

NDPC campaigns turn politics upside down

by Stephen Pepper

The National Democratic Policy Committee is currently building slates of congressional candidates in each of the 50 states, to win significant gains in the general election in 1986. The NDPC is a political action committee seeking to oust the "fruits and nuts"—and Soviet agents of influence—from the Democratic Party, and return the party to the labor, farm, and industry policies which it traditionally represented. This year, the committee's goal is to channel the ferment among usually passive voters, caused by such crises as the impact of the Gramm-Rudman bill and the AIDS outbreak, to bring about a fundamental policy shift in the nation.

The preliminary developments of the NDPC campaign indicate that most people did not initially realize how devastating the effects of Gramm-Rudman would be; but as the impact of the massive, automated, budget cuts begins to receive publicity, alarm is spreading across the nation. One legislator in North Carolina summed this up when she said, "This crazy thing will cause havoc . . . and I hope it does."

The context in which this social and political chaos is going to hit will determine how politics will unfold in 1986. Congress voted up Gramm-Rudman for one overriding reason: It wished to relieve itself of the constitutional responsibility to deal with the budget crisis. The voters are not so stupid; they will not allow the 99th Congress to walk away from its responsibilities—while shutting down defense capabilities, hospital care, urban infrastructure, Social Security, and other services. Over the next two months, Americans will be in a lynching mood toward their congressmen.

A political realignment

A political vacuum exists in both national parties, but this is particularly evident in the Democratic Party. The national media has been giving considerable attention to a group of "new leaders," stabled together under the colors of the Democratic Leadership Council. Among these thoroughbreds is Charles Robb, former governor of Virginia, Missouri congressman Richard Gephardt, and Bruce Babbitt, former governor of Arizona. Governor Robb speaks for this group when he declares that the era of Carter-Mondale is dead, and that

the Democratic Party should no longer feel obliged to defend their record.

Senator Ted Kennedy's withdrawal from the 1988 race cuts the only other tie to the previous 20 years of party politics. While Kennedy is a hollow individual, the Kennedy name still held appeal for Democratic political machines across the country. No present Democratic candidate commands such loyalty. Governor Cuomo of New York hopes to fill this void, but lacks any real national constituency to achieve it. Therefore, a mad scramble has started to "reposition" the Democratic Party to the right, to conform to the political professionals' perception of voter attitudes.

But while the professionals follow events, the NDPC candidacies will shape them. Democratic presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche, a founding member of the NDPC, built a wide following during the 1984 presidential election campaign, with 15 national television presentations; the NDPC candidates' movement will bring this force into the limelight in 1986. The movement includes significant representatives of traditional Democrats now in office, or recent office-holders. One Democratic governor has indicated his openness to meeting with LaRouche's representative, and is seeking the endorsement of the NDPC. These developments indicate that the regroupment now going on nationally is casting LaRouche and his movement as the pole, around which the revival of the traditional Democrats can take place. This will produce shock waves, since the Eastern Establishment was certain that its dirty-tricks operations—like the Abscam and Brilab "stings" run by the FBI—had flattened the traditional wing forever.

Leading NDPC candidates are currently demonstrating LaRouche's dictum that "your greatest asset as a candidate is your moral authority." Maj. Robert Patton, U.S. Air Force (ret.), has announced his candidacy against New Hampshire congressman Warren Rudman, the man with the Gramm-sized brain. Patton held a well-attended press conference on Jan. 9 to announce his candidacy, briefing the 10 assembled press on the devastating effects of the Gramm-Rudman amendment and the international confrontation with Libyan dictator Muammar Qaddafi.

On Jan. 6, Don Scott announced his candidacy against John Glenn of Ohio for the Democratic nomination for Senate. Scott, a well-known farm activist in the state, won the Democratic nomination for Congress in the 7th district in 1984—whereupon Democratic State chairman James Ruvo, a Mondale man, endorsed the Republican candidate. In his announcement, Scott said, "John Glenn turned a blind eye and deaf ear to the drug-money takeover of the U.S. banking system. Could it be that John Glenn is that stupid? Or is he controlled by the same Soviet-connected drug-money interests connected to Marvin Warner, who bought up the Democratic Party and large chunks of the Republican Party in Ohio?"

The same day, Richard Black announced his candidacy to succeed Topsy O'Neill in Massachusetts' 8th congressional district.