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## Democratic Party

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# A change for the worse in party rules

by Freyda Greenberg

Under the direction of its chairman, banker Charles Manatt, the Democratic National Committee March 26 voted up major changes in the presidential nominating process that will give greater control over the party and its presidential candidate to the same Trilateral Commission faction that engineered the election of Jimmy Carter.

Rule changes enacted by the Committee include:

- Fourteen percent of the presidential nominating convention must be composed of elected and state officials. DNC member Glen Watts, the current president of the Communication Workers of America (CWA), supported a proposal to make 30 percent of delegates elected officials. Watts, who also belongs to the Trilateral Commission and the pro-genocide Club of Rome, emphasized that the most essential part of the policy is for officials to be chosen "in a manner that screens, challenges, or discourages those who do not support party positions." This new rule coincides with an activation of the party's Commission on Accountability, which was conceived at the 1980 convention to serve as the mechanism for disciplining elected Democratic officials.

- Candidates may win all the delegates to the presidential nominating convention from a single district, rather than having these delegates divided among the candidates according to their share of the popular vote in the primary. In this fashion, a candidate receiving less than 50 percent of the vote will get no delegates at all.

- The primary-caucus season will be reduced to a set number of weeks during the campaign year. Well-known and well-funded candidates have a distinct advantage early in the primary campaign, until lesser-known candidates have had a chance to tour the country.

It is the design of Watts and his fellow conspirators in the party leadership to devise a party platform in 1984 similar to the one adopted in 1980 which enforces the austerity policies of Wall Street patrician Averell Harriman and his ilk within the DNC against the interests of the farmers, laborers, and small businessmen that have comprised the party's base since the 1930s. The Commission on Accountability is seeking to make public commitment to such a platform a prerequisite for any Democratic candidate or party official. Should a Harrimanite

platform be enacted along with strict accountability rules, a Democrat persistent in his support for nuclear energy, for example, would be seriously "discouraged" from serving as a delegate or sanctioned candidate.

### A culmination

For more than a decade the Harriman Democrats have sought to place the party under its complete control. The so-called McGovern reforms of 1972 opened up the party apparatus to every variety of kook and self-appointed minority. These were used as a battering ram against the party's regionally based pro-growth constituency machines.

In 1978, the Carter machine launched the Abscam-Brilab witch-hunt, which succeeded in removing seven Congressmen from the House of Representatives, all of whom had strong ties to the Democratic labor base, and in forcing the resignation of the Senate's foremost labor defender, Democrat Harrison Williams.

Now that constituency machines across the country have been leveled, the Harrimanites, with Manatt in the lead, are ending the reign of McGovern pluralist anarchy and battering down the hatches to turn the party into a Socialist International-dominated machine.

In the aftermath of the 1980 Democratic Convention, groups like the Committee on Party Renewal, the Democratic Conference, the Duke Forum, and the DNC's Commission on Presidential Selection ("Hunt Commission") were spawned or activated to promote a consensus for the now-enacted rule changes.

The most revealing of these groups is former Secretary of State Cyrus Vance's personal think tank, the New York-based Public Agenda Foundation, which after Jimmy Carter's defeat began a study, "Inflation and the Presidency," proposing the party rule changes. The problem with constituencies, according to pollster Daniel Yankelovich—who heads the Foundation and who was the chief architect of Carter's media-created victory in 1976—is that politicians respond to them. "Paul Volcker," said Yankelovich in a Foundation communication dated Jan. 26, 1981, "has shown that one does not need a national consensus to institute a rigorous and clear-cut monetary policy." The object, therefore, of Presidential selection reform is to elect backers of Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker, i.e., elect officials whose policies are contrary to interests of their voters.

The biggest problem for the Harriman-Vance conspiracy for the Democratic Party is that a pro-growth constituency revolted by the policies of Paul Volcker still exists, and is in fact growing. The rapid growth of the National Democratic Policy Committee (NDPC) has coalesced moderate and conservative Democrats, many of whom would otherwise have been driven out of the Democratic Party.