

Eye on Democrats by Anita Gallagher

The Trilaterals form a platform policy caucus

A gaggle of new committees and task forces surfaced in the last half of July to put the same old traitors in a position to fix the 1984 Democratic presidential nomination. Chuck "Banker" Manatt, the Democratic National Committee chair who runs DNC meetings like a carnival barker, seems to be pulling out nothing from his hat except the Trilateral Commission members who ran the pathetic Jimmy Carter.

A "National Democratic Caucus" under the chairmanship of Billygate insider Robert Strauss and Rep. Gillis Long (La.) will begin touring the nation in September or October with a "long-range blueprint for the future of the country," a Caucus spokesman said July 23.

The purpose of the National Democratic Caucus is ostensibly to give the Democrats an "issues forum" to match presidential access to the media. Strauss, who headed the DNC during the Jimmy Carter years, has popped back into the headlines recently along with Carter and the Trilateral Commission bunch. Strauss will serve on Trilateraloid Henry Kissinger's commission on Central America. Jimmy Carter has reentered public life with a fundraising trip to Tokyo for his Carter Center for Political Sciences. It should be recalled that it was, after all, Carter and Trilateraloid Zbigniew Brzezinski who brought Khomeini to power in Iran, and, through the Billygate affair Strauss was part of, committed what were probably the most

extreme breaches of U.S. security in recent memory.

Now, in the Democratic presidential nomination process, the Trilateral Commission is deployed through its fronts.

The "new" National Democratic Caucus has been meeting for the last 32 weeks, constituted as the "Committee on Party Effectiveness" of the House of Representatives' Democratic Caucus. This committee includes chiefly "the regulars" at Pamela Harriman's Georgetown salon, such as Reps. Gephardt (Mo.), Wirth (Col.), and Ferraro (N.Y.). Strauss himself is rumored to have an especially intimate friendship with Pam Harriman, wife of Democratic Party elder statesman Averell Harriman.

The Harrimanite congressmen will work in tandem with 100 advisory board members that include Trilateral Commission assets such as former Carter administration Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, Pamela Harriman herself, Du Pont's Irving Shapiro, MIT economist Lester Thurow, New York City's "pain and agony" advocate Felix Rohatyn, and other deindustrializers brought in at the suggestion of Trilateral Commission member and AFL-CIO president Lane Kirkland.

Is the aim to draft a Democratic program to get out of the depression and attack the myth of industrial recovery? "Oh, no," said a Caucus spokesman, "there is no question that there is an economic recovery. Our premise is that a recovery, no matter how strong, that gets us back to where we were is not adequate."

The spokesman said the Caucus would certainly deal with the budget deficit in its program. The Trilaterals wish to use the deficit to force cuts in military spending, especially spending for Reagan's proposed defensive beam weapons.

A more open statement of the Democratic program came from Ted Van Dyke of the Center for National Policy, which also includes Bob

Strauss, Vance, and Irving Shapiro. Criticized for producing watered-down, middle-of-the-road issues papers, Van Dyke told the *New York Times* on July 22 that "If you can get people to come out of the closet [about the kind of national Democratic program that is needed] they will tell you we need an all-out attack on middle class entitlement programs: veterans benefits, government pensions, Social Security."

The Caucus's platform is being formulated over the next eight weeks by the Committee on Party Effectiveness. It will serve as the basis for the 1984 Democratic platform, the spokesman said. "It will make for a less bloody fight. We have the members of Congress working on this program. The problem with the platform is that every constituency is making its demands, but they don't see the larger picture. The congressmen, by virtue of the fact they are here, must. . . . If it's a good program, as I'm sure it will be, it will be natural for all the candidates to support it. All of them are represented. . . ."

What if a candidate outside the Harriman group (or an enemy of Harriman, like *EIR* founder Lyndon LaRouche) should run and refuse to support the austerity blueprint? "We don't care. This program will represent the Democratic mainstream and the candidates will support it. . . . If you think about it, it frees them from the need to develop a program of their own while they are trying to round up delegates."

The National Democratic Caucus will raise its own money, with contributions from sources such as the KGB's Harriman connection (Pam Harriman's "Democrats for the '80s" political action committee is the money which secures Charles Manatt's hold over the DNC), and will operate under the auspices of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, chaired by Manatt lieutenant Rep. Tony Coelho of California.