

Campaign 1980 by Kathleen Murphy



Ed Koch plays footsie with GOP

On June 6, New York's Ed Koch became the first Democratic Party official ever to testify before Republican Party platform hearings. Introduced by Senator Jacob Javits (R-NY), who characterized him as someone with "just the right combination of being tough and being sympathetic," Koch so impressed the platform committee with his witty discussion of urban problems that Republican National Committee chairman Bill Brock invited him to join the GOP on the spot.

Koch's appearance at the New York hearings came the day after it was revealed that Ronald Reagan's national finance chairman, William Simon, has offered to pull together Republican support for Koch's reelection bid next year. "Koch is the best thing that's happened to New York since Fiorello LaGuardia," Simon told the *New York Times*. Whether Simon, who as Treasury Secretary in the Ford Administration, led the fight to deny New York City federal aid, agrees with Koch's publicly stated desire to "make New York look like Peking" is not yet known.

Reagan camp split on China Card

Sources close to the Reagan camp report that the former California governor's top political advisers are divided over how far the U.S. should go in beefing up the People's Republic of China economically and militarily as a flank against the Soviet Union.

A group led by Richard Allen, the campaign's national issues coordinator, is pushing Reagan to advocate stronger U.S. ties with the PRC. Allen, who told a group of European foreign policy experts last week that China should be considered an ally of the U.S., had been working closely with John Sears before Sears' ouster as campaign manager last February to set up a tour of China for Reagan.

Opposing Allen's efforts are several old Reagan hands, including former press secretary Lyn Nofziger and consultants Michael Deaver and Peter Hannaford, who are telling Reagan to stop toying with the PRC and instead reiterate his traditional strong support for Taiwan.

Where Reagan himself stands, as in most things, isn't very well known. But he could be leaning toward the Nofziger grouping, which is certainly where most of the voters supporting him would tend to line up. During campaign appearances in the past two weeks, Reagan has said several times that if elected president, he would move toward reestablishment of "official relations" with the nationalist Chinese on Taiwan.

That, according to Allen's faction, would have an obvious repercussion on the "China card," as Peking would view a warming in U.S.-Taiwan relations as a rejection of the process of U.S. "normalization" of relations with the

mainland, not to mention the outright military alliance now in the works.

GOP insiders tell us that it was Sears and members of the Allen grouping who planted a front-page story in the June 6 *Washington Post* revealing that the Deaver-Hannaford public relations firm has since 1977 had Taiwan as a client, in an effort to embarrass that faction and lessen their influence with Reagan.

Anderson seeks boost from Europe

Independent presidential candidate John Anderson is planning a trip to Europe and the Mideast this summer. According to John Topping, former director of the liberal Republican Ripon Society and a national figure in Anderson's campaign: "The tour could be the thing that really propels Anderson into front-runner status. If we can set up meetings with top leaders in Europe—including some of the opposition, like Franz-Josef Strauss—and then have the European press begin commenting that Anderson appears to be the only U.S. presidential candidate who knows anything about the allies' needs, that's good. The real importance will be when the U.S. media, say sometime in early September, begin to feed this positive response back into the U.S. That's what will really give us an edge."

Topping added that it's "the consensus in Europe that none of the major party contenders has a foreign policy worth a damn. They feel confronted with a much worse choice than they've had in the last four elections." Former Undersecretary of State George Ball, a staunch Anderson backer, is reportedly helping to coordinate plans for the Anderson tour.