

Dukakis Democrats mobilize for fraud

by Stephen Parsons

Despite media reports anticipating the lowest voter turnout ever, the Dukakis campaign may be preparing a scenario for election day mimicking the 1976 Jimmy Carter surprise: an “unexpectedly high voter turnout” in key swing states, resulting in a “surge” of support that carries the little Duke to a razor-thin upset victory.

The scenario is being set through a combination of Democratic voter registration drives and a determined “get-out-the-vote” operation, in which registered voters, who either don’t exist or stay at home, would be systematically voted for by Democratic and labor machines.

The paw prints for such shenanigans are evident in many locations. In the Houston/Harris County area, a surge of at least 25,000—and perhaps 50,000—voter applications were made in the last two days of registration. Although county tax assessor Carl Smith said his employees would work double shifts to process the applications, other officials readily admit that there is insufficient time to verify the identities and addresses of these registrants, who will be automatically placed on the rolls for the November election.

California had a similar last-minute burst. Registration in Los Angeles County is now at a record 3.7 million voters, with thousands of applications pouring in during the closing days. Said local Dukakis campaign volunteer Roslyn Smith, “It’s just going mad around here. People seem to be coming in like crazy, and there’s a lot of younger people, first time voters.”

At least some of these “first time voters” were organized by gang members in Los Angeles’s south central ghetto. At a Jesse Jackson rally on the last day of registration, they helped sign up 1,000 voters—and received \$1.50 per registration! One community organizer estimated that perhaps 100 gang members in this area alone have been out on the streets earning pocket money this way. It’s safe to say that this group has not been exactly discriminating in who they sign up—or sign for.

In Ohio, people could even register on forms available as McDonald’s hamburger tray liners—while in some black neighborhoods, the state Democratic Party was offering 50¢ for every new registration!

Buying the vote

In a dull election characterized by uninspiring candidates, predictions of high voter turnout should set off alarm bells in Bush campaign circles. For example, although an already high 72.52% of registered voters actually voted in Harris

County in 1984, Smith is predicting an 82% turnout this time. Harris County party secretary Jack Carter expects “the strongest get-out-the-vote effort this county has ever seen.”

Officials are predicting a 30% higher Hispanic vote in Texas than in 1984—650,000 versus 493,000 four years ago. Nationally, there are now almost 5 million Hispanics registered to vote, double the number eligible in 1976. Ninety percent are clustered in nine states, including Texas and California, which comprise 193 of the 270 electoral votes needed to elect a new President.

To exemplify the financing of vote fraud, according to well-placed sources, a \$2.5 million vote-buying fund has been distributed to Jesse Jackson-linked black ministers in Houston. In September, a local black newspaper revealed that Democratic candidates, including vice presidential nominee Lloyd Bentsen, were paying “endorsement fees” to black ministers who in turn used the money for “personal matters.”

Much of this voter registration has been accomplished through the auspices of numerous “non-partisan, non-profit” organizations like Project Vote and the Southwest Voter Registration Project. These outfits have functioned as a virtual Democratic Party political action committee, in violation of their tax-exempt status. Project Vote, for example, features on its board of advisers such notable non-partisans as social democrat William Winpisinger of the International Association of Machinists; David Cortright of the pro-Soviet, anti-nuclear group SANE/FREEZE; and former Maryland Democratic Rep. Parren Mitchell.

But perhaps the most significant area of vote fraud will come from the AFL-CIO’s “Operation Big Vote.” According to knowledgeable sources, the international labor unions have phone banks calling lists of their members to determine which workers have decided not to vote. Then, just as big city machines routinely cast tens of thousands of votes originating from the local cemeteries, the labor vote could be “secured” for Dukakis.

In virtually every key swing state, including Ohio, Illinois, Michigan, and Pennsylvania, the AFL-CIO COPE (Committee on Political Education) apparatus and international unions have obtained computer printouts listing every single voter, and matched them with their union membership and retirees lists. They then generated their own printouts profiling every union member—party affiliation, frequency of voting, etc. Based on this information, different types of targeted mailings are done, with personal followup by local union leaders.

One objective is to shift to Dukakis those Democrats who crossed over to vote for Reagan. In Michigan, UAW leaders estimate that if their members increase turnout from the level of 69% in 1984, to 75% this year, and combine that with a 75-80% vote for Dukakis versus only 62% for Mondale in 1984, Bush will lose Michigan. To insure this result, those who are identified as not voting, may then have their votes cast anyway.