

USLP Wins Two Seattle Slots Despite FBI 'Belfast' Script

by Norm Pearl

SEATTLE, Sept. 20 (IPS) — The U.S. Party qualified two candidates for the November run-off race here and reaped 21 per cent of the vote in municipal elections last Tuesday, despite selective vote fraud in the areas of heaviest Labor Party support and an FBI-LEAA orchestrated last-minute terror wave calculated to frighten voters away from the polls.

In the race for City Treasurer, USLP candidate Carol Ruckert qualified with 18 per cent of the vote. Marianna Stapel, USLP candidate for City Council, also qualified for the November election with 14.3 per cent of the vote. Brian Lantz, who polled 21 per cent in his race for Comptroller, did not qualify. An analysis by precincts shows a similar pattern of support for USLP candidates throughout the city.

The Seattle election results are a foretaste of what the Labor Party will be polling in upcoming elections around the country, given even half-way honest vote tallies.

Just prior to the elections, Seattle witnessed one terrorist bombing and several bomb scares carried out by the FBI's local minions. The evening before the elections, a Seattle TV station aired a program playing the terrorist incident in Belfast style. At the end of the show viewers were asked, "Will anyone turn out for the election?"

Days before the election, a half-crazed gang of fascists suddenly surfaced in black areas of known Labor Party support and distributed a series of "communist" leaflets advocating race war.

National Crossfire

The Seattle election results have had an electrifying effect on workers throughout the country. In Camden,

N.J., scene of blatant electoral fraud earlier this year, workers responded to the Seattle results by buying more than 100 New Solidarities in rapid order, and dug donations out of their pockets.

"It looks like you're a major party," commented a worker in Tacoma, Wash., as he fished into his pocket for a donation. In Portland, a formerly hostile banker bought a Labor Party International Development Bank brief, saying, "It looks like we may win." The excitement reached into Canada, where a Vancouver member of the Canadian-Soviet Friendship Committee contributed \$9.

In Seattle, when police attempted to bust up a rally, a listener told the cops, forcefully, "I want to hear what they have to say. They have a right to be heard." The cops backed down. Another worker slapped \$20 into an organizer's hand.

Despite the high USLP totals, there was indication of vote fraud in several areas. In the two-part election for City Council position 2, in which voters who chose one candidate to fill out the rest of the present term, voted a second time for a candidate for the succeeding term, Marianna Stapel, who qualified with 14.3 per cent of the vote for the remainder of the present term, received only 1.75 per cent of the vote for the succeeding term. LEAA-sponsored Chip Marshall, a confessed terrorist and "ex"-Weatherman, was the recipient of votes siphoned off from Stapel.

A second example of vote siphoning was in the City Council position 5 race, where Nick Braun received only 8.7 per cent in this heavy Labor Party area while unknown Socialist Workers Party candidate Patricia "Big Potato" Bethard, who did not actively campaign, polled 17 per cent.