

discussion of the 1980 U.S. presidential race and in the words of Franklin, acceptable options in both parties. Jimmy Carter, former Commissioner placed into the White House by this crowd in 1976, is an acceptable candidate in the Democratic Party. But this is not sufficient. Franklin and his fellow commissioners fear that the economy will “soon catch up to Jimmy Carter.” He may be propped up long enough to get through the primaries, Franklin recently commented, but he “will have a hell of a time making it through the general election.” The plan is for Carter to formulate a “cosmetic” economic policy package that has little hope of success, but it one flavored with some “emergency actions” that will take people off his back for a while.

The real problem, Franklin thinks, is that “no one really knows what to do in the short term about the economy and poor Jimmy Carter is going to pay for it.” Franklin pointed out that the only thing saving Carter right now from an angry public is Senator Edward Kennedy. Kennedy is viewed as such a total incompetent by the American public that Democrats will vote for Carter. As long as no one else makes headway in the Democratic Party, then Carter is assured of the nomination. His real fall from grace, Franklin indicates, will come after the Democratic convention in August.

This means that the Trilateral Commission must find an acceptable candidate in the Republican Party. Franklin and others have identified Commissioner John Anderson and George Bush as acceptable candidates. Anderson, however, is not yet viewed as a real possibility to get the nomination. Former Commissioner George Bush is a preferred candidate, but his campaign, despite “the best efforts of many good people,” is faltering.

Ronald Reagan, whose troops waged successful warfare against the Commission in the recent New Hampshire primary, is totally unacceptable to most members of the Commission. He must be stopped, said Franklin, or if not stopped “slowed down and placed in a harness.”

If the combination of Bush and Anderson can't stop Reagan, then somebody else will have to do it. Franklin identified the most likely “somebody” as former President Gerald Ford, whose top advisor is Commissioner Henry Kissinger. Ford will be meeting over the course of the next week in Washington with several U.S. Commissioners, including Kissinger and will decide soon on making an open run for the White House.

Franklin and his friends resent the attacks on them by Reagan and others for manipulating U.S. politics.

“It is true that Jimmy Carter was a Commissioner,” says Franklin. “It is also true that many of his top personnel and cabinet officers are Commissioners. But that would be true of any person who is elected. We are not really a conspiracy.”

Will Trilateralists be able to stop Ronald Reagan?

by L. Wolfe

The “boys in the back room” at the New York Council on Foreign Relations and its offshoot, the Trilateral Commission, are decided that Ronald Reagan is not the preferred presidential candidate of the Republican Party. It is not that they particularly fear Mr. Reagan as an individual. What concerns people like Trilateral director George Franklin and others is the potential of a Reagan candidacy to mobilize a grassroots constituency within the U.S. against the Commission and its policies.

Franklin and others expressed this fear in the aftermath of the Feb. 26 New Hampshire primary. They openly admit that it was the mobilization of the Reaganites at the local level in New Hampshire against the Trilateral Commission that produced a victory of landslide proportions for Reagan over the commission's George Bush.

It was this victory which prompted the Trilateral Commission to move to regain control over the GOP.

As of this writing, in the wake of primary results in Massachusetts and Vermont, the GOP race has been scrambled. Enough life was breathed into the sagging campaign of former Trilateral Commissioner George Bush to get him through the southern primaries and into the March 18 Illinois primary. Trilateral Commission member John Anderson—thanks to an extensive campaign by Walter Cronkite, the *New York Times*, and other media outlets—has been catapulted into national prominence; the irony is that most of his votes in both Massachusetts and Vermont came from “liberal” Democrats and independents, who crossed over to vote for “straight-talking John” under Cronkite's prodding. And just on the sidelines is former President Gerald Ford, whose fortunes are known to be manipulated by Trilateral Commissioner and former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger; Ford will enter the race if Kissinger sees fit.

The apparent strategy of the Trilaterals is to deadlock the July convention, denying Reagan a first ballot nomination. This requires keeping "blocs of delegate votes" committed to candidates like Bush, Anderson and if necessary Ford, keeping Reagan's delegate totals below the required "half plus one."

