

SPECIAL REPORT

Kennedy, Church Lead Push for Police State Legislation

Feb. 7 (IPS) — Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass) announced this week he will be the prime sponsor of a New Frontier with barbed wire platform for the Democratic Party, constructed to enforce the austerity policies of New York financiers allied with Averell Harriman and George Ball. As a complement to the corporatist reorganization of banking, industry, and employment proposed by Senators Kennedy, Hubert Humphrey (D-Minn) and Frank Church (D-Id) on behalf of the Harriman Atlanticists, the lone male survivor of the Kennedy dynasty is preparing a Nazi police state to contain all opposition to their corporatist Camelot.

In a fierce battle to regain hegemony over foreign and domestic economic policy from the Rockefeller brothers, Harriman et al have utilized Congressional field hands nested in strategic Congressional committees to attack the base of Rockefeller's power: his banks, oil companies, and police-intelligence apparatus. At the same time, in an effort to consolidate their own factional superiority, Harriman and Co., lacking a family base of power equal to the Rockefellers', are offering their factional allies a top-down corporatist state alliance — and their own police state to make it stick.

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Kennedy's office announced Feb. 3 that the Senator will shortly introduce a purportedly "liberal" version of the infamous Senate Bill 1, otherwise entitled the U.S. Criminal Code Reform Act. According to an aide, the bill retains statutes limiting First Amendment rights, such as "Freedom of Assembly," which would directly curtail domestic political organizing. "We don't think that is a problem," a Kennedy spokesman volunteered.

To provide a so-called "libertarian" cover for legalized police containment against the U.S. Labor Party and its anti-austerity allies, Kennedy deleted the most unsavoury features of the original S.1, including the death penalty, the Official Secrets provisions, the anti-Communist Smith Act and wiretapping. Meanwhile, under separate cover, Kennedy co-conspirator Frank Church has introduced a British-style Official Secrets Act making it illegal for any government employee to reveal national security information.

Within 24 hours after Attorney General Edward Levi delivered a speech in Milwaukee Feb. 2, calling for the abolition of the federal parole system and the establishment of a "permanent federal sentencing commission," Senator Kennedy's office revealed that he was in complete agreement with abolishing due process of law. Last November, the office said, Kennedy quietly introduced legislation to institutionalize Levi's proposals. The bill, S. 2699, would strip trial judges of their discretionary power over sentencing by establishing a federal minimum "set of guidelines" for all sentences, a Federal Sentencing Commission. It would also require prisoners to serve the full term of their sentences without parole. A Kennedy aide volunteered that a trial judge could avoid imposing mandatory sentences, only if he filed an appeal with detailed reasons for doing so. Co-sponsors of the Nazi measures include fellow "liberals" Senators Phil Hart (D-Mich), John Tunney (D-Calif), James Abourezk (D-ND), and Birch Bayh (D-Ind).

To facilitate the speedy incarceration of offenders, Kennedy is also sponsoring the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration Authorization Bill of 1976 to pipe more LEAA men and money into regional court systems to wipe out the case backlog.

Kennedy unveiled his Gestapo package to public view in the wake of Supreme Court decisions last week which discarded the constitution like so much scrap paper (see article page 7). While even a Kennedy aide expressed squeamishness about the Supreme Court's de facto announcement that the United States is now a police state, he admitted: "You'll never hear Kennedy come out against the Supreme Court."

Corporatist Camelot

Kennedy's legislated barbed wire state is complemented by his joint activities with Messrs. Humphrey and Church in the Joint Economic Committee, the Judiciary Committee, the Foreign Relations Committee and the Select Committee on Intelligence, to dismantle the Rockefeller multi-nationals machine. Five days after the October '73 Mideast War, Church conducted hearings in his Foreign Relations subcommittee on Multi-National Organizations which concluded that the Seven Sister oil companies were dictating a foreign policy of oil embargoes and war to the President and State Department, which were inimical to the best interests of the United States.

In the aftermath of the hearings, Senators Kennedy, P. Hart, and Abourezk introduced divestiture legislation to dismantle both horizontal and vertical interests of the oil monopolies, effecting a break-up of the exploration, refining and distribution facilities. This legislation is now pending in Congress, having failed to pass by only five votes last fall.

At the same time, Kennedy and his colleagues, with the cooperation of the conservative Ford Administration, are spearheading an attempt to rationalize and impose control over the corporate, banking, and government sectors of the economy. The following bills have already been introduced:

- * Financial Institutions Act (FINE) to rationalize the banking system à la Mussolini.

- * Administrative Procedures Act to 1) rationalize and set up operating procedures for every government agency, excepting the CIA and FBI; 2) "make a fundamental change in the economic structures" by restructuring Federal regulatory agencies like the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC), Federal Maritime Administration (FMA), Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) and so on.

- * Federal Oversight Bill to make Federal chartering of U.S. corporations mandatory and impose oversight control by the Federal government.

Partner Church meanwhile has used his Select Committee on Intelligence to begin dismantling the Rockefeller oil company intelligence network in the CIA through leaked exposés and reports, and has introduced legislation to set up a Special Prosecutors Office to investigate and prosecute illegal activities of the CIA and FBI. On behalf of their factional allies, both Church and Kennedy are proposing legislation to maintain a Gestapo capability, while wresting it from the grip of their factional opponent, Rockefeller, by taking it out of the hands of Rockefeller ally Levi's Justice Department.