

The Democratic fix

Carter's gangsters make the rules

by Vin Berg

There shall be no debate at the Democratic National Convention. Only Jimmy Carter and Edward Kennedy may be nominated; Jimmy Carter will win the nomination for President. And if you don't like it, you will be thrown out.

Those are now the official rules of the Democratic National Convention. They were just voted up in Washington D.C. at the Mayflower Hotel. The convention rules committee meeting there July 8 passed Rule 11-H, which forbids anyone pledged to Carter to vote otherwise on the first ballot.

Of course, the convention delegates themselves must approve 11-H, but there is a "Catch-22"—anyone seeking to violate the rule by talking of an "open convention" can be removed, during the voting itself, and even before the convention.

According to Rule 11-H, you can't vote against Rule 11-H.

Plenty of thuggery was required to get this passed, obviously. But just as clearly, in the back rooms, a deal was made involving at least Edward Kennedy, who dropped his challenge to the Carter rules.

Kennedy, Senator Henry Jackson and other Carter opponents who had talked much of an "open convention" in past months allowed the measures to pass without debate. And the following day, a Kennedy caucus decided to drop a challenge "minority report" against Carter's rules, challenging only 11-H, and expecting to lose.

As a result, the Democratic Party now appears committed to suicide. Behind a national ticket featuring the worst President in American history, the Democrats face loss of the White House to a probable Reagan landslide, and loss of majorities in both houses of Congress on Carter's "coattails."

One dark-horse candidate has not capitulated. "Look to the walls of the convention in New York City," writes Lyndon LaRouche in his alternative draft platform for the party. "If you permit rule-change 11-H to be rammed through by Carter's gangsters, recall the biblical account of Belshazzar's Feast, and thus see in your mind's eye the

moving finger writing upon that wall, 'Mene, Mene, Tekel.' . . . Of such immoral cowardice comes the dishonorable doom of not only political parties, but whole empires, nations, and civilizations."

The rules

Carter gangster Donald Fowler of South Carolina, chairman of the rules committee, forced a vote which rejected a weak Kennedy proposal to retain the rules of the 1976 Democratic National Convention. He then forced a vote passing the Carter rules. As of now, they include:

- All delegates are bound to vote on the first ballot for the candidate in whose name they ran in the primaries. Thus "Rule 11-H" reads: "Delegates who seek to violate this rule may be replaced with an alternate of the same presidential preference by the presidential candidate or that candidate's authorized representatives at any time up to and including the presidential balloting at the National Convention."

- The number of delegate signatures needed on a petition to place a candidate's name in nomination are increased from 50 to 330, or 10 percent of all delegates; however, since delegates may sign only one petition, and the ceiling limiting signatures for one candidate has been removed, Carter gangsters may force delegates to sign only his and Kennedy's petitions—there will be no third candidates; LaRouche, Senator Robert Byrd, Secretary Muskie and Senator Jackson can be kept out.

- Debate at the convention will be drastically restricted, allowing only two spokesmen for and two against any resolution. Each spokesman is allowed to speak for only 10 minutes. In the past, there was no limit on speakers, and anyone recognized could speak for 20 minutes.

- Delegates' right to call for a one-by-one "roll call" vote on all issues except the nomination itself is eliminated—total power goes to the Carter-dominated state delegation chairmen.

Carter officials have already begun the "reign of terror" that Rule 11-H empowers them to conduct. "Any unfaithful delegate can be weeded out before being seated at the convention," Carter-Mondale Delegation Selection Director Tom Donilon told the press yesterday.

Carter-Mondale General Counsel Tim Smith told the press that "We want to ensure a political media event in New York, without somebody screwing it up."

It was a LaRouche spokesman, however, who summed up the meaning of the new rules, when he told the July 9 rules committee session: "A Carter candidacy is being created here," he said, "and a Carter candidacy means a landslide defeat for the Democratic Party and the nation by the incompetent Ronald Reagan in November."