This ploy is facilitated by party reforms which provide for proportional allocation of delegates in every primary state with the exception of Reagan's own California. If the "preferred" candidates Bush, Anderson and Ford stay in the race to the end, it may be possible to tie the convention in knots, setting up a deal that would ease Reagan out of the nomination "for the good of the party." This is being prepared by a barrage of recent columns in the media, about Reagan leading the party towards a 1964 Goldwater-type rout, in which the GOP would not only lose the White House but seats in Congress as well.

None of this may work, so the Trilateral strategists have a "fallback option": If Reagan can't be stopped from getting the nomination, take control of his campaign by making a "preferred" candidate his running mate. Some Republican insiders are already suggesting Bush, or perhaps former NATO Supreme Commander General Alexander Haig, Jr., who was himself once fielded as a possible presidential candidate.

The campaign of Senator Howard Baker is now a footnote in history, fading away after New England primary defeats. Baker, also acceptable to the Trilateral Commission, even had the backing of Henry Kissinger. He was not "saleable," so his campaign was collapsed. Many of his top advisors will likely head for a Ford campaign.

John Connally, touted throughout the early going as a top contender, could be out of the race by next week. His own people are saying that if he can't pull something off in South Carolina, he is through. Never has one campaign spent so much money—more than 12 million dollars—and netted so little. The real story is that Connally tried to make a deal with "New York back room boys" at the CFR, but in the end, they dumped him overboard.

Here, based on information from sources close to the campaigns, is a status report on the key GOP contenders.

Ronald Reagan

After his smashing victory in New Hampshire, some people in Ronald Reagan's camp were talking of rolling over the opposition, possibly by as early as the middle of this month. Given the results in Massachusetts and Vermont a week later, those hopes now look premature. Reagan is generally conceded the Southern primaries, with the possibility that he may run into some trouble in

South Carolina. While his voter potential in Illinois is strong, there are some doubts that his machine is properly mobilized to deliver a large vote.

One Reagan aide reported this week that the press had suckered some people into shooting off their mouths about how well their candidate might do in Illinois; these statements have found their way into the press and could be used to set up false expectations, said the aide.

Much hoopla has been made about Reagan's firing of former *wunderkind* John Sears as campaign manager and the shake-up in the Reagan camp. The sacking of political wheeler-dealer Sears was viewed by various political analysts as marking a turn "rightward" that could mean problems in some of the populous states. Similarly, reports that the Reagan camp has already spent \$12 million, or more than two-thirds of its \$17.6 million federal spending limit, were said to cut into "crucial media spending" for states like Illinois and New York.

This may be a blessing in disguise. Reagan is apparently now committed to mobilizing more of a grass roots push with a volunteer organization, the type of operation that proved successful in New Hampshire.

The real question for Ronald Reagan is whether he has learned the lessons of his New Hampshire success: that his vote was produced by an aggressive attack on the Trilateral conspiracy from a number of sources—his own campaign organization, William Loeb of the *Manchester Union Leader* and the campaign of Democratic contender Lyndon H. LaRouche, whose attacks on the "silk-stocking crowd" behind George Bush helped set the tone for the primary. So far, though many of Reagan's local organizations have given signals that they will take up this battle cry, there are signs that the new national leadership is going to force Reagan to back off the attack. If he does, Reagan could stumble, just enough for the Trilaterals to catch him and deadlock the convention.

George Bush

George Bush may be the "preferred" candidate of the Commission but it looks like he just can't cut it as a campaigner.

Bush was given a media hype prior to the Iowa caucus that helped produce his "upset." Insiders say that this hype made credible some last minute maneuvers that stacked the caucuses and gave him his narrow victory. But Bush has no base of support in the general population, and people familiar with New Hampshire, when they step back from the media coverage, will tell you that he got his "voter profile" in the primary. Poor George apparently didn't understand this. As his campaign began to slip in the last days, he started panicking. His staff

admits that what happened in the now famous Nashua debate was a "blunder," but what only a few will admit is that Bush's pique at Nashua is typical Bush. "George couldn't take the pressure," says an aide. Others on his staff report that Bush was hurt badly by the relentless attack on the Trilateral Commission and his blue blood background. "He doesn't like his heritage being attacked," said a top aide.

