

becoming useless babbling, at least insofar as this diplomacy affects strategic military capabilities of the respective powers.

*There is no solution to the continued balance of thermonuclear terror which is not premised on the ability of at least one of the superpowers to destroy a proverbial "ninety-nine and forty-four one-hundredths percent" of the incoming missiles and thermonuclear-armed aircraft deployed against its national homeland.*

In principle, such an anti-missile capability now exists, in the form of what are properly termed *relativistic-beam anti-missile weapons systems*. We propose, we insist, that the reformed military policy of the United States be premised upon a commitment to a "crash program" for developing and deploying such anti-missile beam-weapon systems.

We go further. We propose that the adoption of such a high-technology answer to the thermonuclear balance of terror become the central reference-point for a comprehensive reform of United States military doctrine and organization of the Defense Department.

On the assumption that the Reagan administration adopts such a comprehensive reform as policy prior to impending crisis-management negotiations with Moscow, this new U.S. military policy can be the basis for a new approach to armaments negotiations with the Soviet leadership.

Today, a growing number of nations have nuclear-weapons capabilities. Rapidly, those same nations will acquire missile delivery-capabilities for nuclear weapons. Most nations with an established fission-weapons capability have also the potential for creating thermonuclear weapons systems. Thus, even if the balance of terror between the two superpowers were regulated, third powers, increasingly, have the potential for starting a thermonuclear war which must more or less immediately embroil the superpowers' own thermonuclear arsenals.

Under these conditions, the military component of Washington-Moscow negotiations must include agreement to rapid development of relativistic-beam anti-missile weapons systems by both superpowers. Two urgent benefits are to be realized by such agreement. First, to the degree we create conditions of assured destruction for intercontinental thermonuclear weapons systems under war-fighting regimes, the value of such thermonuclear weapons is reduced, and then, and only under such conditions, both superpowers can agree to demobilize such components of their respective arsenals. Second, neither superpower must tolerate the use of even limited thermonuclear warfare by third powers. We must agree to shoot down third-power nuclear weapons on launch by aid of means including orbiting beam-weapon-armed space platforms.

With such agreements, the age of mutual thermonuclear terror is brought toward its conclusion.

---

## Democratic Party

---

# Douglas raises storm in Pennsylvania

by Mary McCourt

The campaign for National Democratic Policy Committee backed-candidate Steven Douglas for the Democratic Party's gubernatorial nomination in Pennsylvania is creating an institution to fill the vacuum of leadership in Pennsylvania politics at a time when the state is facing the worst economic crisis in its history.

Pennsylvania, the leading industrial and energy-producing state in the 19th century, was devastated by the Great Depression of the 1930s, and what remains of its economy is threatened with a total shutdown in the current one. Although Pennsylvania has been traditionally a Republican state, the policies of the NDPC candidate—based on the four-point program of *EIR* founder Lyndon H. LaRouche which calls for gold-reserve-backed, long-term, low-interest credit, infrastructure improvement, nuclear development, and a vigorous campaign to stop drug traffic and use—are clearly essential to reversing the depression conditions in the state.

The following is an interview with the candidate by *EIR*'s Mary McCourt.

**EIR:** What effect is your campaign having on the Pennsylvania electorate?

**Douglas:** At this point we have over several thousand campaign volunteers, distributing literature in the towns and neighborhoods across the state. These people are farmers, members of labor unions, small businessmen, the traditional backbone of the Democratic Party. This is the biggest grassroots campaign effort that has been seen in the state in decades. Tens of thousands of residents of Pennsylvania who had been disenfranchised are being brought into active policy-making.

I have been very pleased with the response from regional labor leaders. Emil Dicimbre, the former president of the Building Trades Council in Beaver County, is my campaign manager for Beaver County, one of the industrial heartlands of Pennsylvania. My campaign coordinator for Fayette County is Tom Shetterly, the busi-

ness agent for the local carpenter's union, and the Vice-President of the County Central Labor Council. Disaffected Democratic office holders are also supporting the campaign. One of my campaign co-coordinators for Carbon County in northeastern Pennsylvania is Charlie Moser, a former city councilman in the county seat. The home of every registered Democrat in Carbon County will soon have received my political platform, and in most cases a personal visit.

