

Opinions



Most voters see Mondale as guy who can't say 'no'

Who's in charge here? The average voter couldn't care less whether the chairman of the Democratic Party is Charles Manatt, Bert Lance, or Michael Jackson. But John and Jane Q public care a lot about whether their President has the ability to manage his own campaign, to make his decisions carefully and forthrightly and then enforce them with all the power at his command.

Ike was liked because he was a nice guy, but he was elected President because people believed he could get things done. No one doubted that a man who had organized the largest invasion in the history of mankind could run something as simple (in those days) as the United States government. And his aides always knew where they stood: If you worked for Eisenhower, you were a private, and he was a general, and he knew the difference.

When the air traffic controllers, who had endorsed Ronald Reagan in 1980, went on strike, the President told them he would fire them if they didn't go back to work. They didn't, so he did. If he had backed down on that one issue, the world would have gone out that Reagan's a patsy, and it would have crippled him.

Against Reagan, Mondale is seen as a weak leader, a man unable to stand up to anyone. At the Democratic National Convention, reporters -- even liberal reporters -- call him names behind his back, cruel names like "the blob" and "the wimp" and "The

Richard A. Viguerie



Pillsbury Doughboy" ("jab him, he giggles"). They make sexist jokes like "the Mondale-Ferraro ticket is the first in history without a man on it."

That image was underscored by the way Mondale handled the vice presidential nomination and the selection of a new chairman for the Democratic Party. After the National Organization for Women threatened to disrupt the convention if he picked a male running mate, Mondale did just what they wanted. He picked not only a woman, but the particular woman they had picked.

If he had selected, say, a qualified woman like Lindsay Boggs -- the longtime Louisiana Congresswoman who is, incidentally, opposed to abortion -- he would have had a female running without looking like he was caving in to NOW.

By picking Congresswoman Ferraro of New York instead, he made it appear that he was writing off the South, a region the democrats must carry to win. So he decided to appoint Bert Lance of Georgia as national chairman of the party.

According to the standards democrats apply to people like Ed Meese and Anne Burford -- the standard of "guilt by accusation"

-- Lance, a banker who was once tried on criminal charges and acquitted, is "tainted." He is also well known as Jimmy Carter's best friend, and most democrats would rather forget Carter. So the power brokers in the party decided that Lance could not be party chairman, and that Mondale could not get rid of the current chairman.

What a mess! The nominee of the Democratic Party, the man who wants to lead the Free World, can not even get his own person as party chairman. Bob Strauss, the former party chairman, put it delicately when he said the Lance matter had been "inelegantly done." Barry Goldwater put it better: Mondale, he said, "shot himself in both feet and the," uh, behind. Senator Ernest Hollings (D-South Carolina) asked, "You think maybe, that Fritz Mondale is a Republican mole?"

Throughout the Democratic convention, speakers derided Ronald Reagan as "macho." "Macho" is a code word liberals use to describe someone who is tough enough to toss the gauntlet at the feet of his adversaries or even his friends when the need arises. This November, the Democrats better hope that Fritz Mondale is perceived by the voters as macho, instead of his current image. As of now many people think he's just a guy who can't say no.

Letters To The Editor

Columnist has answer to winning Olympics

Dear Editor: Without even trying, a columnist for *The Washington Post* has caused the government of Bolivia to withdraw from the Olympics, which brings up some interesting ideas.

The columnists thought he was being funny--an illusion many columnists labor under--but Bolivia considered he was being insulting and immediately withdrew its athletes. The columnist apologized but it didn't do any good.

You'll never catch me in such a fix, as I don't believe anybody in Bolivia reads my column. What's *The News Journal* circulation down there?

Aside from the trouble a columnist can get into when he tries to be funny, excusing those who're funny when they're trying to be serious, the incident opens some possibilities.

Is there some country whose athlete is a cinch to win the shot-put? Get that Washington columnist to write a funny column and get him withdrawn from the Olympics.

If there are very many other countries whose athletes we need to get withdrawn, you'll need to understand this will put an insurmountable burden on columnists trying to write a funny column.

Yours faithfully,
J.A.

America is land of freedom

By John Sledge
N.C. Farm Bureau Federation
Where else, but in America, can you enjoy complete freedom? Freedom of communications and conversation, freedom to pursue a career, freedom to worship or not worship, freedom to pay homage to the colors or not pay homage.

Where else, but in America, can you pursue a career that lets you reap the rewards of your efforts or lets you fail because of whatever reasons. Security from failure seems to be more and more in people's minds.

