

EDITORIALS & COMMENTS

Democrats: Moving Towards Unity!

In a most unusual way, the Democratic Party launched its attack on the Republican Party and the Reagan Administration in a first major step toward the November elections. In specific terms, a Southern conservative, a Northern Italian American and a black American each have offered eloquent words of wisdom and advise on what to do and how to defeat Ronald Reagan.

Southern conservative Democrat Sen. Ernest Hollings of South Carolina offered a preface to the Democratic Party Convention. In the form of a bluntly worded newspaper article that severely criticized the Reagan Administration; and more significantly, chastized the Democratic Party for what it has allowed itself to become - what it needs to do in order to win the November elections.

In an eloquently and carefully worded Washington Post article, Sen. Hollings did in fact kick-off the Democratic Party Convention by stating bluntly, "...the good news is that we Democrats can win in November." He hastily added, however, the bad news is that on the present course, "we won't."

Hollings' "we won't" win arises from his accurate assertion that in 1980 the Democrats were caught up on a number of single-interest issues as opposed to "advancements for the nation as a whole."

In a frontal attack on the Reagan Administration, Hollings said Reagan has a "frontier mentality" and has failed to recognize the role of government in developing our nation's West. Neither has Reagan recognized the role of the federal government in pulling the free market economy from the ashes of the Great Depression in the 1930's.

Hollings' punch line on the role of government was, "we want our government disciplined enough to live within its means and competitive enough to protect our standard of living... And while other countries use government to compete and put America at a disadvantage, our President insists on closing government down."

In conclusion, Sen. Hollings admonishes that his Party; that its extreme in nothing but government cannot win against Reagan's extreme of no government. Therefore, the Democratic Party must do something different if it hopes to win in November.

Cuomo Sets The Tone!

The something different the Democrats must do, if there is to be any hope of winning the White House in November, is the need to relink President Reagan with the disasters of his Administration. His cunning ability to separate himself from the failures of his Administration has been a sustaining force in Mr. Reagan's popularity. What the Democratic Party needs, and is so well known by Sen. Hollings, is an alternative to the Reagan Administration and the Reagan movie hero personality.

This, then, is the Democratic Party's challenge in 1984 - an alternative to Mr. Reagan personally and Mr. Reagan politically - that is his policies.

If the enlightenment of Sen. Hollings' challenge was like a tune-up for things to come, it was then fitting and proper that New York Gov. Mario Cuomo was called upon to set the tone for the Democratic Party Convention strategy to recapture the White House in 1984.

In a keynote address to the Convention, Gov. Cuomo called on the 5,000 delegates and alternates, and indeed the nation, in somewhat the same way Sen. Hollings did, to "look past the glitter, beyond the showmanship" of the Reagan presidency and focus an attack on "the hard substance" of the Reagan record of social program cuts, the abandonment of public housing, reduced funds for education, an excessive defense budget and large tax breaks for the corporate rich.

As if cutting his speech from the same cloth as that of Sen. Hollings, Cuomo skillfully aimed to tarnish the public relations program of the Ronald Reagan presidency by stating that "no slick commercial, no amount of geniality, no material music" could overshadow a fine-tuned Democratic Party message if the Party set aside its special interest differences to focus on defeating Reagan.

Jackson's Sermon!

It was Hollings who prefaced the direction of the Democratic Party Convention and it was Cuomo who set the tone of objective systematic attacks on Reagan as the keynote speaker; but it was Jesse Jackson's guarded emotional political-sermon speech of 50-minutes that moved the National Democratic Party Convention of 5,000 delegates and alternates and undoubtedly the millions of TV viewers to tears as he said, "Please forgive me" for the errors of my head, not my heart." Then after asking for support for his candidacy, said, "I will be proud to support the nominee at this Convention for the presidency of the United States" to assure Party unity.

Jackson asked the delegates to support him on the first ballot "as a vote for a new direction for his Party and this nation; a vote for conscience and conviction."

Undoubtedly, the true character of Jesse Jackson the man was never more clearly stated when he said to national television, "...if in my low moments, in word, deed or attitude, through some error of temper, taste or tone, I have caused anyone discomfort, created pain or revived someone's fears, that was not my truest self... please forgive me." It took courage and character to admit an error before millions across the nation.

