

Post-Kennedy fight in the Democratic Party

by Richard Cohen

The announcement by Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) that he would not seek or accept the 1984 Democratic presidential nomination has, as one Kennedy family intimate puts it, "wiped the slate clean," and "opened wide the chase for the 1984 Democratic presidential nomination." This source insisted that Kennedy's surprising withdrawal from the race came at the recommendation of senior Kennedy family politicians who bluntly told the Senator that "there was almost no way he could defeat Reagan in a head-to-head contest."

Sources close to the Democratic Party, however, report that Kennedy's decision may have been sparked by threats that if the Senator were to run, as yet unpublished details surrounding his personal life, particularly the still-unexplained Chappaquiddick affair, might surface. Kennedy family insiders pointed out that Ted Kennedy's upcoming divorce and subsequent "single status" in the midst of a hot presidential primary and election campaign would provide a perfect opportunity for explosive exposés unraveling the Senator's personal baggage.

No matter. Kennedy's sudden exit has already cleared the stage for a series of disastrous Democratic presidential alternatives.

Early signals from Democratic Party quarters reveal that David Rockefeller and Henry Kissinger's Trilateral Commission firmly controls the two leading Democratic presidential contenders. Both Democratic National Committee Chairman Charles Manatt and AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland, who during the course of 1981-82 acted as front-men and apologists for the crippling high interest rate regime of Jimmy Carter's Federal Reserve Board Chairman Paul Volcker, are reported to be wavering between the two frontrunners—former Vice President Walter Mondale and Ohio Senator John Glenn.

Mondale, a member of the Trilateral Commission and a public defender of Volcker's policies since 1979, has reportedly secured the backing of the financially and politically

important National Education Association (NEA). Mondale, who wrapped up the NEA for Carter in 1976 and 1980, has also won the support of another important union, a union which he also brought into the Carter camp in 1976—the International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU) and its president, "Chick" Chaikin. Chaikin delivered one of the key-notes at the 1980 convention for Carter.

With Kennedy out, observers close to the AFL-CIO believe Mondale will receive wider support within such unions as the United Auto Workers, United Steel Workers, and the Communications Workers of America. In addition, Mondale, drawing upon his patronage by the late Sen. Hubert Humphrey, enjoys friendly relations with the leaderships of minority organizations, including the elderly, homosexuals, and the liberal bastion Americans for Democratic Action.

Yet, in an interview published in early December with nationally syndicated columnist and Trilateral Commission director Joseph Kraft, Mondale offers nothing but harsh austerity to his labor and minority constituency, offering an undying pledge of allegiance to the depression economics of Volcker. Mondale, according to Kraft, will hinge his economic program on reducing the federal budget deficit through budget cuts. Mondale is quoted as demanding draconian reductions in budget deficits if interest rates are to be brought down. He argues that only if the cuts go through, thus supposedly bringing the rates down, will American trade position improve and jobs increase. Mondale goes on to call for significant budget cuts in U.S. national defense and health costs as well as tax increases.

In short, Mondale bluntly advocates the same brutal austerity advocated by Volcker and the Swiss-based Bank for International Settlements (BIS). The interview, issued immediately following the Kennedy decision, was aimed at assuaging deep-seated uneasiness within Trilateral and BIS quarters surrounding Mondale's obvious lack of character and stamina. Rumors have recently been circulating here that Mondale might be tempted to break with his Trilateral sponsors and adopt a protectionist theme to gain votes from the rank and file.

Mondale's problem is not unique. Trilateraloid Kirkland, banker Manatt and presidential hopefuls such as Glenn, Senator Ernest Hollings (D-S.C.) and Senator Gary Hart (D-Colo.)—who are also identified with Volcker economics—will, according to Washington observers, face increasing rank-and-file challenges as unemployment rises, social benefits decrease, and direct and indirect government financial bailouts of Trilateral-favored private banks grow.

Some of these sources insist that it is for this reason that leading elements of the Democratic National Committee consider it an urgent priority to limit and ultimately bar *EIR* founder and National Democratic Policy Committee (NDPC) Advisory Chairman Lyndon H. LaRouche from access to the party's presidential nominating process. Democratic insiders know very well that LaRouche's economic programs have appeal among rank-and-file Democrats—especially when

compared to the Mondale or Glenn brand of Trilateralism or the fraud of protectionism, which many congressional Democrats plan to push in the '83 Congress, and the peace movement bluster of a Sen. Alan Cranston (D-Cal.) or a Rep. Morris Udall (D-Ariz.), both contenders for the party nomination.

