

Presidential election turns on the issue of 'Star Wars'

by Warren J. Hamerman

Barring a "shock development" in the final days of the presidential campaign, President Ronald Reagan will win the 1984 presidential election by a massive margin because he dumped the policies of Henry Kissinger and Paul Volcker after his first fumbling debate, and presented in his second debate the policies associated with the bipartisan American patriotic movement catalyzed by the Independent Democratic campaign of Lyndon LaRouche.

In the second debate, Reagan denounced the Kissingerian strategic doctrine of Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD) by name, and strongly defended his administration's Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI). Included in the President's formulations were specific concepts first spelled out in Lyndon H. LaRouche's widely circulated "Draft Memorandum of Agreement Between the United States of America and the U.S.S.R.": emphasizing a strategic proposal for the United States and Soviets to jointly share anti-missile beam-defense technology. In the debate the President said that the need for a deterrent capacity led him to propose research to see "if there isn't a defensive weapon that could defend against incoming missiles. And if such a defense could be found, wouldn't it be more humanitarian to say that now we can defend against nuclear war by destroying missiles instead of slaughtering millions of people?" When asked whether he would really share this technology with the U.S.S.R., Reagan replied "Why not? What if we did? And I hope we can. What if we come up with a weapon that renders those missiles obsolete. . . . Why not say to the Soviets, 'Look, here's what we can do, we'll even give it to you. Now will you sit down with us and once and for all get rid of these nuclear weapons?' And free mankind from that threat. I think that would be the greatest use of a defensive weapon."

Asked whether he thinks the Soviets are an "evil empire" intent on world domination, Reagan rejected the nonsense circulated by Kissinger and Lord Carrington that the Soviets were on a peace offensive, and unequivocally asserted: "I have said on a number of occasions exactly what I think about the Soviet Union. I retract nothing that I have said. I believe that many of the things they have done are evil in any concept of morality that we have. . . . And I told Mr. Gromyko that we don't like their system; they don't like ours. We're not going to change their system, and they sure better not try to change ours. . . . The Soviet Union has been engaging in the biggest military buildup in the history of man, at the same time that we tried the policy of unilateral disarmament, of weakness. . . . And now we're putting up a defense of our own, and I've made it plain we seek no superiority. We simply are going to provide a deterrent so it would be too costly to them if they are nursing any ideas of aggression against us. . . . There's been no change in my attitude at all. . . ."

In questions on the problem of illegal immigration and the so-called "population explosion" in the developing sector, Reagan said in the Oct. 21 debate that the over-population explosion had been "vastly exaggerated. . . . As a matter of fact, there are some pretty scientific and solid figures about how much space there still is in the world and how many people we can have. It's almost like going back to the Malthusian theory, when even then they were saying that everyone would starve, with the limited population they had then. . . ." Previously, only LaRouche among American political figures had attacked the population-control arguments as based on the evil and immoral Malthusian theory.

Walter Mondale's campaign—after a surprisingly strong

showing in the first debate—fell apart with his decision to buy a large number of national TV ads in the days before the second debate adopting Moscow's precise formulations of attack against the "Star Wars," or SDI program of the administration. Mondale's error was acknowledged by his own campaign on Thursday, Oct. 25. John R. Reilly, a senior Mondale campaign adviser, told the *New York Times* that the campaign was abruptly ending the anti-"Star Wars" commercials. The day before, Robert S. Strauss, former chairman of the Democratic National Committee and head of an informal campaign advisory group to Mondale on behalf of the committee, had said that Mondale was losing votes by running commercials showing images of "technology evocative of Mr. Reagan's proposed space-defense system," as the *New York Times* demurely wrote on Oct. 26.

The "reportage" of the *Times* is doubly ironic. According to physicist Edward Teller, Walter Mondale refused to listen to the technical briefing on defensive weaponry provided him before the Oct. 21 presidential debate and instead relied on the *New York Times*, a newspaper Teller characterized as "the Western division of *Pravda*." Teller, an adviser to the President and one of the architects of the SDI, made the statements on Oct. 23 before the Hungarian Freedom Association.