Thus, it was the charisma of the preacher-politician Jesse Jackson, the flamboyant and controversial civil rights leader who sounded the emotional bell to sweep the National Democratic Party to a sense of unity.



Will It Boom?

Geraldine Ferraro And The Candidacy

What is this country coming to? A woman vice presidential candidate, blacks, gays and women having potential control over the election - this country is coming of age. For the first time in history a woman has been chosen as a running mate on the Democratic ticket. And this woman is Rep. Geraldine A. Ferraro of New York.

Little is known about this American history maker except that she is from New York, a Roman Catholic, who supports federal funding of abortions and twice married. Ferraro's presence on the Democratic ticket appears to offer little help to Mondale on the surface. However, further observation reveals that Ferraro's presence will bridge the gap between Mondale, young white men and feminists. For this race no one knows. It is believed that Ferraro's presence will strengthen Mondale in the Northeast and among liberals. She offers no particular help in the South, except maybe Florida, or in the West, with the exception of California, Oregon and Washington. Places where

WITH SABRINA JOHNSON

SCOPE
SCOPE
SCOPE
SCOPE
SCOPE

large numbers of women have been elected to public offices. With all this facade or grandure, Ferraro is not expected to "pull women" to the polls to vote out of some Susan B. Anthony reasoning of historical pride - not in the multitude that Jesse Jackson pulled the black vote during the Democratic primaries last spring. For the moment the Congresswoman from Queens is being praised for her strong Catholic faith, her solid family life, her blue-collar roots and her family's immigrant past: in a single phrase - all the things that make her American! The verdict is not in. The professional politicians must face a battle between the minuses and pluses. Hope-

fully, the positive will outweigh the negative. This will take time - the only problem being that November is only a few months away and what happens in November is built practically upon July's events. The polling that has taken place or will take place on the subject will not prove accurate. In the past the question of a female vice presidential candidate has been theoretical and now so much depends on Ferraro. It is no longer the question of a woman running for Vice President - it is the question of Geraldine Ferraro running for Vice President. Traditionally the polls have not offered conclusive evidence in measuring the popularity of female candidates and race relations because people are reluctant to openly confess a socially unacceptable prejudice. Women who have shown strong leads in the polls have been found to win elections by slim - very slim margins or do not win at all. How the American public will vote is a great mystery and what pollsters find out is not necessarily true. People will tell the pollsters what they think they want to hear instead of what they plan to do. And it is a true fact that some people will not vote for a woman simply because she is a woman.

One poll taken by the New York Times and CBS immediately after the Ferraro announcement showed that 60 percent of those surveyed thought Mondale chose Ferraro because of pressure from women's organizations and not because of her qualifications. Whether or not Ferraro beats the odds is entirely up to her and is based largely on how she campaigns. Her lack of experience will only be an issue if she makes it an issue. Performance, stamina and wit will be Ferraro's weapons in defending her credibility. There is some skepticism in the South as to how Ferraro will be accepted; but there is also much enthusiasm.

From Capitol Hill

Spector Places The Preamble Mandates Above Party

By Alfreda L. Madison
Special To The Post

"To establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity." This statement of the Preamble to the United States Constitution is taken very seriously by the junior senator from Pennsylvania.



Alfreda L. Madison

Senator Arlen Specter who came to the U.S. Senate in 1981 - the first Republican elected Senator in 30 years from Philadelphia - can just about be called nonpartisan, because he places the Preamble mandates above Party.

Born in Wichita, Kansas, where he remained through high school, Arlen Specter is a Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Pennsylvania, majoring in International Relations and he is a law graduate of Yale University. After serving in the U.S. Air Force and as a member of a prominent law firm, he began his public career. His investigations and convictions of the Philadelphia Board of Magistrates, which was highly corrupted, coupled with his prosecution of Teamsters Local 107 officials, for looting the union's treasury and his refusal to accept plea bargaining, caused Specter to be dubbed a tough prosecutor.

Mr. Specter fell into disfavor with Philadelphia's tough police commissioner, Frank Rizzo, by successfully prosecuting a policeman who killed a black man. Then again after Mr. Rizzo later became mayor, Specter again brought down Rizzo's ire on his head when he investigated and secured conviction of some of Rizzo's top officials. This impressive District Attorney record re-

sulted in his appointment as counsel to the Warren Commission which investigated the assassination of President Kennedy.

