

EIR Special Report

Open Democratic convention: Will the nation win?

by Konstantin George

On Wednesday, June 4, the day after the conclusion of the Presidential primary elections process, Carter has surpassed by 300-or-so the number of nominally pledged delegates required for his renomination at the Democratic Party Convention in New York City Aug. 11. Is the race for the Democratic nomination 'sewn up' and Carter's renomination assured? Far from it. The destruction of the Carter candidacy is far more probable.

While the outcome of the Democratic convention cannot be predicted, Carter's current on-paper delegate totals are clearly meaningless. The trend-line of U.S. politics is running directly opposite to the "fix the convention" desires of the "Rose Garden" forces, in favor of an open Democratic convention. The political threshold has been reached for the unseating of Carter, opening the convention to a "dark horse" contender who could carry the party to victory in November.

The mortal weakness of the Carter candidacy is that the results of his disastrous foreign, military and economic policies, have made him an extreme liability in the eyes of many among the Anglo-American elite 'families' who installed Carter in the White House in the first place. Coupled with this is the unassailable fact, recognized from banker to autoworker to politician, that Reagan would beat Carter, possibly by a landslide, in the November general election.

To policy-making circles, the inescapable results of a Carter renomination include plunging the nation into a depression worse than the 1930s. At any time, Carter's confrontationism—from a position of weakness—along the lines of the bluff and bluster 'Carter Doctrine' could create a strategic crisis in which the outcome, if not general thermonuclear war, would be the worst strategic humiliation in U.S. history.

The same policy-making circles, who for 35 years have described them-



Photo: NSIPS/Philip Ulanowsky

selves as “Atlanticists,” and who comprise by and large the membership of the Democratic Advisory Committee on Foreign Policy, are also wrestling with the reality that our European allies are breaking sharply with Carter administration policies.

The crux of the total quandary confronting the “Atlanticists” is that no consolation can be sought with a “Reagan option.” The depression policies of Carter and those of Reagan are almost identical. A Reagan administration would be a cruel reenactment of Herbert Hoover. With Reagan having already sewn up his nomination, the only strategy that would provide flexibility for Atlanticist policy-making circles would be to open the Democratic convention.

The trend toward an open convention is already evident and powerful. The disastrous impact of Carter economic and foreign policies over the next two months will in turn accelerate the movement for selection of a “dark horse” candidate in August.

If any one of the following events were to occur before the convention, an open convention would move from probability to ironclad certainty.

- 1) Carter policies resulting in a strategic humiliation of the U.S.
- 2) The developing policy rift with Europe becoming publicly irreparable.
- 3) The economy falling through the bottom.

In this section

This Special Report was prepared by a team under the direction of *EIR* United States Editor, Konstantin George, including L. Wolfe, Kathy Burdman, Kathy Murphy, Vin Berg, and David Goldman. We thank Citizens for LaRouche, the campaign organization of Democrat Lyndon LaRouche, for permission to publish his nationally televised May 31 address to the nation: “Does America Have the Moral Fitness to Survive?” (page 29). The report includes:

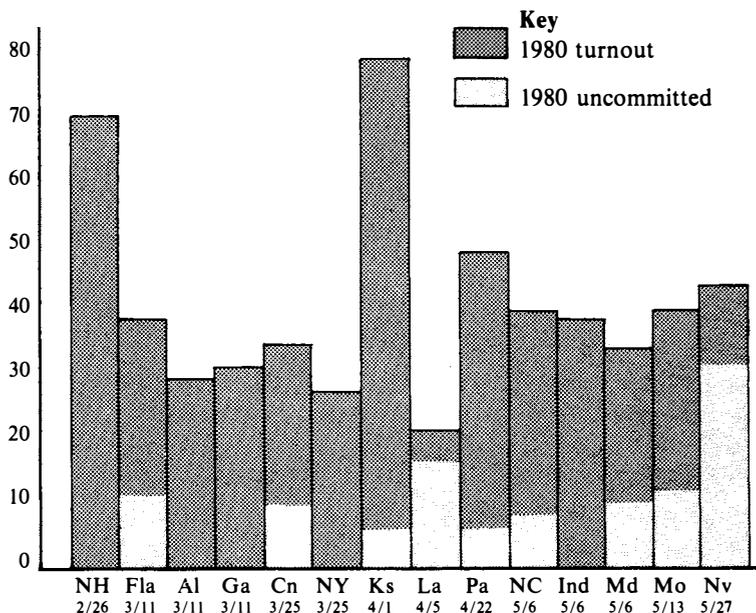
- 1. The open convention drive**
by Kathy Burdman
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Democratic primary 1980 uncommitted votes compared to 1980 voter turnout