George Bush got his votes in New Hampshire, and was swamped by Reagan three to one.

With the bubble burst, Bush ran scared in Vermont and Massachusetts. Though he eeked out a win in the Bay State, his tepid performance has his handlers worried. Many now doubt that he has the mettle to even be a puppet President. They have told him to get specific and to start attacking Carter and Reagan. He has done the latter, but still speaks from a fog on the issues. Top aides want him to come out swinging with a speech on foreign policy and defense, attacking the Carter administration's policies. His aides, linked to the former Team B of intelligence specialists, drafted a speech on the subject. It still sits on his desk.

The problem with Bush, said a top aide with an intelligence community background, is that he is "something of a coward ... he is afraid to fight out in the open. ... It is part of his prep-school attitude, you know, gentlemen's disagreements kept out of sight." Another GOP source summed up the Bush problem concisely, "He is a political lightweight with a lot of back room people behind him. He may not make it all the way."

Bush must have some votes arranged for him in Illinois to help him stay in the race to the end. His aides are still waiting for him to deliver that speech.

John Anderson

Anderson should be dubbed the candidate of Walter Cronkite. CBS evening news did no less than 4 spots on a man who, before votes in New England, received less than 5 percent of the vote in Iowa, and who isn't even running in the south. In column after column and TV spot after TV spot, Anderson was identified as the man who refuses to compromise on his principles, the iconoclast liberal of this year's GOP sweepstakes. Message aside, it made his name known, and this set up the second phase of the operation. Anderson began attracting hordes of college kids, environmentalists, liberals, stragglers from the Bush campaign, and similar types.

His campaign is modeled after Eugene McCarthy's "children's crusade" in 1968. As McCarthy's campaign was a Trojan horse inside the Democratic Party, so is Anderson's inside the GOP. Significantly his campaign is receiving funding from normal "liberal Democrats" conduits such as financiers Stewart Mott and West Coast entrepreneur Stanley Sheinbaum. These are the same

types who fund the environmentalist movement, the Institute for Policy Studies and similar centers of domestic subversion of our Constitution. Anderson's campaign while having a purpose inside the GOP, also has another goal; the standard Anderson speech includes a pitch for the building of a "citizens' coalition," the same kind of terminology used by Barry Commoner and his citizen's party crowd. While Anderson himself will stay inside the GOP through the campaign, don't be surprised to find his "armies" join with those of Jerry Brown and form a post-convention Third Party movement.

The media, including the "CBS Evening News," and the *New York Times* described this as "new excitement" in the GOP. But more knowledgeable people thought otherwise; "These aren't Republicans," said one astonished observer. "They aren't even Democrats, they're kooks." Many were Democrats, but most definitely of the kook variety associated with the campaigns of Zen-Buddhist Jerry Brown and Edward Kennedy. It was this kook vote, that was used to artificially enlarge the presence of John Anderson in Vermont and Massachusetts. Even Walter Cronkite was forced to admit that the larger-than-expected Anderson vote in Vermont and Massachusetts came from "independents and Democrats." In the case of Vermont, more than half his votes

"He'll have to explain 'Skull & Bones,' too"

The following are excerpts from an article which appeared in the Wall Street Journal on Feb. 26.

MANCHESTER, N.H. — When George Bush was a student at Yale University, he joined Skull and Bones, a society so secret its members are supposed to get up and leave the room should a nonmember be gauche enough to mention its name.

As a grown man, Mr. Bush for a while was a member of the Trilateral Commission.

Those who subscribe to conspiratorial theories about how Yale University and the rest of the world are run believe it is a natural progression. After all, these people say, Skull and Bones wishes it ran Yale. And the Trilateral Commission wishes it ran the world in a tidy new order of its own making. (The meetings of both, it should be noted, are closed to the press.)

Here in New Hampshire, Mr. Bush is under attack for associating with such people. His joining Skull and Bones, its detractors say, shows what an Ivy League elitist he really is.

were from the Kennedy-Brown wing of the Democratic Party. Some people have suggested that the vote was in fact organized by the Kennedy and Brown crew in those states.

