

## The End of the Dem-Labor Alliance

# U.S. Labor Party Deciding Factor in Pennsylvania Presidential Primary

April 30 (IPS) — The traditional alliance between organized labor and the Democratic Party has been irrevocably shattered. The one-time mass base of the Democrats — primarily white and black trade unionists and the urban unemployed — has shifted decisively behind the program and policies of the U.S. Labor Party. That is the message of this week's presidential primary in Pennsylvania.

The Pennsylvania AFL-CIO bureaucracy, including I.W. Abel's United Steel Workers, and most of the state's Democratic Party organization, headed by the Philadelphia machine of Mayor Frank Rizzo, threw their weight behind Senator Henry Jackson (D-Wash.), and predicted they could turn out enough working class votes on primary day to give cold-warrior Jackson a decisive victory. But Pennsylvania workers who heavily support the presidential candidacy of the Labor Party's Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., stayed home.

Populist Jimmy Carter, who has conducted a campaign widely reported in the press as an exercise in baby-kissing and avoidance of any substantive issues, won his "stunning victory" largely on the basis of an expected rural vote.

Less than 48 hours after the polls closed, Senator Hubert Humphrey (D-Minn.) long ballyhooed as the favorite of the same organized labor-Democratic constellation which backed Jackson in Pennsylvania, announced that he would not enter the last of the presidential primaries in New Jersey and would not campaign actively for the nomination this year. The press, which had repeatedly characterized Jackson as a "stalking horse" for Humphrey and otherwise puffed Humphrey's highly visible "non-candidacy" by featuring the scenario of a deadlocked Democratic convention turning to "elder statesman" Humphrey as the one candidate who could unify the party, reported Humphrey's tearful withdrawal from the race as an admission that Carter had the Democratic nomination all locked up.

U.S. workers' repudiation of Jackson, Humphrey and the top echelons of the AFL-CIO and United Auto Workers, who have been consistently identified as their strongest backers, should come as no surprise. For the past two years the Labor Party has campaigned steadily throughout the USA to defeat the Humphrey-Hawkins bill and allied fascist "full employment" legislation with which both men are strongly identified. As long ago as last May, the Labor Party finished Jackson as a viable presidential candidate when it tagged him as "Soop-Tse-Dung, the Manchurian Candidate," for his support of the stated Chinese foreign policy objective of a nuclear showdown between the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

In public political confrontations with Labor Party candidates and spokesmen, both men have repeatedly exposed themselves as mouthpieces for Wall Street financial circles, and have been reported as such in the pages of the Labor Party newspaper, *New Solidarity*. Their welcome departure

from the presidential political scene is nothing but the lawful outcome of the complete discrediting of their policies in the American working class, and totally belies the myth, frequently peddled in the international press, that politics in the USA is a matter of sex appeal and Madison Ave. type jobs.

### Corpse Already Interred

The demise of the labor-Democratic alliance has already been officially acknowledged in establishment press. Viewing the remains of Jackson and Humphrey, *New York Times* of April 29, in a featurette with the byline Warren Weaver, reported that "the defeat of Senator Henry Jackson was widely regarded to have dealt a body blow to the political prestige of the organized labor establishment ... The state AFL-CIO had pledged its support to Jackson and promised a get-out-the-vote drive, but little visible activity resulted..."

New York Post editor James Wechsler commented even more pointedly in his column in the *Post* on April 30. Entitled "Labor's Love Lost," the column reports that Jackson's defeat has dramatized "once more the inability of the AFL-CIO hierarchy to 'deliver' the vote of its rank and file." Predicting that "these circumstances will render it more difficult for the old-line labor legions to mount a credible belated offensive on Humphrey's behalf," Wechsler publicly wondered "why big labor's analysts were so oblivious to Jackson's weakness in their own union halls."

