

The game plan for the November elections

by Criton Zoakos, Editor-in-Chief

Throughout the United States, both opinion polls and newspaper commentaries are virtually unanimous in the report that Governor Reagan is maintaining a comfortable lead over President Carter in terms of popular preference. A breakdown of this preference on a state-by-state basis indicates, we are told by the *New York Times*, CBS, the Harris Polls and others, that Governor Reagan has an ever greater lead in terms of electoral college votes. The latest such projection gives Reagan a generous 357 electoral college votes, while only 270 are needed to declare a winner.

However, contrary to this public game of perceptions, the perspective in the influential back rooms in both Washington and New York is that Jimmy Carter will definitely be re-elected in November. Leading individuals in these back rooms, including individuals responsible for projecting a pro-Reagan tilt in opinion polls and newspapers, are firm in their privately held expectation that Reagan will be defeated. They are probably correct, for reasons that the average member of the reading public would not suspect.

To summarize the case, the 1980 U.S. presidential election will be one of the most spectacular vote fraud and vote manipulation operations in political history. It is important at this time for serious citizens of this republic to take the blindfolds off and develop an understanding of the techniques that will be employed this November.

First, geographically, the following picture obtains: California, with its huge number of electoral college votes, is conceded to Reagan by everyone, including all

Carter strategists. Since more of the average-sized states west of the Mississippi will vote Republican, the Reagan-Carter contest will be waged in the key states of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois, Missouri, and the Gulf Coast "arc" of Florida, Mississippi, and Texas.

Apart from areas of solid Carter support, which are very few at this time, Carter will have to win two tiers of states which are now described as (and probably are) "a tossup." These are the Gulf states that share the Gulf of Mexico from Texas to Florida, and the Great Lakes states that share the coast of the Great Lakes.

Current indications, e.g. the Florida primaries, the Texas opinion polls, and soundings of public sentiment in Louisiana, indicate that Reagan is leading, and moreover, the Carter effort is stalled. Similarly, in Illinois, Ohio, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Missouri, a total of 107 electoral votes.

As of the evening of Oct. 8, the Carter campaign strategists launched a series of moves, beginning with President Carter's attempt on national TV to make a personal reconciliation with Reagan. The moves indicate that the strategy in the last three weeks of the campaign will be to craft an image in the public's eye of an underdog President catching up from behind Reagan and exploding into a victorious finish in the last two or three days before election eve. This "imaging" of the race will be necessary for the perpetration of an orgy of vote fraud on election day. That machinery is now being put in place.

Two other general preconditions are required for this

vote fraud to succeed. First, a general climate of voter disgust and apathy, to drive the public as far away from the polls as possible; second, a deliberate demoralization of the Reaganite grass-roots rank and file. Both are now in place.

This election year more than any other within memory is characterized by what demoscopic experts call "voter apathy." In fact it is not apathy, but downright disgust and antipathy for the ridiculous presidential choices the voters have been boxed into. Just as during the primary season, that percentage of the electorate which will definitely go to the polls is made up of citizens who have very strong objections to either of the two candidates. In short, there is no significant pro-Carter vote, but there is a powerful anti-Reagan vote. Conversely, since Reagan capitulated to selecting George Bush for his running mate, the preference for Reagan has been replaced by the outrage and hostility to Carter as the determining factor in Republican vote-getting.

The entrapment of Reagan

The mammoth grass-roots movement which in late 1979 and early 1980 mobilized to ensure Reagan's Republican nomination is now demoralized and fractured. Its regional and state leaders are virtually totally excluded from participation in the Republican presidential campaign. Reagan's election machine right now is controlled by those leaders of the Republican Party who until one week before their party's convention were scheming to deprive Reagan of the nomination. The anti-Reagan wing of the GOP has incomparably greater influence in determining campaign policy than the GOP grass-roots leaders who led their legions in the spring and summer against the blue-blood controllers of their party.

Take for example Texas: after Bush's inclusion in the GOP ticket, the state chairman of the Reagan campaign, a respected conservative with 36 years of involvement in national politics, was tossed aside and now Governor Clements and ex-Governor Connally are heading the get-out-the-vote organization for Mr. Reagan. The head of the Reagan volunteers organization has also been purged. The people who delivered the Reagan vote in the primaries have been routed within their party even after they succeeded in imposing the candidate of their choice.

This critical circumstance will determine the quality of Reagan's get-out-the-vote organization on election day. Its quality is going to be very poor. Mr. Reagan's movement has already been smashed! Without that movement, Reagan can carry the traditional Republican states but cannot win the election. To win he will need that now-demoralized movement, to change the political chemistry in the Gulf of Mexico tier of states and in the heavy industry belt surrounding the Great Lakes. In

short, Reagan needed his movement in order to rally and organize the social and political forces in labor and ethnic groups which once constituted the Wallace movement. Without those forces he cannot break through in traditional Democratic states, and without his GOP grass-roots movement he cannot have those forces.

Although defeated, the Reagan movement of the earlier part of the year is still moving and having a certain impact, but this is on the basis of its earlier, now stalled, momentum. In the political pro's parlance, it has "peaked early." Namely, it "peaked" when Governor Reagan accepted Bush as his running mate. After the convention, a senior conservative personality asked Reagan, "Why on earth did you accept Bush?" Reagan replied: "*They* told me that if I didn't go along with Bush, I would not get elected President." "They" were Max Fisher, Henry Kissinger, Gerry Ford, and certain New York bankers.

Vote fraud coming

Preliminary surveys in certain features of election preparations in Eastern states indicate that a massive vote fraud operation is afoot on behalf of Jimmy Carter. In states where the voter registration deadline is approaching, various individuals associated with ghetto political machines and certain trade union networks, are turning in voter registration post cards literally by the hundreds of thousands. There was no previous evidence of any drives to register new voters in such areas. If court findings on the 1976 vote fraud are any indication, we are now witnessing the registration of fictitious voters by the high hundreds of thousands and probably by the millions. In 1976, courts in Ohio, New York, Michigan and elsewhere verified that extensive vote fraud had occurred on the basis of hundreds of thousands of registrations of nonexistent persons, some under such names as "Thomas Jefferson," etc., whose home addresses corresponded to vacant lots, abandoned buildings, cemeteries and parking lots.

This fictitious data base of registered voters is necessary for subsequent manipulations of the vote count by bribed or otherwise corrupted tallying officials in most cases interfacing with journalists or TV network personnel deployed at the polls as part of the Election News Service, the only nationwide tabulating service for the vote count. Under this general type of vote tabulation and reporting, vote fraud is possible only if 1) voter turnout is low, 2) fictitious voter registration is high, 3) the get-out-the-vote and pollwatching machines of the political candidates are weak or nonexistent.

All these conditions have been achieved at this time, a mere three weeks before election day. During this period, the Carter campaign and the mass media will be imaging an incremental but accelerating "comeback" of an "underdog" President.