(percent of registered voters,
selected states)

Note: Uncommitted votes in Florida,
Connecticut, Louisiana, Maryland and
Nebraska include votes for Finch, Kay
and LaRouche.



4) The shattering of the “Rose Garden,” through agreement between Democratic “dark horse” contender, Lyndon LaRouche and Senator Edward Kennedy to conduct national television debates.

The latter point was issued as a proposal by LaRouche to Senator Kennedy, and is now under study by the Senator and his aides.

The results of the primaries—the late primaries above all—are an indelible proof that the attempt to prop up Carter as a winning candidate with the voters has collapsed. Carter’s loss to Kennedy in five of the eight primaries (California, New Jersey, Rhode Island, South Dakota and New Mexico) held June 3 does not really indicate the magnitude of the collapse of his candidacy. In Ohio, California, and New Jersey, each with a 2:1 ratio of registered Democrats over Republicans, and with no crossover vote allowed, Reagan outpolled Carter by margins of between 2 and 3:1.

Adjusting for fraud

The above vote figures are *official* vote returns. But the “mathematics” of the LaRouche vote over the course of the primary campaigns is eloquent testimony to how a candidate has been successively defrauded. In every state where he has run, LaRouche has been officially accorded an unbelievably uniform 3-4 percent of the vote, and in most states that “3-4 percent formula” has been strictly adhered to district by district as well. The vote has borne no relation whatsoever to actual voter support, campaign appearances, media impact and so on.

The California returns highlighted the vote fraud pattern in a most useful way. In the one Congressional

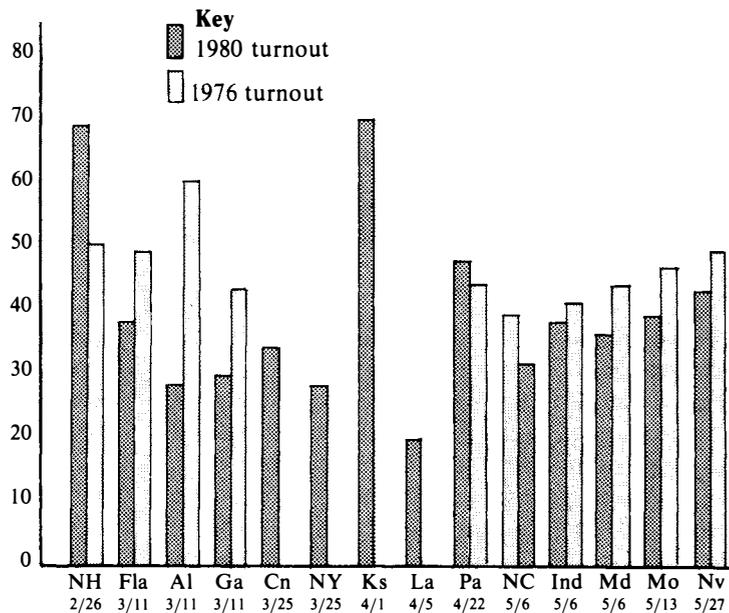
district, the 38th, centered at Anaheim, where fraud did not govern, LaRouche received 17 percent of the vote and an official delegate to the August convention. In all other 43 CDs, the LaRouche vote never strayed above or below the “3-4 percent formula.”

