

# How free elections were abolished in Chicago: an eyewitness account

by Warren Hamerman

On the eve of the municipal election, the local representative of the national justice ministry called a dramatic press conference to announce that the national police and other federal agencies were taking jurisdiction for supervising the election to enforce the “integrity” of the ballot. Standing behind the justice ministry official were the heads of the national police force, the federal border and immigration police, and the national tax enforcement police. For several weeks leading up to this extraordinary press conference, the self-same head of the justice ministry had repeatedly been in the news for having initiated one federal grand jury after another which threatened to indict three-quarters of the politicians in the city.

Then, on election day itself, in the early afternoon, hours before the polls closed, and with radio reports proclaiming that thousands of federal agents and attorneys were deployed throughout the city, the same justice ministry official appeared with the emergency message that the national police had decided to “confiscate in advance” all election materials and ballots.

In fact, the local justice ministry official in the city was formerly the prize student of the governor of the state—himself previously the local justice ministry official in that same city before his “unexpected success” in politics.

Later that evening when the ballots were counted, the unexpected victor—the candidate who rose from the ranks of an oppressed minority to become the most militant advocate of austerity programs and of breaking up the existing political machines, was declared the winner in the first federally supervised local election in the nation’s history.

Was this Nazi Germany in the 1930s? Fascist Italy? Khomeini’s Iran in the early 1980s?

In fact, these events occurred in the Democratic mayoral primary in Chicago on Feb. 22, 1983, as the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) under Judge William Webster and the U.S. Justice Department installed black congressman Harold Washington as the Democratic mayoral candidate. Washington

was nominated over Richard Daley (the son of the former mayor, he had gone to his father’s sworn enemies at the *Chicago Sun Times* to cut a deal, and predictably was cut up himself in the process) and incumbent Jayne Byrne (the political puppet of the notoriously corrupt Burke family, who was publicly ridiculed for her repeated facelifts, unsavory underworld connections, and high daily dosage of the drug Valium).

International and national media attention has focused on the election results as a trend-setting racial confrontation in which black candidate Washington (with the proverbial 200 percent of the black vote) defeated the two white candidates, who split the white vote about 52 percent to 48 percent.

What happened is that the FBI and Justice Department have established a full-scale unconstitutional precedent by running the first police state election in America.

The candidate who won the primary, Harold Washington, benefited from a full-scale Orwellian deployment by the media, counterinsurgent operatives, and the national Republican Party, as well as the police-state apparatus of the FBI and Department of Justice. Washington is a special type of “new breed” politician, created to be an instrument of post-industrial society austerity programs disguised in “civil rights” rhetoric. Harold Washington was best known for ending his campaign rallies with the extraordinary militant call: “Brothers and sisters, let’s get about the business of raising taxes now.”

As a U.S. congressman, Washington was one of the leading advocates of the nuclear freeze; his campaign endorsement by Sen. Alan Cranston represented an attempt by the post-industrial society social-control planners to fuse the radical environmentalist freeze movement with that segment of the black political apparatus which Harold Washington represents—a domestic version of “militant third-worldist” Brandt Commission policies for “sharing” a drastically shrinking economic pie in a time of world depression.

Washington’s campaign manager, Al Raby, was trained

at the Chicago Theological Seminary, and then became an expert in implementing sterilization and depopulation programs as director of the Peace Corps in the Horn of Africa. Raby was long the Chicago head of the Chicago Combined Civic Organization (CCCO), a coordinating apparatus for neo-fascist "community control" operations. Raby has been a long-time associate of professional incendiary University of Chicago-controlled Jesse Jackson, who has been reliably reported to have been a Justice Department/FBI operative for at least a dozen years. Raby and Jackson were on the balcony with Martin Luther King in 1968, and disappeared just before the shots were fired which killed King. Speculation persists among private investigators concerning their possible complicity, but nothing has ever been proven.

A few days before the Chicago election, Jackson was in Washington meeting with officials of the Justice Department Civil Rights Division to coordinate the final phase of the Chicago scenario. Washington's press coordinator Chris Chandler is an expert on studying the hunting practices of ancient tribes; he is also a protégé of top operative Don Rose, the son of the one-time UPI bureau chief in Chicago who controls the local media manipulation apparatus. Other operatives in the Washington inner core include: Playboy Foundation head and ecologist Rebecca Sive-Tomasheffsky, reporter Chip Berlett of the pro-drug NORML (National Organization for Reform of Marijuana Laws), Haki Mahabuti of the Institute for Positive Education, Lou Palmer of the Chicago Black United Communities, which is connected to Yuri Andropov's assets in the Democratic Party, Louis Farakhan, head of the Nation of Islam, and others.

