

Democratic National Committee Issues Warning To Carter

The Democratic National Committee at its April 1 meeting unanimously passed a resolution which serves as a warning to President Carter that if he does not consult party leaders before making political appointments or initiating new policies, he may lose their support entirely. The formal denunciation of Carter's current policy of ignoring both party and Congressional leaders, was spearheaded by National Committee members from New Jersey, Florida, South Carolina, and Louisiana.

While the resolution, which passed by 353-0, dealt primarily with the National Committee members' demands that the President consult and actively solicit recommendations from its members before making political appointments, one point in the statement called upon the White House to work with state officials in developing national policies.

The interview below was given by a spokesman of the Democratic National Committee from the Democratic Party National Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Q: What was behind the resolution which the DNC voted unanimously to direct to President Carter?

A: The state chairmen feel neglected and they're warning that they will be in the field in 1980 and the President should be aware of that if he wants their support.

Q: Who led the move for bringing such a resolution before the National Committee meeting?

A: The state chairmen from South Carolina, New Jersey, Florida, and Louisiana...The majority of these people didn't support Carter in the primaries. There's always the feeling that the President is an outsider candidate. I've heard grumblings that 'He's not helping us because he didn't win the state'...The opposition came from *all* the state chairmen. They're very resentful that they haven't been consulted or informed of anything. They read things about appointments in their own states before they are told about it...and then they have to explain it to their base.

Q: Do you think that we have heard the end of this, now that the resolution has been passed?

A: The state chairmen acquiesced somewhat at the meeting, but they're still upset. I'm surprised that they went as far as they did.

GOP National Committee Hits Carter Electoral Bill

Broad-based Republican Party opposition to President Carter's voter registration bill last week forced Trilateral Commission member and GOP national chairman Bill Brock to reverse his previous position in support of the bill. On April 2, Brock, representing the National Committee, issued a statement attacking the Carter-Mondale "universal registration" bill as preparing the way for widespread vote fraud, and reported that the Republicans were preparing a bill of their own.

According to GOP sources on Capitol Hill, Brock and the GOP National Committee had received tremendous pressure — in the form of telegrams, phone calls, and letters — from both Congressional offices and GOP supporters throughout the country. Another source revealed that a "Dear Colleague" letter had circulated among conservative Republicans registering consternation at earlier statements by Brock and House and Senate Minority leaders John Rhodes (Ariz) and Howard Baker (Tenn) for supporting the bill.

At yesterday's hearings on the bill before the House Administration Committee, Republicans, led by Rep. Charles E. Wiggins from southern California, fired a series of questions at Attorney General Griffin Bell

which he was unable to answer. Wiggins charged that were the U.S. Congress to adopt the President's proposal, it would be "rejecting 180 years of history" by inviting vote fraud and depriving political parties of the use of voter registration lists. Rep. Bill Frenzel (R-Minn) demanded that Bell defend charges that the Justice Department had not pursued investigations of vote fraud and asked for detailed figures on prosecutions and convictions. Frenzel's attack was seen as a blow to Vice-President Mondale's past claims that there had been no charges of vote fraud in Minnesota, where on-site registration is already law.

Hearings on the bill will continue before the House committee after Congress reconvenes on April 18; the Senate Rules Committee has tentatively scheduled hearings for May 4-5. Congressional offices in both houses have indicated their willingness to use the example of this week's mayoral election in Madison, Wisconsin as further evidence that "universal registration" as outlined by the Carter Administration will lead to fraud. Fraud has been charged in that election by the Republican candidate, Anthony Amato. Serious irregularities in on-site registration and absentee balloting have been reported.