Some analysts are now going so far as to argue that the Pennsylvania vote proves that the rank and file of the trade unions is more conservative than I.W. Abel and AFL-CIO chief George Meany. Although no merely half-informed person in U.S. ruling circles will believe such a patent absurdity, this line, and the associated reportage of the Pennsylvania returns as an "across-the-board" triumph for Carter among all sectors of the population, serves Wall Street's immediate purpose of temporarily obscuring the decisive role played by the Labor Party in the U.S. politics, and the probable victory of LaRouche in the November presidential elections.

### The Numbers Show Different

The returns themselves show no such across the board triumph for Carter. Only 46 per cent of Pennsylvania's registered Democrats turned out to vote in a primary that is widely regarded as a pivotal for any presidential candidate. Even dishonest vote analysts were forced to characterize the turnout as "extremely low." In South Philadelphia, the home territory of Mayor Rizzo's machine, only 33 per cent turned out to vote, despite Rizzo's strong endorsement of Jackson, and his assignment of leading Philadelphia Building Trades Council bureaucrat as Jackson's statewide campaign manager. In Pittsburgh, whose Mayor Peter Flaherty was the state's principal Democratic politician to endorse Carter,

the decisive factor in Carter's relatively strong showing was not Flaherty's endorsement, but the overwhelming hatred felt for the agent Abel leadership by the USWA rank and file steelworkers, who sent AFL-CIO backed candidates down to defeat.

Overall, the peanut farmer Carter outpolled Jackson by 2-1 in rural areas, but ran only 3-2 statewide — proving that the talk of "strong working class support" for Carter is sheer flummery. It is only when the effect of the Labor Party on the election is considered, however, that the actual message delivered by the Pennsylvania electorate begins to emerge.

#### **USLP Candidate Place 2nd in West Philly**

The clearest indication of Labor Party impact was shown in two special elections in Philadelphia held on the same day as the primary.

Running for State Representative in West Philadelphia, in a predominantly black district against two black opponents, the Labor Party's Bob Fow placed second with an "official" 15 per cent of the vote, finishing well ahead of his Republican opponent.

Fow may well have received more than double the official returns. In South Philadelphia, the Labor Party's Teresa Salera, also running in a special election for State Representative, was defrauded of all but 46 votes in an area which Carter had predicted on national television the day before the election would be the scene of significant vote fraud. Within forty-eight hours after the polls closed, the USLP had already collected in one precinct twice as many notarized affidavits from voters who attested they had voted for Salera as actual votes recorded for Salera in that precinct.

Attorneys for the Labor Party will be in court next week seeking a declaratory judgment overturning the election results and mandating new elections on the grounds of obvious, massive vote fraud.

#### **The Labor Party Machine**

A profile sketch of Labor Party propaganda penetration and influence in the two Philadelphia districts, and a more general picture of Labor Party organizing in the U.S.A. as whole, demonstrates the fraud beyond any reasonable doubt and helps to clarify the point that in moving out of the control of the Democratic Party and the AFL-CIO bureaucracy, the rank and file has moved into the Labor Party column.

South Philadelphia, the site of the Salera campaign and generally described as a Rizzo stronghold, is in fact a Labor Party "red zone." The Labor Party has functioned as a neighborhood institution in the predominantly Italian American area since Bernard Salera, husband of the candidate for State Representative, ran for Congress there in the 1974 elections. The corner of Broad and Snyder, where the Labor Party holds regular campaign rallies, is popularly known in the neighborhood as "Salera's corner." The Labor Party newspaper sold at rates of up to 15 per manhour at this location during this year's campaign.

In four six-by-eight block areas in this South Philadelphia neighborhood, the Labor Party sold 400 copies of its theoretical magazine, *The Campaigner*, during a 30 day period this spring in addition to several hundreds more copies of the party International Development Bank pamphlet, the Emergency Employment Act proposal, and 1976 Labor Party platform — the basic programmatic literature of the LaRouche-for President campaign.

The effect of these sales is multiplied many times over by a

continual process of discussion of the Labor Party through "organic" networks of friends, co-workers, relatives, community organizations, etc., many of which have developed a self-conscious social identity as part of a "Labor Party machine."