Anderson's "success" has begot even more media coverage. This will no doubt add up to a credible vote total in his home state of Illinois, though he won't be able to count votes from Democrats there—at least, the law says he can't. If he can make a credible showing Anderson will likely be able to sustain his campaign, further chipping away at the Reagan delegate total.

Gerald Ford

Some people are saying that Gerald Ford is the heir apparent to the Trilateral confusion sown in the GOP. One scenario has him announcing sometime later this month, likely on or before March 20, the last filing day for the Ohio primary. This is strongly hinted by several Ford confidants, as well as by Ford's own statements in a recent *New York Times* interview. But GOP people point out that Ford doesn't have a real campaign staff together now, and it might take critical time to put one together; others say that with the Trilateral Commission backing you, this is not an important factor.

But it is the Trilateral Commission that stirs the strongest bile. It has become a genuine, if unlikely, issue in today's New Hampshire primary....

These fringe groups became even more shrill when Jimmy Carter, an obscure member of the Trilateral Commission from Georgia, was elected President. He quickly chose Zbigniew Brzezinski, the commission's executive director, as his national security adviser. And if the mention of the word "Trilateral" meant members had to leave the room, half the current Cabinet would be out the door. Former Trilateralists include the Vice President and the Secretaries of State, Defense and Treasury.

Now, the critics say, the Trilateralists have seized upon George Bush—just as they chose Jimmy Carter—to win a presidential nomination....

John Connally says flatly the Republican Party "will never nominate a man who belonged to the Trilateral Commission." Ronald Reagan deplores the general philosophy of the commission and its "undue influence" on the policies of the Carter administration. But Rep. Anderson, who is plugging along as the "liberal" GOP candidate in New Hampshire, says he is still a Trilateralist—and proud of it.

"It's just old biddies" who think it's a conspiracy, Mr. Anderson says.

More than anyone else, though, it is William Loeb, the irascible publisher of the *Manchester Union Lead-*

While columnists drag out their calculators to compute possible Ford delegate counts, it should be pointed out that Ford doesn't have to win, just make a credible enough showing to contribute to a convention deadlock. But this scenario is viewed as risky to several insiders. There is every chance that Ford might be beaten by Reagan in head-on battles. After all, Reagan only narrowly lost to him in 1976 when Ford had the advantage of being the incumbent President. And if Ford is beaten, then his supporters in the New York back rooms really have no one else left in reserve, save possibly Alexander Haig. So another scenario has Ford not making any formal announcement and letting the others deadlock the convention. Ford could then be drafted as an acceptable compromise candidate. This scenario also has its risks. What if Reagan knocks out the other candidates and it's too late to deny him the nomination?

GOP sources say that Ford overplayed his hand in the *Times* interview and is now forced to run, or not be viewed as a credible candidate. How he will do is another question. Reagan privately wouldn't mind Ford running; despite Ford's claims of being popular and having a good record in office, Reagan people remember that it was Gerry Ford who lost the White House to the Trilateral Commission's 1976 candidate, Jimmy Carter.

er, who has made Trilateralism an issue in today's primary. Mr. Loeb's candidate, Ronald Reagan, desperately needs to rein in the galloping Trilateralist Mr. Bush.

In one of his typical front-page editorials, Mr. Loeb wrote the other day, "It is quite clear that this group of extremely powerful men is out to control the world"...

Mr. Bush has been asked about the Trilateral Commission so many times that he and his aides carry with them copies of a prepared statement. The commission, the statement says, "is a private group that was formed to bring people of various viewpoints together to discuss public policy issues of concern...." It adds, "To suggest that those that belong to the commission ... are involved in a conspiracy is absurd."

It isn't absurd to Lyndon LaRouche, a candidate in the Democratic primary...

Mr. LaRouche thinks Skull and Bones is a conspiracy too. It is "no mere fraternity," he says darkly. "It is a very serious, very dedicated conspiracy against the U.S. Constitution." Each initiate to "Bones," he says, becomes a "dedicated agent of British secret intelligence for life."

So far Mr. Bush hasn't prepared a statement defending Skull and Bones. But the way things are going, he may have to.