

Cleveland's message to Kennedy

Some important conclusions are to be drawn from the pattern of voting in the Nov. 6 local elections across the United States. In at least four key U.S. cities—Boston, Cleveland, San Francisco, and Buffalo—the message to prognosticators of the 1980 presidential race is that Senator Edward M. Kennedy, who announced his candidacy for the Democratic nomination officially on Nov. 7, is already in a good deal of trouble. Some observers are even asking if the *intention* of the Kennedy candidacy is to hopelessly split the party and ensure its defeat next year.

Perhaps the most significant of the black eyes voters gave the Kennedy machine occurred in Cleveland, where radical-liberal Mayor Dennis Kucinich went down to defeat despite his endorsement by such Kennedyite celebrities as Jane Fonda and Ralph Nader. Cleveland, a city where registered Democrats outnumber Republicans 7 to 1, elected a Republican, Ohio Lt. Governor George Voinovich to replace the "boy mayor" whose two-year term had all but destroyed a once proud city.

The defeat (by implication) for Senator Kennedy was delivered by the very same white-ethnic and black combination of voters that is commonly referred to as his "base." And the timing, on the eve of the Massachusetts Senator's formal announcement of his presidential candidacy, could not have been more ominous. Observers around the country noted that last spring, when the reelection of Kucinich seemed probable, the Democratic Party of Cleveland's Cuyahoga County went on record as the first in the nation to endorse Kennedy.

Kucinich's defeat was effected by

the combined efforts of the LaRouche Democratic presidential campaign organization, the anti-Kucinich Democratic black machine on Cleveland's east side, and white ethnic machines on the west side.

In Buffalo, the Democratic candidate for Erie County Executive, Frank McGuire, who had been personally endorsed a week before at a rally by Ted Kennedy, was trounced by a 2-to-1 margin as the result of a revolt in Democratic ranks. Boston Mayor Kevin White won a landslide victory against avowed Kennedyite Joseph Timilty. In San Francisco, the liberal Dianne Feinstein machine has been forced into a runoff in the mayoral and District Attorney races.

Very clearly, the mood in the American electorate is not going toward the brand of radical-liberalism that Kennedy represents. Nor, as many observers have pointed out, did Kennedy's television interviews over the previous weekend on the subject of Chappaquiddick redeem his political fortunes. Those willing to look past the unanswered questions about the "incident" could

hardly overlook the candidate's downright incoherency.

Last spring, we predicted that the New York Council on Foreign Relations would field two priggish nominees in the 1980 election—Alexander Haig for the Republicans, and Ted Kennedy for the Democrats. We also noted that Lyndon LaRouche's candidacy on a program openly counterposed to the CFR's plans and its habit of preselecting the presidential choices could upset that scenario, which called for Haig (or a stand-in, like current GOP frontrunner John Connally) to win the election.

Our international friends should now look closely at the outlook on the 1980 vote, just one year away. The CFR appears more than willing to destroy the Democratic Party entirely with a Carter-Kennedy showdown, in order to prevent the "LaRouche option" from succeeding. But LaRouche now stands an excellent chance of reaping the disaffected Democratic (and Republican) vote that said goodbye to Dennis Kucinich in Cleveland.

— Nora Hamerman

The Week in Brief

The Carter administration has embarked on a plan to shut down nuclear power in the United States for good. Already the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has declared a temporary moratorium on the licensing of seven nuclear plants about to come into operation. The NRC is also considering a Three Mile Island Commission recommendation that all nuclear plants located within 10 miles

of a major urban center be shut down.

Furthermore, by fostering a climate of hysteria, the NRC has contributed to the closing of five out of six of the nation's commercial nuclear waste disposal sites—thus threatening the shutdown of all nuclear fission plants as well as vital cancer and medical diagnostics and treatment.

The closings follow the first waves of industrial shutdown as a result of the high-interest policies of Federal Reserve Chairman Volcker. Experts predict that the nuclear plant closings could result in as much as a 25 percent cut in electric power supply, resulting in grave economic losses to the economy.

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Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev's Oct. 6 arms negotiation offer was not "propaganda" but was intended as a negotiating package that could give a new impulse to the Vienna troop reduction talks, according to an interview given by two top Soviet officials to the West German weekly *Der Spiegel* Nov. 5. Central Committee officials V. Falin (former ambassador to Bonn) and V. Zagladin insisted that the Soviet offers be taken seriously before a NATO decision to deploy new medium-range missiles in Europe causes a serious deterioration in East-West relations.

Falin emphasized that the United States views installation of these missiles—the first targeted against the U.S.S.R. from West Germany—as necessary in order to conduct "limited" regional nuclear wars. Soviet military doctrine rejects this concept entirely. If NATO does decide at its Dec. 12 meeting to introduce these new weapons, the Soviet Union will have to respond, Falin said. "This is not a threat but a fact." In particular, if West Germany abandons its commitment to detente and goes for an arms buildup, the whole

strategic situation in Europe would be completely changed, said Falin.

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Japanese Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira won a narrow victory against intraparty rivals to retain his post, but it is "only the beginning and not the end of the fight" to depose him vowed a top-level political leader within the ruling Liberal-Democratic Party (LDP). Ohira beat out former Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda 135-125 in the first vote. The LDP could not agree on a unified candidate to present to the Diet (parliament).

The new cabinet just announced by Ohira, for the most part, is made up of "unknowns" and emphasizes that Ohira's opponents—Fukuda, former Prime Minister Miki, and Yasuhiro Nakasone—refused to strike a deal with Ohira. It is described in Tokyo as a "cabinet not to last more than a few months."

The question making the rounds of Tokyo is whether the fight will continue to be conducted on a level which appears to the public as only a personality struggle or will the actual issues in the campaign come out. One issue is what is the hold Washington has over Ohira and his ally former Premier Kakuei Tanaka that makes them so subservient? The anti-Ohira leader cited above indicated this issue might be forced when he stated: "The real issue in the fight is morality and ethics in politics. Ohira and Tanaka are dirty, mafia-linked politicians."

Israeli Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon was accused this week of trying to "topple" the Israeli government and bring about a full-fledged government crisis.

In a heated special Cabinet session called to discuss the controversial issue of settlements on the illegally occupied West Bank, Defense Minister Ezer Weizman charged that Sharon was colluding with the Gush Emunim religious fanatics to obstruct plans by the Israeli army to forcibly dismantle the settlement of Elon Moreh, which the Israeli Supreme Court recently ruled was illegal. Weizman threatened to resign from office if Sharon prevented the army from implementing the Supreme Court order.

The Weizman-Sharon confrontation brings the government crisis in Israel to a head. Allies of Sharon in the government, such as newly appointed Finance Minister Yigal Hurwitz, are trying to use the atmosphere of crisis to ram through a series of drastic economic austerity measures that would be coupled with a hardening of Israeli foreign policy, as part of an effort to "fundamentalize" the Israeli population along the lines of "pure Zionism."

One foreign commentator and sympathizer of Israel, Rafael Seligmann of West Germany's *Die Welt* newspaper, warned on Nov. 8 that this process was leading Israel "toward political isolation and economic disaster.... The population is filled up with tranquilizers, with drugs, and is losing touch with reality."