The strength of the uncommitted vote in the late Democratic primaries forms the other voter measurement of the Carter candidacy’s collapse. The first of the late primary “shocks” to the Carter candidacy came on May 3 in Texas, where the statewide uncommitted vote was 11 percent. That vote, however, was heavily concentrated in Dallas and western regions of the state, such that a large number of districts were above the 15 percent threshold required for uncommitted delegate selection. As a result, somewhere between 20 and 30 percent of the Texas delegates, as of now, will go to the convention in August uncommitted. In the May 27 round of primaries embracing Southern, Western and border states, the uncommitted vote exploded, hitting record highs. Uncommitted was runner-up to Carter in two states, in Nevada with 34 percent of the vote, and in Arkansas with 18 percent. Large percentages of uncommitted votes in the caucuses held in the Western farm states have been the norm from mid-March onwards.

Had the primary season begun in May, the impossibility of Carter’s renomination would have been clear by now. The impact of the twin disasters of Carter’s economic and foreign policy debacles are now up front and clearly visible. No amount of “things will get better” rhetoric from the Rose Garden can change that. That is the difference between the early and late primary periods, to say nothing of the dimensions of Carter policy collapse

**Democratic primary
1980 voter turnout compared to
1976 voter turnout**
(percent of registered voters,
selected states)

Note: Voter turnout in Nebraska in 1976 and 1980 are roughly estimated. There were no primaries in 1976 in Connecticut, New York, Kansas and Louisiana



we will witness from now until the convention. The unemployment rate “body counts,” snowballing upwards at the rate of a million per month in new layoffs, spiralling inflation, the wreckage of the inner cities, the devastation of the farm sector being wrought by the Carter-Volcker credit policies, the grain embargo, and Carter deregulation policies—all mean that Carter’s “credibility” will dissolve.

With Carter in shambles, Kennedy’s chances for the nomination are poor. Consolidation of this trend means the Democratic convention will turn to a “dark horse” candidate, someone with the ability to overturn Carter’s Herbert Hoover policies and carry the Democratic Party to victory in November.

The only campaigning “dark horse” contender is Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. LaRouche, the author of a proposal since adopted by leading European policy circles for a new gold-based international monetary system, would make that the center of his policies to reverse the onrush into depression and promote a technologically-centered industrial boom. LaRouche has pledged himself to use all available means to eradicate illicit drug flows, and revamp the U.S. educational system around science and the classics; he talks much of developing the necessary moral qualities in the nation’s youth to guarantee the nation’s future.

On Saturday, May 31, LaRouche delivered a nationwide, half-hour prime time TV broadcast, his third such campaign appearance, entitled, “Does the Nation Have the Moral Fitness to Survive?” LaRouche concluded his address with an appeal to unite behind him: “Help me build that movement. . . . for an open convention . . . I

can take the Democratic nomination . . . If I am the Democratic nominee in August, I will carry the Democratic Party to victory in November.”

Within 24 hours over 8,000 people called in to various LaRouche campaign centers according to his spokesmen. The majority of the callers volunteered themselves as full and part-time campaign workers for the open convention and the LaRouche candidacy. After the first day, hundreds of calls per day were still being reported.

LaRouche’s first call for an open convention was issued in mid-May and received a flood of endorsements from labor leaders across the country. During the month of May, calls for an open convention began to mount from other quarters as well, including names normally characterized as “big guns” in the Democratic Party. Earlier in the month, New York Gov. Hugh Carey called for an open convention through an op-ed in the *New York Times*.

Following LaRouche’s call, Senator Henry M. “Scoop” Jackson, himself a prominent Democratic presidential contender in 1976, called for an open convention to deny Carter the nomination, in an address before the Cook County Democratic Party. The Cook County party is the single most powerful urban machine in the nation. That address and the audience chosen to receive and sponsor it, signalled publicly the party’s search for a “dark horse” alternative to Carter and Kennedy.

With 10 weeks still to go, the 1980 Democratic convention may well be dominated by what used to be called the “Wendell Wilkie phenomenon,” after the Republican who entered the 1940 convention with no delegates, and left it with the nomination.