John Glenn, who officially opened campaign headquarters in Washington on Dec. 13, is, according to my sources, the current private choice of both Kirkland and Manatt. Glenn is said to be obtaining growing support within the building trades section of the AFL-CIO and within Albert Shanker's American Federation of Teachers. In addition, Glenn has all but gained the support of the foreign-policy division of the AFL-CIO. This grouping, broadly represented at the Social Democrats USA (SDUSA) annual conference meeting in Washington on Dec. 3-5, favors Glenn over Mondale because of Glenn's vocal anti-communism and more tempered position on defense cuts. Already, Bob Keefe, long-time political operative of SDUSA favorite Sen. Henry Jackson (D-Wash.), has been stationed on Glenn's staff. Party insiders believe the Keefe appointment means that Glenn has received the organizational and financial support of important people in the Jackson camp.

While Mondale-Glenn and other favorites of the Trilateral Commission have been unleashed following the sudden Kennedy move, talk is already circulating in the liberal left-wing establishment of the Democratic Party (such as the International Association of Machinists (IAM) and their outspoken president, William Winpisinger, within the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE), and sections of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees), of a possible break from the Democratic Party in 1984. My sources tell me that over the next three months, meetings will be held in Washington, New York, and other key centers among these groups to decide whether to launch a third party—which will echo the policies and sentiments of the European peace movement and torpedo the traditional Democratic Party.

Finally, rules changes adopted by the Democratic National Committee for delegate selection to the 1984 convention passed on Dec. 2 will make it possible for the Democratic Party candidates for President and Vice-President to be actually determined at the convention itself, rather than through the primary process. First, the "binding rule" on delegates operative at the 1980 convention has been removed, and second, one-third of the delegates are now mandated to be local elected officials not chosen in the primaries. Speculation is already surfacing that these rules changes may lead to a series of favorite-son candidacies in the state primaries, a tactic already reported to be taken seriously by Governor-elect Mario Cuomo of New York, Sen. Lloyd Bentsen of Texas, and Sen. Dale Bumpers of Arkansas. If such a scenario materializes, the 1984 Democratic Party presidential candidate may well be chosen in the smoke-filled hotel rooms of San Francisco.

'Hot spots' multiply on Zia's American tour

by Susan Brady

The news of his tour preceded Chief Martial Law Administrator Zia ul-Haq to San Francisco, where he was greeted by the *San Francisco Chronicle* with an editorial-page cartoon depicting the Pakistani dictator in sado-masochistic drag—fishnet stocking, high heels, mask, whip, and chains—captioned, "We have floggings, but there is a style of flogging." This, together with abundant local media coverage of the spirited demonstrations and interventions against the dictator as soon as Zia got west of the Appalachians, contrasts sharply with the official and officious red carpet welcome he received in Washington.

Pleading that the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan presented an overriding "threat to Pakistan's security and stability," the Reagan administration was emphatic in conferring the White House seal of approval on the Zia junta—its murderous political record and drug-running notwithstanding. While Zia was dealt some provocative questions at the National Press Club, according to sources on the Hill, the Henry Kissinger protégé was handled with kid gloves by the otherwise fierce human-rights activists among the liberal Congressmen and Senators. Moreover, after the first day, it was evident that someone had quietly put the national media on notice that Zia was to be covered sympathetically or not at all.

Three days after the dictator left town the complicated technical maneuvers necessary to release the first installment of the \$3.2 billion Pakistan aid program passed the House without a hitch, and the same was expected in the Senate. Another issue, the flap that erupted days before Zia's arrival when Pakistan refused to accept the first batch of F-16s, was officially "settled"—though the terms of the eleventh-hour agreement, namely whether Pakistan got the sophisticated equipment it demanded or not, remains to be seen. The administration officially accepted Zia's oblique "promises" with regard to not developing a nuclear weapon, and the liberals rolled over and played dead on this issue as well.

Only the local press, responding more to the concerns of average American citizens, had the courage to make it clear that a drug-pushing dictator who murdered his predecessor was not welcome in the United States. They were reflecting the campaign to expose the crimes of the Zia junta that began Dec. 6 in Washington and had been led by Pakistan Peoples'