

# Behind Mondale's new policy postures

by Richard Cohen

Between the spring of 1981 and the fall of 1982, Walter Mondale's cabal of secret supporters saw to it that the Mondale campaign machine would be the best-financed in the Democratic Party. Following the Reagan inauguration, they began to face-lift the Mondale image, so stigmatized by his active role in the hated Carter administration.

By fall 1982, Mondale's new political action committee (PAC), the "Committee for the Future of America," had already accumulated \$2.2 million to finance Mondale's activities, well before any other Democratic presidential pretender had raised anything. The Mondale campaign moved to convert its financial advantage into political IOUs; by November 1982, Mondale's PAC had invested over \$700,000 in contributions for local candidates nationwide. In 1982 alone, the former vice-president would campaign for 135 candidates in over 40 states, while by early 1983, he had visited the important caucus state of Iowa 15 times. Mondale's activities were financed by a massive increase in his personal income from his two board appointments at Columbia Pictures and Control Data Corporation, as well as his partnership in the law firm of Winston and Strawn.

In addition, Mondale's secret supporters early outfitted him with a well-organized staff. From Winston and Strawn would come Mondale's chief campaign strategist John Reilly. From Columbia Pictures came another longtime Mondale intimate, Jim Johnson, now his campaign manager. Most of the rest of Mondale's senior staff were Carter leftovers. His chief of staff is Richard Moe, whom Mondale had brought to the White House. The campaign legal affairs director is Michael Berman, Mondale's former vice-presidential legal counsel. The dangerous Davis Aaron—still suspected as KGB-tainted because of his central role in leaking classified information on U.S. counterintelligence operations in the U.S.S.R. while deputy national security adviser under Brzezinski—is the campaign's foreign affairs adviser. Aaron will get assistance from Carter Assistant Secretary of State for Asian Affairs Richard Holbrooke, the ex-editor of *Foreign Policy* magazine and now co-director of a new consulting

firm, Public Strategies, which operates on the premises of Winston and Strawn's Washington, D.C., office (see *EIR*, Aug. 23). Public Strategies is also associated with Burt Carp, the Mondale campaign's domestic policy adviser, who was Senator Mondale's domestic policy adviser before becoming a deputy to Carter adviser Stuart Eizenstat.

Playing a unique role will be longtime Mondale associate and Carter alumnus Paul Jensen, who has put together another front, the National Policy Exchange, on whose board Mondale sits. The National Policy Exchange is an intelligence and communications center which ostensibly exchanges policy options between source clients. Also on the board are one of Mondale's chief supporters and advisers, former Carter Secretary of Labor Ray Marshall, and Victor Kamber—officially an adviser to the Alan Cranston presidential campaign. Like Marshall, Kamber is tied into a number of AFL-CIO unions.

Especially important is the advice the Mondale camp is getting from Carter's Secretary of State Cyrus Vance. Vance, a fierce opponent of advanced technology anti-ballistic missile defense systems and strategic modernization, will work closely with Aaron and Holbrooke.

On Capitol Hill, candidate Mondale is reported to have obtained the support of House Majority Whip Thomas Foley (D-Wash.), a confidant of former New York Gov. Averell Harriman and a recent traveler to Moscow, following Harriman's late-May discussions with Soviet President Yuri Andropov. Mondale is backed by Sens. Thomas Eagleton (D-Mo.) and Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii).

Mondale effectively launched his campaign in early 1981. Shortly after signing on with Winston and Strawn, the former vice-president undertook a huge schedule of travel, dubbed a "re-education" campaign in a *New York Times Magazine* piece Mondale wrote about himself at the time. He traveled widely internationally and in the U.S.A., throughout 1981, seeking what he called "new ideas." Mondale's re-education effort was a way to dodge attacking Reagan's programs when the White House had a solid majority on Capitol Hill. The cowardly Mondale only launched his broadsides against the President in 1982, once the Reagan legislative combination had crumbled. The re-education effort turned up the same old Mondale, the Walter Mondale who dropped out of the 1976 Democratic presidential race because he no longer "had the fire in his stomach," the same Mondale about whom one Minnesota Democratic leader announced after a 1974 Mondale appendectomy, "I sure hope they inserted some guts."

By the beginning of 1983, Mondale's re-education and new ideas emerged as a presidential program contoured to secure the goals of his secret supporters. And in that, there was nothing new.

## The Mondale program

Late last spring, after his surprising defeat by Alan Cranston in the Wisconsin straw poll, Mondale went on national television to announce that the number one issue of his cam-

paign would be the nuclear freeze. Along with Cranston, Mondale is the main presidential contender to have openly identified himself in this way with the KGB-financed European and U.S. peace movement. Besides a mutual and verifiable nuclear weapons freeze, Mondale vehemently seeks a renewed U.S. commitment to the Kissinger-hatched Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty, while he continuously lambasts President Reagan's "Mutually Assured Survival" defense doctrine, announced March 23, as "dangerous Star Wars fantasy." This phrase is often repeated on the pages of *Pravda*.

