackmail him into switching to the GOP, and challenged the governor to a lie-detector test, with no response. Thompson comes up for re-election in 1982.

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## Chain reaction hits Connecticut's cities

In a stunning doublecross, newly appointed governor Thomas O'Neill demanded in his first State of the State message that Connecticut's major towns and cities accept a \$23 million cut in state aid which they had already budgeted and spent. The request was passed by the lower house Jan. 28 by a 90 to 58 vote, with approval expected in the state senate.

## Briefly

Cities hit hardest include Hartford, New Haven, New Britain, Waterbury, and Bridgeport. William McMahon, comptroller of Bridgeport, said, "This is unbelievable. We were to get a \$3.5 million check in March. In order to address this cut now, I will have to effect \$8 million in economies. We are eight months into our fiscal year, and this money has already been spent."

Areas that receive little money from the state Urban Problems grant are being rallied by the governor, who recently filled ailing Ella Grasso's post. The rationale for the cuts is that in December, Congress voted up a three-year authorization bill on revenue sharing which takes away federal revenue sharing funds to states, but continues them to cities. When the State of Connecticut lost \$23 million in these funds, O'Neill turned around and axed \$23 million of the state's traditional grants to cities, to balance the budget.

O'Neill's current cuts are not going to avert a tax increase in this legislative session, according to Dennis Schain of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities. Nor is there any law against an unbalanced budget, which could be covered by bonding. The state is polarized on the issue, with no clear lineup according to political party.

### Anti-Volcker resolution in South Dakota

State Senator Doris Miner introduced a joint senate-assembly resolution, SCR-9, into the South Dakota legislature on Jan. 27, which calls for lowered interest rates and the resignation of Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker. The state senator, an active Democrat and farm leader, introduced the legislation at the urging of the National Democratic Policy Committee.

Miner was among those who pushed at the Democratic National Convention in August to suspend party rules so that a stronger pro-farm party statement could be discussed for inclusion in the party's platform.

South Dakota is the sixth state to have anti-Volcker resolutions pending before their legislatures. The others are California, New Jersey, Virginia, Texas, and Washington.

### Philadelphia battles over tax assessment

The Philadelphia City Council, led by Councilman Alvin Pearlman, overrode the veto of Mayor William J. Green to enact a three-year freeze on property tax assessment in the city. The action has embroiled the mayor's office, the Board of Assessors, and the city council in a battle over who has the right to tax, and at what rate.

City Solicitor Alan J. Davis has advised the council that their action is illegal since a state law mandates that all properties be reassessed annually. But since the Board of Assessors has only been able to reassess approximately 13 percent of the city's properties due to manpower shortages, the council considers this a moot point.

Councilman Alvin Pearlman, author of the assessment freeze, said that the Board of Assessors is repeatedly reassessing the same properties in "activity areas," and throwing the burden of the city's property taxes on only a few taxpayers.

Mayor Green, whom Councilman Pearlman described as "a liberal," had requested a double-digit tax increase this year. "We [the city council] gave him 2.6 percent, and now the Board of Assessors is trying to make up the difference," said Pearlman.

Pearlman's proposals call for freezing tax assessments at 1980 levels and providing the Board of Assessors with \$237,000 to hire the necessary assessors. "When the assessment is finished, then we can roll back the mil rate," Pearlman said. "At least then everyone will be taxed equitably."

The mayor has told the council that he intends to hold the council liable for the money the city will lose by this move, and a court battle is expected.

● **ROY COHN**, the mob attorney, has reportedly arranged a deal whereby the GOP will not oppose the most hated mayor in New York City's history, Edward Koch, but will ask Koch, a nominal Democrat, to run on its line, according to local press reports.

● **KENNEDY** and Mondale Democrats want to create a new liberal think tank tentatively named the Democratic Forum. Thirty-six of them met recently to "define the new ideology" for the party, including Stu Eizenstat, Hodding Carter III, Pat Derian, Anne Wexler, Peter Edelman, Milton Gwirtzman, Paul Warnke, Willard Wirtz, Adam Yarmolinsky, and John Gilligan.

● **THE FEC** reported the day after the inauguration that the Carter/Mondale campaign overspent the legal limit in the election primary states of Iowa, New Hampshire, and must repay the government at least \$129,443. The FEC spent the primary period investigating Carter's opponents.

● **CARL SAGAN** provided portions of Jimmy Carter's farewell address, word for word, in Episode 13 of his book *Cosmos*. Prior to his presidency, Carter's acquaintance with extraterrestrial life was limited to his claimed personal encounter with a flying saucer in Plains, Georgia.

● **EDWIN MEESE** said on the MacNeill-Lehrer Report TV program Jan. 26 that the administration is carefully looking at whether Carter's deal with Iran is legal. "There may be some portions of the agreement or extensions of it that would be in violation of U.S. or international law or that would unfairly cut out the rights of someone," Meese declared.