

Eye on Democrats by Anita Gallagher

Who needs to bother with primaries?

An orchestrated combination of media events and labor endorsements in Maine and New York is intended to lock up the Democratic presidential nomination for one of the candidates widely known as "Yuri Andropov's Seven Dwarves," five months before the primaries begin.

If the group around grizzled "Soviet handler" Averell Harriman gets its way, the 1984 election will make such past farces as the manipulated 1976 and 1980 Democratic nomination of Trilateral Commission peanut farmer Jimmy Carter look like constitutional democracy. The National Education Association's endorsement of Walter Mondale (supposedly bringing 13 million votes); the unprecedented AFL-CIO "early endorsement" of Mondale; and the DNC's straw polls of party professionals, are the window dressing on the plan to use the election to stop President Reagan's strategic beam-weapons defense doctrine, which panics Harriman's friends in the Kremlin.

On Oct. 6 in New York City, Gov. Mario Cuomo and Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan hosted the first Democratic presidential candidates' debate among the "seven dwarves" (Mondale, Glenn, Hart, Cranston, Hollings, Askew and McGovern), excluding Democratic presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche.

While a LaRouche supporter in the audience was dragged out after denouncing the "KGB in the Democratic Party," Alan Cranston began the festivities by calling for "no preconditions" for a U.S.-Soviet meeting and "no pre-negotiations by staff."

Mondale's view was that since most confidential U.S. government cablegrams end up on page 1 of the *Washington Post* or *New York Times*

(i.e., the U.S. has no real security), freeze negotiations with the U.S.S.R. should proceed like Camp David, with the leaders secluded together for two or three days.

George McGovern's contribution was the following formulation: So what if the Soviets have 1,000 missiles more than we do—in a nuclear confrontation we're all going to die anyway.

John Glenn claimed that after a freeze, the United States would have more warheads than the Soviets, and thus a freeze at present levels favors the United States! (According to Defense Department figures, the ratio is 7,542 Soviet warheads to 7,224 U.S. warheads, with vast qualitative as well as numerical superiority on the Soviet side.)

All seven back IMF austerity

This column is the first U.S. publication to report the unanimous support by all the Democratic presidential candidates for the austerity policies imposed by the International Monetary Fund on debtor nations, no small journalistic feat since all four Senate Democratic candidates managed to be absent when the crucial vote on the \$8.5 billion IMF quota increase was taken this summer.

John Glenn, the same candidate who crusaded to deny developing nations nuclear reprocessing technology, said he supports the IMF quota increase, as a first step, citing the one-in-six American industrial jobs that depends on exports—even though the IMF's conditionalities have cut off exports to the IMF's victims!

Without hesitation, Walter Mondale declared support for the IMF and the need for the U.S. taxpayers to cough up \$8.5 billion. He conceded that this business of keeping your gov-

ernment in power while imposing austerity is "very complex; it's really a balancing act. . . . At some point, the burden of pain will be such that people in a democracy won't be able to carry it anymore. I very much worry about it."

Gary Hart proclaimed his "strong support for this country's involvement in the IMF" and the quota increase, adding as a qualifier that he would go after the private banks—as if the IMF were anything else.

Reubin Askew, the former governor of Florida, said he favors the IMF quota increase because it is "the only hope" nations have to pay their debts, and that getting the austerity through is just "a balancing act."

Ernest Hollings said that he opposed the IMF quota increase and feared a bailout of bad bank loans. But, supporting IMF austerity, the South Carolina senator insisted that the debtors "are going to have to cut back much more." On beam weapons, Hollings angrily gestured, "This is not an issue in the 1984 campaign. Maybe in 10 years."

It was difficult to tell whom McGovern was representing when he argued that if the United States possessed a workable system of beam weapon defense, American military planners could not be trusted to restrain from a first strike.

This line popped up again on Sept. 30 in an interview this reporter held with Sen. Joe Biden of Delaware after his keynote to the Maine Democratic straw poll.

In Maine, as in New York, the fix demanded the exclusion of LaRouche. The Maine Democratic Party resorted to "Bull Connor" tactics with the arrest of Bill Ferguson, a black LaRouche Democrat and a candidate for the Boston School Committee. Ferguson was charged with "criminal trespass" at the straw poll's public reception!