Mondale would also resubmit the discredited Carter-approved SALT II Treaty for ratification. He would scrap—along with ABM research, development, and deployment—the MX missile and the B-1 bomber. Mondale says he would instead rely on the cheaper stealth bomber and the cruise missile, while supporting the Trident submarine. However, while a senator, Mondale voted against the Trident as well as the cruise missile.

Mondale culminates his fantasies of unilateral disarmament by parroting the KGB-scripted lie on Reagan policies: "The Reagan administration believes we can win an all-out arms race." Finally, the former vice-president would choke off the transfer of peaceful nuclear energy technology to the Third World by launching a drive to strengthen "non-proliferation."

Mondale's friendliness to the Soviets and their "peace movement" contrasts with his antagonism to the Japanese and U.S. economies. He attacks U.S. trade policy as a "disaster": "I would tell nations that won't let our products into their countries, that are selecting what they will buy and won't buy, that we're going to get much tougher with them because we are going to insist on access. The Japanese who sell some 2 million cars to us buy only 2,000 cars." Mondale's repeated recommendation to conduct virtual trade war against Japan is not only welcomed by his principal supporters in Lane Kirkland's AFL-CIO, but coheres with a "new" economic approach which has come to dominate Democratic Party circles since 1981. The nominal authors of this approach are two Americans trained in economics as Rhodes Scholars at Oxford University, Robert Reich and Ira Magaziner. Mondale, after reading their book *Minding America's Business*, and meeting with Reich, blurted: "Now I know how the Democrats are going to win in 1984."

Their formula is that the reason Japan outproduces the United States, is that it has a coherent economic policy reached among government, business, and labor at their central planning ministry, MITI. But the "Japanese model" Reich and Magaziner outline—which Mondale finds so attractive—is not the real Japanese model of capital-intensive investment in both basic and frontier industries, but Mussolini's corporate state. Reich and his current boss, candidate Gary Hart, propose to scrap investment in smokestack industries, and build high-tech "sunrise" industries in the service sector.

All the other announced Democratic contenders have

adopted some version of this approach in rhetoric. Mondale would use the new machinery to conduct trade war with Japan by subsidizing U.S. competitors, thereby protecting outdated U.S. plant and equipment. This approach sits very well with the AFL-CIO.

Mondale has, since early 1982, ardently defended the Carter-appointed Federal Reserve Board Chairman Paul A. Volcker. He argues that Volcker's high interest rates became necessary because of the large Reagan budget deficits. Mondale would "scale down the defense budget . . . repeal tax indexation, cut scheduled tax cuts, and adopt tough health care cost containment measures," to offset the deficit and bring rates down. In exchange for destroying U.S. defense expenditures and increasing taxes, he would seek an accord with the Fed to permit sustained hyperinflationary monetary growth.

In 1982, Mondale was the first Democratic candidate to publicly advertise his support of the homosexual community, when he appeared as the keynote speaker at a fundraising dinner sponsored by the Human Rights Campaign Fund, a lobby for homosexual causes. "The trick is to say you're against discrimination without endorsing their lifestyle," he comments. Indeed, Mondale would do or say just about anything for votes. "There must be 3 or 4 million of them [gays] out there," he has said.

Mondale will, without question, obtain the support of the National Education Association. The NEA, which represented the backbone of Jimmy Carter's 1980 delegate support at the Democratic Convention, happens to be a client of campaign manager Johnson. In 1980, the union supplied 10 percent of the delegates and alternates at the Democratic convention, by far the largest voting bloc. It contributed \$1.2 million to congressional candidates, and is gaining greater clout in the party. The NEA is responsible for everything Walter Mondale says on one of his key campaign issues, education. While the candidate often mouths the ritual attack on U.S. education's drift from science and math, he and his NEA promoters are the primary culprits for diluting curricula.

### **The Humphrey-Freeman legacy**

The Mondale program is inherited from the late Sen. Hubert Humphrey and former Minnesota governor and Kennedy Agriculture Secretary Orville Freeman.

When, in 1948, Humphrey ran for Senate, Mondale became an activist in his campaign, whose manager was Orville Freeman. It was Freeman who in 1960 appointed Mondale to his first government position as the state's attorney general.

Freeman is not only an active supporter of Mondale's candidacy today, but a primary originator of what became known as the Carter administration's Global 2000 policy of global population reduction. Freeman still exerts strong influence on food control matters through two anti-growth organizations he helped create, Business International and Worldwatch—organizations that have population control as a primary concern.