"Safety net" is a new buzz word that is being adopted much too rapidly. Granted, no one wants to fail. The reason we're good is because of our fear of failure--we just won't let it happen if we can help it. In the Soviet Union no one fails, but no one succeeds.

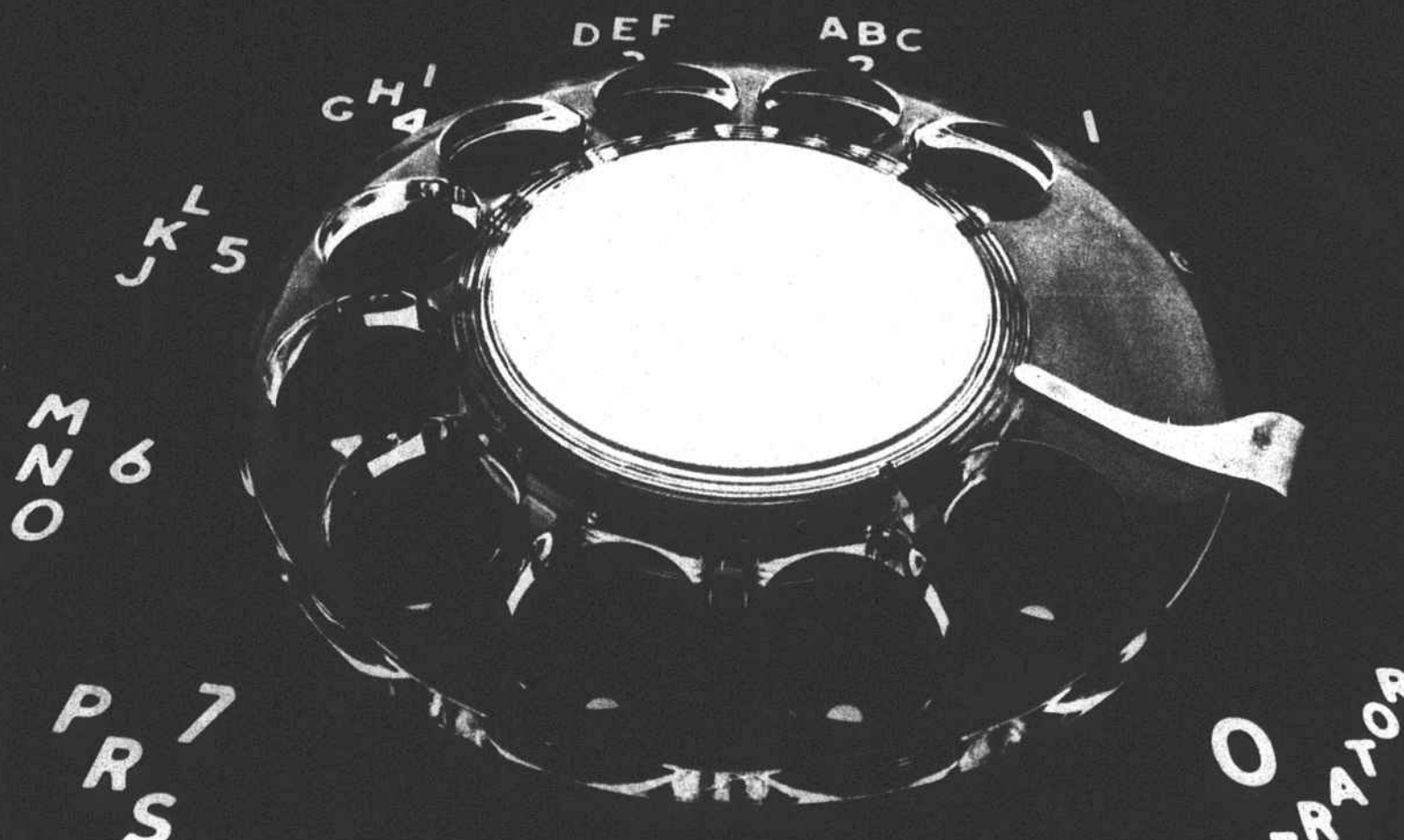
Where else, but in America, can you enjoy more abundance? We are blessed with resources that flourish abundances upon us. Our major problems seem to center around the management of abundance. Such things as foods, cars,

computers, satellites, etc. are treated as a problem, but in reality only in America do we struggle with this.

Where else, but in America, can you call a national leader an idiot publicly and get away with it? Opinions of the individual are guarded right.

Where else, but in America, can you see our flag and then only you will decide what you will do? You can salute, cry, bow your head or do nothing and only you have to answer why.

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