

National News

Carter campaign keeps tight watch on delegates

Very nervous that the supposed groundswell of support for President Carter in the primaries is actually very thin support, the Carter campaign is making a strenuous effort to hold in line their delegates. Between now and the convention the Carter-Mondale campaign intends to wine and dine delegates to ensure they stick with the President. An elaborate delegate tracking system is in place in campaign headquarters, with the names of delegates, their social and political history and "concerns" all on file in a computer. "Our goal is to develop a close working relationship with each delegate by convention time," declared Tom Donilon, Carter's delegate coordinator, "The Carter operation will be unrelenting." Every delegate gets a phone call and is being invited to the White House at least once.

The Carter campaign's fears are well grounded. The *Washington Post* did telephone interviews with delegates from several states and found that in fact some of Carter's delegates are slipping away fast, in particular in Michigan. "I've been a little disappointed in the president's leadership," declared Nancy Waters, a Carter delegate from Muskegon. "Auto plants are closing all over Michigan. Every time I pick up the paper I read he's bungled something else."

The state Carter campaigns are also working hard to keep delegates. In Texas, where 19 percent were uncommitted in the non-binding primary, the Carter people used extensive telephone trees to get people to the caucuses and will hold several meetings with Carter delegates before the state convention in June to ensure "that we don't have slippage of our delegates," declared the coordinator for the Houston area.

The National Education Association, which organized their members around the country to run as Carter delegates, is also making sure that the several hundred delegates they have

elected for Carter, stick with him. "If someone from my delegation decides to go for let's say Kennedy at the convention, the rest of the delegates would take issue and try to unseat him," declared the NEA coordinator for Oklahoma.

California labor leaders back LaRouche

Eleven California trade union leaders announced the formation of a California Labor Committee to support the presidential candidacy of Democrat Lyndon LaRouche May 14 in San Francisco. Two spokesmen for the committee, Tom Hunter, chairman of the San Mateo Building Trades, and Charles Sutter of Lathers Local 65, San Francisco, presented the founding statement of the group to Bay Area press, including the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the *San Francisco Examiner*, NBC radio, KPFA radio and others.

The statement, drafted by Hunter, identifies LaRouche as the "only candidate a Labor Leader can feel comfortable supporting ..." It has been mailed as an open letter to one thousand trade union leaders throughout California.

"We can rally behind LaRouche, who believes that we can once again grow industrially as a nation, lower interest rates, stop inflation and put all of our people back to work and once again raise the standard of living every year for all the working people in America," the statement explains.

Hunter told the press that the committee had rejected any possibility of a "lesser evil choice for labor in this presidential election, since all the other candidates, Republican as well as Democrat, are busy talking about austerity, increasing unemployment, continuing inflation..."

Labor Committee initiators had reported an enthusiastic response to the open letter from trade union leaders throughout the state and have invited them to meet Lyndon LaRouche at the AFL-CIO Legislative Conference in Sacramento on May 19.

An additional endorsement of the

LaRouche campaign was reported today from Samuel Shannon, Financial Secretary, Carpenters Local 162, San Mateo.

The *San Francisco Chronicle* known for its promotion of California's kook culture, attempted to grill Committee spokesman Tom Hunter throughout the press conference. Drawing on a slanderous article published in the drug connected *New West* magazine, the *Chronicle* reporter characterized LaRouche, an internationally respected economist, as a shady character with obscure connections. Does LaRouche actually exist he asked?

Hunter replied that he was acquainted with LaRouche's background, his role as a founder of the U.S. Labor Party, and the allegations that LaRouche is variously "a communist", and "nazi", "CIA" or "KGB".

"We in the labor movement have been called most of those things so I conclude that Mr. LaRouche is very much like us," said Hunter. "We are supporting Mr. LaRouche because of his economic program."

Massachusetts supreme judicial court upholds Spring decision

The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled May 13 that Earle Spring should have been allowed to die peacefully instead of being kept on life support systems for nearly a year against his family's wishes. The Supreme Court said that Probate Judge Sanford Keedy had answered the key (ethical) question in his original decision when he ruled that Mr. Spring "would, if competent, choose not to receive the life-prolonging treatment."