**EIR:** What is the recent history of the Democratic Party in the state?

**Douglas:** The Democratic Party in Pennsylvania was the victim of the biggest Abscam operation in the country. Mel Weinberg, the convicted felon used most recently to frame up Sen. Harrison Williams of New Jersey, operated out of Philadelphia. Two pro-labor Philadelphia Democrats, Reps. Ozzie Meyers and Ray Letterer were forced to resign after Abscam convictions in 1981. City Council President George Schwarz and Councilman Harry Janotti were set up in what Federal Judge Aldisert called a Gestapo entrapment operation. [see *EIR*, March 2, 1982—ed.]

This Abscam operation was meant to be the death blow following 20 years of wrecking the Pennsylvania Democratic Party. Former Mayor Frank Rizzo's machine was forced out of power in Philadelphia; his successor, William Green, has been enforcing the policies of the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School for a post-industrial city. Milton Shapp, the Democratic Governor, was set up on charges of misuse of funds in 1978.

**EIR:** How has the state party leadership met this situation?

**Douglas:** The state Democratic Party made a grave blunder in endorsing a non-candidate for governor at its state committee meeting in Harrisburg Feb. 27. The political bankruptcy of the party machine was demonstrated by the refusal of any Democrat who has even state-wide recognition to run. So the party endorsed Allen Ertel, an unknown central Pennsylvania Congressman, who has defined himself as "the invisible candidate." Ertel has only been in office since 1976; in that period of time his only legislative initiative has been to ally with Ted Kennedy as a prime mover behind the airline deregulation bill.

The purpose of the state party was to *minimize* any campaign activity in the primary, ostensibly to hoard the candidate's resources for the effort to unseat [incumbent Republican Richard] Thornburgh. The real purpose is to cover the fact that the Democratic Party leadership has absolutely no program for dealing with the economic and strategic crisis the nation is facing. The only thing the party leadership seems to have learned from the debacle of the 1980 election is that just as people voted

against Carter in 1980, they will be voting against Thornburgh in 1982. This is criminally inadequate.

What I have been campaigning for is an open primary, where each one of the four Democratic candidates would have been forced to go out and campaign hard on the issues. One long-term Democratic leader and union official from western Pennsylvania told me that my campaign was having an extraordinary impact—and the only reason Ertel is campaigning at all is that I have flushed him out of hiding.

**EIR:** How extensive is the economic crisis in the state?

**Douglas:** Pennsylvania has one of the highest unemployment rates in the country—11 percent as of March. In the last decade, manufacturing employment has dropped 20 percent statewide, 45 percent in Philadelphia.

The legislature and the governor's administration are controlled by Republicans who have enacted the worst aspects of "Reaganomics," epitomized by the "workfare" bill passed in early April, which slashed general assistance by 50 percent, and required those cut off the rolls to work at minimum-wage jobs to receive any benefits. Businesses can get up to 90 percent of their state taxes written off by hiring welfare recipients, and buy into other businesses with unused tax benefits. The Pennsylvania state government is supporting speculation in slave-labor projects, not the rebuilding of the steel industry.

**EIR:** What has been the response of the steel sector to your campaign?

**Douglas:** The steel valley of western Pennsylvania is being turned into death valley. There has been tremendous response to my proposals for rebuilding Pennsylvania's steel-producing capacity from workers and local steel union leaders, but, predictably, nothing from industrial leaders. Pennsylvania is dominated by U.S. Steel, which is run by the Morgan financial interests. Former board chairman Edgar Speer said several years ago that U.S. Steel was "in the business of making profits, not steel." National steel production is down to 49 percent of capacity—that was the figure as of May 8.

One of the most important effects of my campaign among steelworkers, however, has been the growing recognition that the crisis in American steel is not due to Japanese imports, but to foreign, i.e., British post-industrial ideology; that the high interest rate policy of Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker is aimed at dismantling the capital-goods producing sector of the economy.

One thing steelworkers are coming to understand, for example, is that with the agricultural sector, the largest consumer of steel in the economy, suffering record rates of bankruptcies in Pennsylvania, due to Volcker's interest rates, this has a lot to do with the collapse of steel.