

Campaign 1980 by Kathleen Murphy



Is Reagan breaking out of Trilateral control?

That's what some observers think may lie underneath the sudden spurt of vitriolic East Coast media attacks on Reagan.

Over the last two weeks, Reagan has embarked on a head-on offensive against two Carter administration policies—its relations to communist China and its abysmal handling of the U.S. economy. This not only hits Carter on his weakest flanks, but sets him against the Trilateral Commission faction in his own campaign apparatus.

If the trends continue, Reagan could soon be back on the track that gave him a landslide cross-party victory in the New Hampshire primary. There, by directly taking on his chief rival George Bush's close links to the Trilateral Commission, Reagan tapped the sentiment among the voting electorate that does not believe American economic decline and foreign policy debacles are inevitable.

Shortly thereafter, though, Reagan began to backtrack until by the Republican convention he was embracing Henry Kissinger, running on a platform that embodied the worst of the Trilateral Com-

mission's policies, and had named George Bush as his running mate.

Signs have mounted that traditional Republican constituencies he represents are embroiled in a fight with the so-called "Gang of Four"—Henry Kissinger, Richard Allen, William Casey and William Van Cleave.

In a speech to 400 Ohio Teamsters Aug. 27, Reagan blasted Carter for having "created a severe depression in our nation." He also attacked Carter for blaming Middle East Arabs for American industrial decline. "OPEC didn't delay the Alaska pipeline for years. OPEC hasn't delayed for years the completion of the nuclear power plant in Seabrook, N.H. . . ."

It seems that Reagan had ripped up the text prepared for him by economic adviser Alan Greenspan, an old Kissinger crony, on the advice of Midwestern Republican governors and congressmen, and instead went after "Carter's depression." Afterwards, a nearly apologetic Greenspan publicly asserted that Reagan was wrong. "It's more of a severe recession." Reagan issued his own clarification, which essentially repudiated Greenspan: "As far as I am concerned," he stated, "A recession is when your neighbor is out of work; a depression is when you're out of work; and a recovery is when Carter's out of work."

Despite media attempts to depict the Reagan-Greenspan split as typical Reagan "confusion," at his official campaign kick-off Sept. 1, he again targeted Carter's "depression economics." Reagan's Ohio campaign chief, Congressman Sam Devine, told *EIR* last week that Reagan "will continue to focus on Carter's economic debacle."

At the same time, Reagan's old guard, such as press spokesman Lyn Nofziger and chief of staff Ed

Meese, appears to be strengthening its position in the campaign, evidenced in part by the decision to have Reagan's long-time friend, Senator Paul Laxalt, travel with Reagan for the duration of the campaign. Laxalt stormed out of the Republican convention when George Bush was named as Reagan's running mate.

Anderson targets PD 59, China Card

Independent candidate John Anderson is making the Carter administration's new limited war strategy, Presidential Directive 59, a campaign issue along with its commitment to the China card. In his campaign platform, released over the Labor Day weekend, Anderson comments: "Concerning China, we believe that those who blithely talk of playing the fabled 'China Card' do not understand the nature of the relationship. It is not in our interest to give China an 'American card' for use in her relations with other East Asian countries or with the Soviet Union. . . . The Anderson-Lucey administration would work to discourage antagonism between Russia and China. . . . We should not become an arms supplier to China."

Anderson, meanwhile, took up the issue of the Carter administration's new military strategy in his official campaign kickoff speech Sept. 1. Anderson declared: "The clear implication of that presidential directive is," that "President Carter believes a nuclear war can be fought and won. . . . we'll lob a few at them . . . and back and forth and somebody's going to win and we'll sign a treaty. Don't you believe it. We aren't going to fight that kind of war unless we want to destroy life on this planet as we know it."