Earle Spring, it will be remembered, became the center of a major effort by the LaRouche campaign last winter to mobilize international opposition to the Franklin County Probate Court decision to allow Mr. Spring to "die with dignity" at the request of his family. While the Carter administration refused to in-

tervene, opposition to the euthanasia decision came from all over the world as well as the nation and included such prominent figures as Dr. Emmanuel Tremblay, leader of the French Right to Life movement. This effort succeeded in stopping the court ordered euthanasia and restoring Spring to his kidney dialysis treatments. Mr. Spring, when interviewed at the time by medical professionals commissioned by the LaRouche campaign, stated quite clearly that he did not want to die.

The Supreme Court's unanimous decision stated that not all such life and death questions involving "mentally incompetent" individuals have to come before the court. Most decisions should be left up to the physician. Various circumstances should be taken into account including "extent of mental impairment, the novelty of the treatment (i.e. new medical technologies—ed.), the family's opinion, risks involved," and so forth.

Teamsters, LaRouche supporters rally against deregulation

Detroit Teamsters local 299 and Citizens for LaRouche, the campaign organization of Democratic pre-candidate for president, Lyndon LaRouche, held a joint anti-austerity rally in front of the downtown Detroit federal building May 5. Over 200 chanted and carried signs attacking Carter economic policies, in particular, trucking deregulation.

Detroit itself is now being ravaged by budget cuts and the collapse of its auto industry. Rally leaders pointedly addressed their attacks to Federal Reserve chairman Paul Volcker as well as the president. Volcker's high interest rate policies have done the most damage to the economy and living standards. Ted Kennedy was also attacked as the outstanding Senate spokesman for trucking deregulation.

IBT local 299 President Bob Lins, rally cosponsor, sent his business agent to address the rally. He said that dere-

gulation would destroy the trucking industry and the union. He issued a stern warning to Congress that the Teamsters were not going to capitulate to deregulation the way its opponents in the Senate finally did.

Kennedy family in real estate scandal

The Kennedy family has saved at least \$4.4 million in Cook County, Illinois, real estate taxes over the last three years through undervaluation of the Merchandise Mart, a building complex which is the cornerstone of the family's fortunes, according to a report in the May 14 *Chicago Tribune*.

The paper claims that former Cook County Assessor Thomas Tully undervalued the mart by millions of dollars, resulting in huge tax savings for the Kennedys. Tully first assessed the property in 1976 at \$57 million. The Prudential Insurance Co., which granted the Kennedys a loan against the Mart in 1976, put a value of \$84 million on the building. Tully's underassessment continued during his tenure as county assessor and has been followed by his predecessors, the *Tribune* claims. The paper also reports that during the time Tully was assessor, the Mart was represented by Joseph Roddy, Tully's law partner before and after he left the office.

The Mart is owned by the Merchandise Mart Owners, a partnership of trusts set up for the relatives of the late Joseph P. Kennedy, including his son, Sen. Edward Kennedy. Kennedy reportedly owns approximately a 13 percent interest in the Mart. In a 1978 financial statement, Kennedy claimed that his interest in the Mart was worth between \$2 and \$5 million, whereas associates of Kennedy told the *Tribune* that Kennedy's share actually might be as high as \$166 million.

In 1976 and 1978, Kennedy flew to Chicago to attend fund-raising dinners for Tully, who is now under investigation by the U.S. Attorney Thomas Sul-

Briefly

● **RADICAL** environmentalist Richard Falk, a proponent of various "anti-materialist" ideologies, is now engaged in a bitter legal fight with his stepfather to obtain \$1 million from the estate of his recently deceased mother. Falk's action has shocked certain leading Princetonians, several of whom were already reviewing charges by an Ad Hoc Alumni group that Falk should be dismissed from the university for his advocacy of extremist "environmentalist" activities.

● **SOURCES CLOSE** to Senator Sam Nunn (D-Ga.) are upset that Edward Muskie's appointment as Secretary of State "preempted" a full Congressional investigation into President Carter's role in the recent Iran "rescue mission" episode. These sources claim that "all hell would have broken loose in the Congress" if Warren Christopher had been named to succeed Vance. They are now hoping that a "limited strategic humiliation" for the U.S. vis-a-vis the Soviet Union will "accomplish what that investigation would have done: galvanize the country for dumping our current do-nothing military posture."

● **THE HOUSE** Science and Technology Committee this week approved \$12 million for "an energy innovation program" that has produced a solar-powered outhouse and a solar-powered doghouse. The Department of Energy-funded program was defended by New York's Rep. Richard Ottinger, who first admitted that the projects "might seem ludicrous and lend themselves to ridicule," but then insisted that "they do have merit."