

WASHINGTON TALK: "IT'S A THREE WAY RACE"

Talk on Capitol Hill and in and around the White House this week indicates that the perception of leading political figures in Washington is that the upcoming Presidential race will be a three-way battle between the Democrats, Republicans and the U.S. Labor Party.

According to sources close to the White House, the Ford Administration is counting on the U.S. Labor Party to knock out its Democratic opposition, by undercutting the trade union and urban base of Presidential hopefuls Sen. Humphrey (D-Minn), Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass) and Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho). Washington observers note that already under the Labor Party's leadership sections of the trade union movement have been mobilized to stop the corporatist national planning and low-wage public service employment package now being put forth in Congress by the three "Friends of Labor" Senators on behalf of the Harriman-Ball Atlanticist faction.

"It's like a big superbowl game," said one source close to the White House, "only there are three teams, the Ford Team, the Democratic Team and the Labor Party Team. The Labor Party will knock out the Democratic Team. The Ford boys are confident that in a battle with the Labor Party, they would come out on top."

Seasoned political analysts note that Ford maintains an uneasy tactical alliance with his Democratic opponents on certain issues to keep in check Vice President Nelson Rockefeller and his allies who remain in the government, although their power has been seriously diminished. The U.S. Labor Party leverage is enhanced in this situation, they observe, by the fact that neither the Republicans or the Democrats have a coherent or credible programmatic alternative to the Labor Party's International Development Bank (IDB) and Emergency Employment Act (EEA). An exchange between two Democratic Congressional aides overheard in the halls of Congress this week underscored the Democrat's problems: "The Labor Party has a program and the Democrats don't," one warned.

While the U.S. Labor Party Presidential Candidate Lyndon LaRouche was in Italy this week for a series of meetings with leading political and financial officials on the Italian crisis, Nikos Syvriotis, the Director of Intelligence for the Party, was in Washington meeting with U.S. government officials, economists, and political figures.