The key FBI/Department of Justice instrument for controlling the election was U.S. Attorney Dan K. Webb. At Northwestern Law School, Webb studied under Jim Thompson, the current governor of Illinois. Thompson, the Department of Justice glamour boy in Chicago when he was U.S. Attorney, was selected as the special prosecutor in the Spiro Agnew case. Thompson's other two protégés were Tyrone Fahner (formerly in the state attorney's office and now in the Meyer, Brown and Platt law firm) and Peter Vaira, who worked closely with Abscam prosecutor Thomas Puccio and currently is deployed into Philadelphia. In the final weeks of the campaign, Webb, together with the local heads of the FBI and IRS, were calling more press conferences and getting more prominent press coverage than were any of the candidates.

The Justice Department and FBI obviously had useful connections in the Illinois Republican apparatus through Governor Thompson. Justice and the FBI moved in hard into Richard Daley's camp when former Attorney General Edward Levi endorsed him; they had their hooks into the Byrne camp through the auspices of Ted Kennedy (her endorser), among others. The national police state apparatus proceeded to play all ends against the middle. A few key brushstrokes can paint the entire picture.

**Fact #1:** The local and national Republicans as well as some political idiots in and around the White House were up to their necks in approving an "anything goes" policy, carried away by their hope of installing a Republican as mayor of Chicago, or at least trying to ensure that the Republicans would win Illinois in the 1984 elections.

**Evidence:** One of the highest officials of the state Republican Party told me: "The national Republicans, and Percy and Thompson here, feel that if the nigger Washington wins the primary, then Epton has a chance of unifying all the whites behind him for mayor. There will be a huge Republican crossover—not to Byrne . . . but to Washington." (According to local election laws, members of the Republican party or independents can vote in the Democratic Primary by merely requesting such a ballot on election day; this type of vote is called a "crossover.") Such a crossover vote in fact occurred, and since the primary at least two white aldermen have defected from the Democratic ticket to back Republican candidate Bernard Epton for mayor on the self-stated grounds of "racial pride." Sources in Washington, D.C. report that several cabinet officials avidly followed the elections with the expectation that the Republicans could easily carry Illinois in the 1984 presidential race if anyone but Daley won. Before the elections, on-the-scene investigations in Chicago procured details of the specific mechanisms of the Republican deployment, which in fact conformed precisely with voting patterns on election day.

**Fact #2:** Cook County Democratic chairman Ed Vrdolyak, who was supposedly the unstoppable "fixer" for Jayne Byrne, was working for a Washington victory in order to plea-bargain his way out of federal charges.

**Evidence:** The day after the election, Vrdolyak negotiated a settlement with the IRS for the payment of \$100,000 in back taxes without penalty or indictment. Vrdolyak was known in Chicago as the leader of the East European mafia; he was also the alderman of the heavily white ethnic 10th Ward. Several days before the election *EIR* learned directly from sources around Vrdolyak that there would be a large GOP crossover to Washington, and Washington would do surprisingly well even in the 10th Ward. The overall evaluation we were given was that Vrdolyak was simply working primarily to avoid a federal indictment against himself.

**Fact #3:** Certain political advisers to Richard Daley were "turned" by the Justice Department under threat of indictment.

**Evidence:** One of Daley's key advisers predicted several weeks before the election that U.S. Attorney Dan Webb was about to open several new grand juries which could blow up against both Byrne and Daley people. Several of these people from both camps told me, "My first priority is to avoid an indictment mess; my second priority is getting my candidate elected." After the election, one of them sheepishly insisted that his candidate lost because "the Washington happening became a phenomenon, and the phenomenon was unstoppable."

**Fact #4:** The population was exposed to selected sensational stories of how elections are fixed, so that they accepted the presence of the FBI, IRS, Justice Department, and Immigration and Naturalization Service operatives as a necessary "intrusion" in the local election.

**Evidence:** Several days before the election a group of machine Democrats was indicted for over 200 instances of vote fraud during the previous fall's scandal-ridden gubernatorial race. On the morning of the mayoral election, city workers who had just been given the traditional "street money" to fix the results in their precincts were told that, with all the federal lawyers around, they would have to be careful. Said one: "I'm not about to get indicted; there's nothing wrong with voting phony 10 or 20 times the right way, but those other guys pulled the lever over 200 times and that's illegal!"