Teller said that a technical analysis had been provided to the two candidates by scientists at the national laboratories, but Mondale had ignored the scientific evidence altogether.

"Mondale is good at making promises," Teller remarked about Mondale's performance during the debate, "but we refugees remember the promises of politicians of the past too well. Chamberlain promised world peace when he negotiated with Hitler. That peace lasted one year."

Teller emphasized in his speech that the United States must commit itself to a full defense of West Germany, should the Soviets' delusions of conquest be deterred; if the Soviets invade West Germany, we must utilize neutron bombs, "first strike or not," he argued.

In a speech before the Los Angeles Town Hall on Oct. 24, Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger accused Mondale of political expediency for attacking the President's "Star Wars" defense, and arms-control policies. Weinberger declared: "It is the president's opponents who want to preserve 'the heavens' as a freeway through which Soviet ballistic missiles can be launched totally unimpeded to destroy their targets." The secretary of defense called the possibility of destroying nuclear missiles outside the Earth's atmosphere "morally right and the best method of deterrence. Strategic defenses offer the best hope of mankind."

The LaRouche factor

The night before, Oct. 23, Independent Democrat Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.—on the presidential ballot in 18 states and the District of Columbia for the Nov. 6 general election—ignited a political firestorm with a half-hour prime-time broadcast on CBS-TV, his 13th national television broadcast

of the presidential campaign. Within hours, the theme of LaRouche's program, entitled "Walter Mondale and the Danger of Fascism in West Germany," was front-page and television news around the country, catalyzing tens of thousands of phone calls into CBS, the Mondale campaign, and the LaRouche campaign. The national media widely ran clips of LaRouche warning citizens that, were they to vote for Mondale, they would be consciously voting for an "agent of influence" of Soviet intelligence services. Most TV channels then showed a tape of LaRouche delivering the political knockout punch of the 20th century: "Mondale is not simply a Soviet KGB agent in the ordinary sense, of course. Mondale is jointly owned by the left-wing of the Socialist International and grain cartel interests. If those owners tell Mondale to *lick the floor* before a nationwide TV audience, I sincerely believe he would do just that. When the Socialist International and the forces behind the international grain cartel told Mondale to carry out Soviet orders on U.S. defense policy, Mondale did exactly as he was ordered. If the Socialist International's pro-Soviet left-wing enters a partnership with the pro-Soviet Green Party in Germany, to kick the United States out of Europe, there is no reason to doubt that Mondale would be up to his neck in alliance with the neo-Nazi-like Green Party. . . ."

The next day, LaRouche delivered a formal challenge to debate to Mondale at his Washington campaign headquarters. The challenge was delivered to Mondale Press Information Officer Carol Brownstein at the Mondale for President national headquarters; the challenge read:

"Lyndon LaRouche offers Walter Mondale a public debate on the facts of LaRouche's charges that Walter Mondale is a Soviet agent of influence.

"Walter Mondale has been ducking these questions and charges for nine months. If Walter Mondale wants to clear up these charges, Lyndon LaRouche will be happy to extend him the opportunity to do so in a public debate.

"LaRouche proposes a standard, classical debating format. Each spokesman gets 30 to 45 minutes to present his case. Then each is allowed a rebuttal. Rebuttals will be followed by questions from a panel of distinguished citizens, and finally, summations. The national press corps will not be invited to participate directly in the debate.

"LaRouche hopes that such a knock-down, drag-out fight on the issues will be brought to America's voting citizens by the broadcast media."

Within 24 hours, Mondale spokesman Brownstein had nervously reported back to the LaRouche camp, "We are not prepared to respond." During the address, LaRouche had documented Mondale's plans to split the Democratic Party through the creation of a branch of the neo-fascist Green Party of West Germany in the United States after the election. At the close of the elections, LaRouche emerges as the only rallying point for all those patriots who would begin the urgent task of rebuilding the Democratic Party from the shambles of the Carter-Mondale era.