

Eye on Democrats by Anita Gallagher

Bread and circuses in Iowa straw poll

As even the U.S. national press has been forced to discover, the Oct. 8 Associated Press straw poll in Iowa metamorphosed into a Roman-style "bread and circuses" contest between the Mondale and Cranston campaigns, whose paid armies were locked in an epic struggle to buy up and give away the most tickets to the Jefferson-Jackson Dinner where the voting was to take place.

Though the shrewd Alan Cranston first hit on the idea of stuffing the dinner and had already bought 1,000 tickets by mid-September, Mondale finally began buying tickets like there was no tomorrow. With 1,200 in hand, Fritz was put over the top when organized labor bought another 1,500 for him, in line with president Lane Kirkland's "super-fix" of the AFL-CIO endorsement for Mondale on Oct. 1.

With tickets in hand, the next problem the campaigns faced was to find people willing to go to the dinner. Thus, the ubiquitous sight of Mondale organizers giving away tickets at high schools and college campuses, and paying for buses and beer for their "supporters."

Most of the 4,000 people who showed (of the 6000 predicted) had no

idea the 7-pack was pushing the nuclear freeze. The now-ritualized "Peace Workshop" drew no one.

The monumental poll results were 47 percent for Mondale, 37 percent for Cranston, 5 percent for John Glenn, and crumbs for the rest of the Seven Dwarfs.

Belatedly, Ernest Hollings led the bellyaching among the low-percentile vote getters, who complained because they lacked the money to fix the election, "You had people from Missouri. You had wetbacks from California that came in here for Cranston. It wasn't Iowans. And it was all bought and paid for. It was a fraud. One great, grand fraud."

As for the exclusion of presidential contender Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., Iowa Democratic Party Chair Dave "Nervous" Nagle's explanation—"LaRouche is not a Democrat"—showed the pawprints of national chairman Chuck Manatt.

How does Banker Manatt control the chairs of the small state parties like Maine and Iowa, with whom he is supposedly feuding about their early campaign activity? Money.

With Mondale and Cranston buying up every \$40 ticket available (2,500) and every balcony ticket as well (3,500) to stuff the vote, even a state chair like Dave Nagle—whose operation lost the three top offices to the Republicans by pushing the same policies advocated by the Seven Dwarfs—can sit in the catbird seat as \$120,000 rolls into the Party treasury

through each candidate's efforts to outfox the others.

Maine chairman Barry Hobbins played the same game on Oct. 1, using the straw poll to hype his own Jefferson-Jackson Day proceeds.

Glenn breaks rules, talks about Carter

John Glenn told a Florida audience on Oct. 10 what no other Democratic Party presidential candidate has yet had the nerve to say: that Walter Mondale is a supporter of the hated Jimmy Carter's economic policies. Glenn stated, following charges by Mondale that he supported Reaganomics by voting for the tax cut in 1981, "I did favor a change from the disastrous policies that I gather now he [Mondale] would like to go back to." Glenn spokesman Greg Schneiders attempted to backpedal by telling the *Boston Globe* that Glenn "did not intend to campaign against Jimmy Carter or to link Mondale with him."

New York Gov. Mario Cuomo and Sen. Daniel Patrick "Bubbles" Moynihan have endorsed Mondale. "Of all the candidates, Walter Mondale will make the best President because of his ideals, his ideas and his experience," Cuomo blathered. Mondale reciprocated by gushing that Cuomo is "one of the most exciting, thoughtful and effective new leaders of our nation."