All of these qualities and human concerns, Arlen Specter brought to the U.S. Senate. A medium-sized man with black wavy hair which does not lie flat to his head, and is peppered with a few strands of gray, he can be seen on the floor, in the many committees or which he serves, hustling back and forth to them, or busy in his office. Yet, amid all of these activities he remains accessible to the people.

Arlen Specter serves on the Appropriations Committee, the Subcommittee of Agriculture, Labor, State, Justice and Commerce Foreign Operations, Judiciary and Chairman of the District of Columbia Committee.

Serving as a co-chairman of the Senate Northeast-Midwest Coalition, Specter is able to get Federal Government contracts for businesses in his state. As Chairman of the Senate Children's Caucus, he has held hearings on child abuse, and imprisonment of juveniles.

Senator Specter, in keeping with his eagerness for promoting the general welfare, has introduced many bills in the Senate. He and Senator Paula Hawkins have ushered through the Senate Judiciary the Missing Children's Assistance Act in urging passage of a bill to provide \$5 million for emergency food and shelter. Senator Specter said, "The issue of homelessness is a multi-faceted subject and the homeless is a diverse group." He stated that lack of low income housing, displacement, reduction in social service spending are among the emergency causes.

Through the untiring persistence of Arlen Specter, the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee instructed the Minority Business Development Agency to make reopening its Pittsburgh office its prime goal. Specter said, "...at a time when all businesses are finding it difficult to survive, it seems incredible to me that the Minority Business Development Agency would close its Pittsburgh office, one which is badly needed and which has proved its worth."

Arlen Specter has proposed the Juvenile Incarceration Protection Act which prevents locking juveniles up with adult criminals. Through his hard fight the Office of Juvenile and Delinquency Prevention, which President Reagan had marked for extinction, was kept in existence. The Senator succeeded in getting the Senate Appropriations Committee to add an additional \$5 million to the budget for the literacy and vocational program. He strongly emphasized that releasing prisoners who can neither read nor write and without any vocational skills is an invitation to a life of crime.

Opportunities Industrial Center, founded by Rev. Leon Sullivan of Philadelphia, received \$100,000 for its Talent Search Project through Senator Specter's efforts.

Reauthorization of the Civil Rights Commission which had been stymied by President Reagan's firing three commissioners was saved by Senators Specter and Biden. The Biden-Specter compromise, which expanded the Commission to eight members, was accepted by both the White House and civil rights groups. Later the White House reneged on its agreement and instead robbed the Commission of its independence.

Senator Specter was a strong supporter of the Voting Rights extension and Martin Luther King birthday holiday. When Jesse Helms was ranting and raving on the Senate Floor besmirching Dr. King's reputation, Specter rose and took on Helms, denouncing his accusations.

Ralph Nease, Executive of Leadership Conference, Althea Simmons, of the NAACP, and Ronaldo Torres, of the League of United Latin American Citizens are constantly seen conversing with Arlen Specter because they know he will carry the ball for civil and constitutional rights.

As Chairman of the District of Columbia Committee, Senator Specter feels strongly that the District should have home rule. He says the D. C. mayor is equivalent to the governor of a state. He believes Washington should be a model city, since it's the place where heads of state visit. He deplores the fact that so many members of Congress are against complete rule.

Arlen Specter can truly be called the "people's servant."

The Charlotte Post
North Carolina's
Fastest Growing
Weekly
704-376-0496

"The People's Newspaper"

106 Years
Of Continuous Service

Bill Johnson Editor, Pub.
Bernard Reeves Gen. Mgr.
Fran Bradley Adv. Mgr.
Dannette Gaither Of. Mgr.

Published Every
Thursday By
The Charlotte Post
Publishing Company, Inc.
Main Office:
1531 S. Camden Road
Charlotte, N.C. 28203

Second Class Postage
Paid at Charlotte

Member, National
Newspaper Publishers'
Association
North Carolina
Black Publishers
Association

National Advertising
Representative:
Amalgamated Publishers,
Inc.

One Year
Subscription Rate
One Year - \$17.68
Payable In Advance