

Eye on Washington by Stanley Ezrol

Dragging in and rolling over

We can tell you how the Democratic leadership's surrender on the budget issue is affecting the state party organizations. We were present at an attempted dinner-meeting of the Maryland Democratic Central Committee at the Baltimore Holiday Inn. This was the evening after the House Democrats bolted en masse to the Gramm-Lotta compromise. Although the party had planned to seat 150 or more, only 80 delegates and observers attended. The moderate Montgomery County delegation chose to eat at a restaurant in isolation from the rest of the party.

After dinner ended at 7:30, the party stalwarts took on the major issue confronting them: their inability to raise the 40 percent attendance required for a quorum.

This meeting was the third attempt to hold a legally recognizable central committee meeting, and the party had gone all out.

The meeting was widely advertised, dinner was served with eclairs for dessert (dessert being a very important consideration in the state party hierarchy), a seven-foot University of Maryland basketball celebrity was on hand; former Kennedy activist Karen Kuker-Kiehl, one of the "coming young Democrats," was there in a see-through blouse and a high slit skirt; but still, no quorum could be raised.

At 9:00 p.m., an elderly woman was carried in from her sickbed and the Baltimore delegation discovered a few more additional votes without benefit of new bodies entering the meeting room, but there was still no quorum.

At this point, a fresh approach was attempted. It was suggested

that the party constitution be amended to reduce the quorum requirement below 40 percent, or, at the very least, expel central committee members who failed to attend three attempted meetings in a row.

State party chairwoman Rosalie Abrams, a liberal spokesman and national party heavyweight, sadly informed the assemblage that the constitution required 51 percent attendance before the rules could be changed.

Finally, at about 9:30, a man in a banana-curl wig arrived, and it was announced that the quorum had been raised.

A soon breathless Rosalie Abrams called it a "sad day for the Democratic Party. . . . My slogan, the slogan for the state party, and I believe the slogan of the national party should be, 'You don't roll over until you're dead.' What happened in the House is we're not dead yet, but we just rolled over."

One delegate, speaking for himself, and perhaps the entire rural eastern shore region, which was absent, confided, "I don't want to discourage you with negativism, but I have a real problem with these people in the Maryland party leadership. I disagree with everything they say and do."

Inchon premiere a lunar success

If downright liberal weirdness has alienated the Democratic Party base, how are the conservatives doing? I am now examining the possibility that a number of conservatives in the military, on Capitol Hill, and in the administration have gone gaga and are literally howling at the Moon—Sun Myung Moon, that is, of the Unification Church.

At the very least, many prominent figures have been suckered

into supporting a \$46 million movie extravaganza, *Inchon*, produced by Moonie Mitsuharu Ishii, financed with a "substantial investment" from the Japanese Unification Church, promoted by the Moonie organization in the United States, and advised by Sun Myung Moon.

U.S. political figures in this scam are in prominent company. The Moonies enlisted Laurence Olivier to play the starring role, Gen. Douglas MacArthur. Terence Young of James Bond film fame was the director. Robin Moore wrote the screen play. Other members of the cast are Jacqueline Bisset, Ben Gazzara, David Janssen, Toshiro Mifune, and Richard Roundtree.

As in the case of Moonie street-corner solicitation, support from prominent political figures was elicited on the basis of a "worthy cause" other than the Moonie brainwashing cult itself.

Surprisingly, however, backers of the film are not claiming ignorance of the Moonie involvement in the production.

According to Jim Gavin, the executive director of the First Amendment Research Institute who organized a gala world premier for *Inchon* at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, politicians were asked to endorse the premier as a benefit for Carl Vinson Hall, a residence for retired armed services officers, their spouses, and widows. Gavin insists that all the "Honorary Committee members" listed on the premier invitation and program know about the zombie cult's involvement.

Jeff Noah in Rep. Robert Garcia's office justified the congressman's support for the Moonies by saying, "Because they're bad in one thing doesn't mean they're bad in all things." But he would not say what was not bad about *Inchon*.