

LABOR PERISCOPE

Two Janes and two unions for Kennedy

Chicago Mayor Jane Byrne, who reached office with the help of the Kennedy family networks, will try to create a machine for Ted Kennedy's presidential bid by turning the city's entire municipal workforce over to Jerry Wurf of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME). Sources in both Chicago and Washington report that AFSCME, a big supporter of Ted Kennedy, anti-nuclear "environmentalism" and urban austerity, will undertake an "organizing drive" in Chicago "as soon as Byrne gives the green light" by issuing an executive order granting full collective bargaining rights to city workers.

AFSCME officials and lawyers are now working with Mayor Byrne's people to draft that order.

In a related development on the labor front, United Auto Workers (UAW) president Doug Fraser, another big Kennedy fan, has given the go-ahead to UAW locals to "endorse the candidate of their choice and work for him." Immediately, Charles Gifford, UAW chief in the state of Iowa, undertook two actions: he invited Jane Fonda and Tom Hayden to address the state UAW convention next month; Fonda and Hayden are the leading organizers of the Oct. 6 anti-nuclear demonstration in Seabrook, N.H. that is planned to be violent. Then, Gifford announced that he would work for Ted Kennedy in the state's Democratic Caucus.

The Chicago AFSCME plan for Kennedy involves what one Wash-

ington source termed a Jane Byrne attempt at "drastic social engineering. ... She is trying to create her own machine." To do so, she must attack the real labor unions in the city—service employees and Teamsters—that were the base of the machine of former Democratic Mayor Richard Daley. Under Daley, there was an unwritten agreement that city labor, organized or not, would be paid at prevailing union-level wage rates. Ironically, if Byrne and AFSCME "organize" municipal workers, it is almost a sure-thing that wage levels will decline—among other things.

AFSCME has shown itself to be a collaborator of the worst austerity governments in major urban centers. In New York City, AFSCME's Victor Gotbaum not only contractually agrees to mass lay-offs and a dismantling of city services, but has donated billions of his union's pension monies to Municipal Assistance Corporation debt-pyramiding projects. AFSCME spokesmen already indicate that in Chicago, they plan to provide similar "responsible assistance to Byrne ..."

But the¹ consideration in the AFSCME-Byrne scheming is the 1980 Kennedy presidential candidacy. "Jane and AFSCME have a basic identity of purpose ... of interest in getting Ted Kennedy into the White House. ..." A "strong AFSCME" in Chicago, using the phony registration and vote fraud

methods that union leaders used on behalf of Jimmy Carter in 1976, could give Illinois to Kennedy, an AFSCME spokesman indicated.

Meanwhile, UAW leader Gifford in Iowa was demonstrating his commitment to Kennedy by inviting Hayden and Fonda, the "green terrorist" leaders, to his convention. The UAW bureaucracy and President Fraser are at the center of the Kennedy election push. When the executive board voted to end the union's officially "neutral" position last week, they intended an immediate infusion of organizers and money into "draft Kennedy" efforts in Florida, as well as Iowa. The decision was reportedly taken because of the shrill cries of pro-Kennedy people like Gifford, who argued that the sorry state of Kennedy's campaign sorely needed "UAW muscle." Apparently, Kennedy's desperation outweighed Fraser's fear that an early endorsement would expose "non-partisan" activity by the UAW against the "Wall Street nuclear establishment."

Ironically, Gifford's invitation to Fonda and Hayden came at the very time that Kennedy and the leading supporters of Kennedy, who have financed and built support for the New Hampshire violence next week, have begun to publicly distance themselves from the Seabrook demonstration. But at this point, the link between Kennedy backers in the UAW and the green terrorists is too longstanding and explicit to cover up on short notice.

Tom Hayden himself is a creature who helped found the Students for a Democratic Society under partial UAW direction. The Fonda-Hayden tour has been billed in the Washing-

old SDS network. Hayden also belongs to the Progressive Alliance, an organization of "liberal" unions, Naderites and environmentalists the UAW spawned as a temporary waste-storage facility for the collection of forces that will comprise the Kennedy-for-President campaign.

—L. Wolfe