

Establishment Press Nominates Carter For V.P.

Having forced the resignation of fiscally conservative Budget Director Bert Lance, influential U.S. press are now proposing Vice-President Walter Mondale, the tool of British-connected Lazard Freres banking interests behind the policy of hyperinflationary and fascist economic controls, as the de facto chief of the Carter Administration. Behind last week's press barrage touting Mondale was the clearly implied threat that Jimmy Carter would be watergated right out of the Presidency if he resisted orders to toe the Mondale line.

The Los Angeles Times initiated the furor over Mondale's influence in the White House, by demanding from Press Secretary Jody Powell why Mondale had seemingly been relegated to the background in the Administration. Carter telephoned the paper the next day to assert that Mondale is his closest policy advisor — and consulted closely on the Lance Affair. White House advisor Hamilton Jordan also praised Mondale as "the most involved and effective Vice President in the history of this country," but said that Carter will not widen the White House inner circle to include more "non-Georgians," as the press outlets pushing a Mondale ascendancy have repeatedly demanded.

The following article excerpts highlight the "Carter For Vice President Drive."

Los Angeles Times, "Carter Reiterates Mondale's Importance," Washington Bureau, reprinted in Seattle Times, Sept. 28:

President Carter, in an extraordinary response to rising questions here about Vice President Walter Mondale's power in his Administration, said yesterday that Mondale had played crucial roles in domestic and foreign affairs, including the Bakke civil rights case and the strategic arms talks. In addition he said Mondale was among those advising him on how to deal with the controversy over the financial affairs of former budget director Bert Lance.

On strategic arms proposals, Mr. Carter said, "Before going into a negotiation with the National Security Council to evolve our nation's policy, I always very carefully check with Fritz. He knows the details of past negotiations as well or better than I do. He has full participation." ...The President said he spends more time with Mondale than with all members of the White House staff combined.

Seattle Post Intelligencier, September 28:

(A Mondale staff member said) "In terms of strategy it makes sense for Mondale to be a little more visible than he's been."

While Mondale takes pains to defer to the President, his staff members are mindful of his public image and the possibility that someday he may run for the Presidency himself.

New York Times, "On Replacing Lance," column by James Reston, Sept. 28:

But in general, the record seems to suggest that what Presidents need more than "friends" in key posts like the budget are muscular, objective minds that can master the intricate problems of their departments and can say "no" even when it hurts. This was the tragedy of Richard

Nixon: he misjudged both his "friends" and his "enemies."

...Mr. Carter applied Roosevelt's "competitive principle" of administration when he picked Fritz Mondale as his Vice President; not because they thought alike but because in many ways they didn't. This "partnership" has worked better than any President-Vice President relationship in recent memory.

Most Presidents have found that the "friendship principle," while comfortable, is not "irreplaceable" and that the "competitive principle," while awkward and even exasperating, is more effective in the long run.

New York Times, "Lance's Loss and Mondale's Gain as Carter Confidant," news analysis by Hedrick Smith, Sept. 29:

The departure of Bert Lance from the Carter Administration seems more likely to add to the influence and importance of Vice President Mondale than any other Administration official.

...But no one except Vice President Mondale is qualified by experience, stature and close relationship with the President to play the role of across-the-board advisor to Mr. Carter that helped make Mr. Lance so important to his old friend in the Oval Office.

...But for all their affection for Mr. Lance the President and his aides insist this was an exaggeration of his function, "Fritz has always been the deputy President," Mr. Carter said in a telephone conversation this afternoon.

"With the exception of actual budget hearings and Cabinet meetings which Bert and I both attended, I saw Bert one or two hours a week. I see Fritz four to five hours a day. There is not a single aspect of my own responsibilities in which Fritz is not intimately associated..."

Washington Post, "Will Carter's First Term Parallel Nixon's?" column by David Broder, Sept. 28:

Udall learned a lot about what this President looks like from the back.

It was his observation a couple weeks ago that the course of the Carter administration is beginning to resemble that of the first Nixon administration. And it strikes me that developments in the last couple weeks make the Udall notion more than slightly plausible.

...It seems quite likely to me that events will bear out Udall's hunch that the next 12 to 18 months will be rough for Carter, just as the comparable period was for Nixon.

...By spring of 1971, the polls showed Nixon in a dead heat with Sen. Edmund S. Muskie (D-Maine), and columns were being written about his being a one term President.

...Major Carter legislative initiatives are being scrapped or manhandled by the Congress; the economy is sending out some nervous hiccups; and abroad, there are storm signals flying from Moscow to the Middle East and on around the globe.

...But that's where Udall's final reminder becomes pertinent: never underestimate the capacity of a President to change policies, change personnel and change the political equation.