On a given day, therefore, the Party is capable of mobilizing many times its still relatively small number of Labor Committee cadre in a self-expanding "chain reaction" to act directly on the international situation, through pressure on both Congressional and local politicians and trade-union officials.

The cumulative effect of this day-to-day organizing on the Democratic Party in Philadelphia is, paradoxically, more dramatically evident in Fow's West Philadelphia district, where the Labor Party extensive propaganda penetration and more than a dozen worker "machine" networks represent a qualitatively lesser developed example of the same "red zone" phenomenon. In this predominantly black working class area, the Democratic machine traditionally weaker than in South Philadelphia, is now in total shambles.

State Rep. Lucien Blackwell, who was under strong constituency pressure to introduce the Labor Party's debt moratorium and EEA to the city council earlier this year, gave in to a Democratic Party arm-twisting and instead filed a bill memorializing Humphrey-Hawkins fascist "full employment" legislation actively opposed by the Labor Party. As a result, this year's primary found the handful of voters who turned out to the polls, most of them Democratic party precinct captains and officials and their periphery who turned out mainly to protect their local fiefdoms — splitting their tickets to vote for Fow who was running for Blackwell's vacated seat as State Rep. That vote, estimated by the Labor Party at up to 40 per cent of Fow's total, thus represents a direct defection from Democratic Party organizers in West Philadelphia to the Labor Party column.

Although the institutionalization of the Labor Party in these two districts is qualitatively well advanced, this is by no means a unique phenomenon. In the working class suburb of Chester outside Philadelphia last week, workers at one unemployment center chased Senator Jackson's wife, aides, and photographers off the premises. "The Labor Party is here every day telling us what's going on in the world and what to do about it," the workers told the shaken members of Jackson's campaign. "We don't want you coming here to get a few cheap votes."

#### **National Significance**

Putting the Labor Party's national propaganda penetration of more than 40,000 copies of *New Solidarity* sold per wee, well over 100,000 copies of major programmatic documents sold and the several millions of leaflets the party has circulated in periods of national emergency since the LaRouche campaign began last spring, together with the institutionalized presence the Labor Party has built up in Philadelphia, Detroit, Northern New Jersey and other working class centers within the East Coast, Midwest and West Coast industrial corridors, it becomes obvious that the Labor Party is far and away the single most influential political force in the U.S. working class today.

Even more important than the Party's considerable organizational strength at this time is the indisputable fact that it is the only institution offering U.S. workers an

alternative to the austerity and cold war policies peddled by both the leading Republican and Democratic candidates. peddled by both the leading Republican and Democratic candidates.

The public collapse of Jackson and Humphrey, leaving the Democrats without even a token "pro-labor" candidate, leaves the Labor Party in a "takeoff situation" in which its strength and influence will expand exponentially in a matter of weeks.

This has been acknowledged by Democratic and Republican politicians who agree on little else. Most notably, Chicago's Mayor Richard Daley has let it be known through his party machine, a far more homogenous and tighter-knit crew that the Rizzo's Philadelphia operation that if local Democrats sponsor Labor Party legislation the Labor Party will win at least 20 per cent of the vote and drive the Democrats out of office. White House circles have indicated on

more than one occasion that their scenario for a Ford victory in November rests on the assumption that the Labor Party will siphon off massive Democratic party support, enabling Ford to remain in office as a minority President.

Wall Street's apparent choice of Carter as the Democratic Party standardbearer, however, will only accelerate working class motion away from the Democrats without helping Ford, the man whose stupidity and lack of moral courage has allowed Henry Kissinger to threaten humanity with nuclear holocaust no less than three times in the past year. Provided Wall Street's renewed drive for World War III is stopped — and that the Labor Party succeeds in its campaign to prevent the enforcement of Nazi police state election measures — typified by the Salera fraud in South Philadelphia — LaRouche will be elected in November and installed in the White House next January.