

## Campaign 1980 by Kathleen Murphy

### Cronkite and Anderson: new Hollywood sitcom?

For those of you who were wondering back in February why CBS-TV's national news anchorman Walter Cronkite seemed to be spending an inordinate amount of time covering John Anderson's underdog presidential bid—the mystery may now be solved.

Cronkite is angling for a vice-presidential spot in Anderson's newly launched independent campaign, according to the latest issue of *New Republic* magazine.

"I'd be so honored to be asked, I wouldn't turn it down," Cronkite said in an interview with Morton Kondracke, the magazine's executive editor. Cronkite—who will retire early next year from his CBS post—told Kondracke: "Well, I don't know. I haven't been asked. I'd like to be asked before I said anything. I wouldn't turn it down. It would be the right party. I've been an independent all my life. ...I admire Anderson very much. He's brought a fresh breeze to the scene."

Another former CBS bigwig, Frank Stanton, has lent his name to the Citizens Party which is running environmentalist Barry Commoner as its presidential candidate.

### Reagan: all-out war on unions

Ronald Reagan may have set back his campaign to win the blue-collar workers to his presidential bid when he called for putting trade unions under antitrust laws during a South Bend, Indiana, speech April 22.

Reagan's proposal bears all the earmarks of an all-out union-busting drive. The proposal's author, Murray Weidenbaum, director of Washington University's Center for Business Policy, and newly



named to Reagan's Policy Committee, has long been in the forefront of schemes to destroy organized labor, including the repeal of Davis-Bacon which requires the payment of prevailing area wages for work on all federally financed construction in a given locality.

### George Ball endorses John Anderson

John Anderson has chalked up another big name endorsement: former Under Secretary of State George Ball. Appearing on NBC-TV's "Meet the Press" April 27, Ball wound up a gently phrased, but nonetheless scathing indictment of Jimmy Carter's disastrous hostage rescue mission by endorsing Anderson. Asked who he'd prefer to see running U.S. foreign policy—Jimmy Carter, Ronald

Reagan, or John Anderson—a grinning Ball responded: "Congressman Anderson."

Interestingly, Ball had just returned from a European meeting of the secret Bilderberg Society which, according to unconfirmed reports, discussed with much interest the campaign of fellow member Anderson.

Ball's long-time political association with Cyrus Vance has provoked speculation that the ousted Secretary of State might also jump on the Anderson bandwagon sometime soon.

### Muskie for President?

Washington political insiders are putting out the word that one reason Jimmy Carter named Edmund Muskie to replace Cyrus Vance as Secretary of State was that he feared the Maine Senator was planning to put himself forward soon as the "compromise candidate" for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination. A liberal with strong ties to the hawkish Jackson-Moynihan wing of the party, chairman of the powerful Congressional Budget Committee, and a former presidential candidate, Muskie was reportedly being persuaded by certain advisers to begin soliciting support for a possible presidential bid. According to one source: "Carter nearly hit the ceiling when he got wind of what Muskie was up to. He figures he can handle Kennedy, but Muskie is another story altogether. So he decided to kill two birds with one stone and bring Muskie on board, knowing damned well Muskie couldn't refuse."

Carter's gambit may well backfire. Muskie's expected high-visibility profile in his new position could well make him even more attractive as a candidate.