In fact, under the pretext of preventing vote fraud, the Department of Justice and FBI engaged in covering for one of the most criminal disenfranchisements in U.S. history.

### The Jones vote

LaRouche Democrat Sheila Jones, who campaigned for a New World Economic Order and the development of beam weapons as the "science driver" for getting the U.S. economy out of a depression, received a base-line minimum of 75,000 votes, yet she was officially awarded less than 1 percent of the vote. Why?

Jones's vote represented a mandate, on the eve of the Non-Aligned nations' summit in New Delhi, for *EIR* founder LaRouche's policy of a debtors' cartel and a New World Economic Order based on development. Had Jones received her official vote total, she would have emerged as the leader of the only stable constituency among Chicago citizens for directing the city out of the depression through exports to the Third World and infrastructural investment. While the Harold Washington campaign was programmed to ignite Civil War divisiveness at a time of crisis, Sheila Jones put forward the programs of Abraham Lincoln against colonialism.

Members of the Byrne, Daley, and Washington camps bragged that while the Justice Department was controlling the precincts closely, everyone was prepared to neutralize the Jones vote. That vote was greater than the margin that determined the spread between the first and third candidate. In Washington strongholds, Washington workers massively stole or destroyed Jones vote. In Daley areas and Byrne strongholds, they did likewise. In all three areas, the working assumption was that the FBI and Justice Department attorney would not be interested in what happened to the Jones vote.

The Jones campaign has presented to U.S. Attorney Webb and other officials detailed documentation of how her vote was stolen. Should the Justice Department and FBI refuse to act on the evidence, the police-state apparatus itself would be brought to light as guarantors of the vote fix.

For example, in the 16th Ward, in Chicago's South Side,

a black working-class district, Harold Washington rolled up huge margins over all candidates. In a telephone canvass of only a few hours, investigators identified 30 documentable Jones votes; while in the entire 16th Ward Jones was only given 14 votes! Sixteen affidavits have been collected in that ward from precincts where no Jones votes were even recorded. Scores of voters from other areas of the city have contacted the Jones campaign to report that their votes were not counted.

The voter surveys are substantiated by prima facie evidence of vote fraud found on official certificates of return filled out by election judges in the 16th Ward on election day. In Chicago's computer voting system, information submitted on the certificates of return is used to track what happens to ballots. This is supposed to prevent ballot substitution and other common methods of vote fraud. In 49 of the 54 precincts in this 16th Ward alone (Chicago has 50 wards in all), the number of votes cast for mayor was less than the total ballots issued, by factors as great as 20 percent per precinct. In the exit polls in these precincts, a 10 percent-plus vote for Jones was tallied. If the official returns are to be believed, 1 out of every 10 voters in the 16th Ward, for example, asked for a Democratic ballot but then did not vote in the hotly contested mayoral race. This extraordinary and unprecedented level of 10 to 20 percent unused and "spoiled" ballots corresponds to what would have been expected to be the Jones vote.

In a press statement issued on March 2, Sheila Jones challenged U.S. Attorney Webb to investigate information received by his office which proved that the Chicago mayoral primary was "permeated" with fraud. "If Webb refuses to investigate information turned over to his office by my campaign representatives," Jones stated, "that only proves that he was part of a very dirty scenario which has the whole city whispering. Every politician in this city knows that Harold Washington's alleged victory margin came from a mobilization of a heavy Republican crossover vote for Washington; this was part of a filthy scenario to bring this city to the brink of complete racial polarization and potential violence while Republicans capitalize on white emotions for their own purposes in 1984. If Webb refuses to investigate, this only proves what everyone has said—the whole hoopla about vote fraud control and prosecution was part and parcel of this scenario aimed at terrifying and intimidating traditional Chicago machine politics."

Jones stated, finally: "On the national level, the foes of Lyndon LaRouche in banker Manatt and Lane Kirkland's Democratic Party have sent out the word to keep the votes down for LaRouche candidates. They and their masters fear that a strong 'LaRouche Democrat' vote will give courage to Third World leaders for them to explode the debt bomb and renegotiate the present international payments crisis, on a basis which will ensure the survival and development of the Third World and the recovery of the U.S. economy through an export boom."