

The 'dump Carter' option is on the planning boards

by L. Wolfe

These moves put the option into place, centering around Mondale, who still professes in public a devout loyalty to Carter, or some unnamed alternative. Whether the option is deployed is dependent upon a number of factors.

The primary results May 4 or any day, are the least relevant of these considerations. CBS television commentator Walter Cronkite, who sees himself operating "above dirty politics," was emphatic in pointing out that the developments around the *Des Moines Register* editorial, the Carey-Moynihan maneuvers, and a 20 percent uncommitted vote in last weekend's Texas primary, point to "the possible future" and an "open convention." Cronkite is attempting to give shape to the growing dissatisfaction with Carter, the collapse of the domestic economy and the administration's foreign policy failures. With Reagan still unacceptable to a large percentage of the population, this demands the creation of an acceptable outlet for the rage and disgust of Americans—even if it is kept deliberately "faceless" for the moment—to maintain a "controlled environment."

Foreign Policy

But the volatile situation in the country threatens to undermine the controlled environment. Already forces within the Carter-Mondale camp are looking around for a candidate who can save the Democratic Party from what otherwise is certain defeat by Reagan. The Mondale-Muskie option is also seen as a loser by such individuals. If Carter is forced aside, likely beneficiary could be conservative Lyndon LaRouche, who is now picking up support from labor and other Democratic constituency

organizations.

This fact raises a strategic question that will determine whether the rug is pulled out from under Carter: how the Soviets respond to each of the three "options" being proffered by the CFR crowd—the Reagan bogeyman, the gyrating Carter-Brzezinski crowd, and the possibility of Mondale-Muskie or a similar candidate. All three of the options are controlled by the CFR and all three lead to confrontation because of their underlying commitment to a fascist economic program.

A second interrelated, consideration is which of these options Western Europe will best respond to. The idea is to try to recreate a basis for continued CFR manipulation of both the Soviets and the NATO allies.

It is clear that the decision has not yet been made on which of these paths to pursue. While Cronkite blathered about an "open convention," James Reston of the *New York Times* claimed today that no one can deny Carter the nomination. Other sources report that the only way a Democratic "fallback" option around Mondale or anyone else will work is if Carter agrees to step aside. "He will have to be forced out, if you want that to happen," said a well placed Washington source. "It will take a dramatic move, another disaster in foreign policy, some more resignations."

A potential time bomb has been placed in the center of the Carter administration in the person of the newly appointed successor to Cyrus Vance as secretary of state, Edmund Muskie. Senator Joe Biden (D-Del.) a spokesman for the CFR crowd, laid out a possible Carter exit scenario at today's confirmation hearings for Muskie. Said Biden: "I want it out on the public record, that if



Brzezinski, Muskie, Carter, Mondale and Vance.

Carter does not back you against Brzezinski, you walk out just like Cyrus Vance did. You and you alone can bring down the President and deny him his reelection..." Muskie, who after Mondale is among those most mentioned as "the Third Man," muttered a few jokes in response.

Immediately after World War III almost happened—when reported Soviet intervention in some form aborted the U.S. Iranian hostage "rescue" caper—an unannounced meeting at the New York Council on Foreign Relations, informed by London's thinking, was hurriedly convened to discuss options to a continuing Carter presidency. Forthwith, press outlets and other puppets of that inner circle began to brand Carter and Zbigniew Brzezinski lunatics or otherwise unfit for office. With Ted Kennedy out of the question, the name cautiously raised by spokesmen for this circle was Walter Mondale.

Seemingly oblivious a confident White House press secretary Jody Powell May 5 called on Senator Edward Kennedy to drop out of the race for the Democratic presidential nomination following a sweep by President Carter of primaries yesterday in Indiana North Carolina, and Tennessee. Powell claimed "there are only two real presidential candidates—Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan."

The blustering confidence of the Carter "inner circle" aside, the Council on Foreign Relations and related networks of the Anglo-American political establishment are building up their options to banish Jimmy Carter to political exile. The option was discussed and prepared at a meeting held at the council Thursday evening, May 1. The consensus emerging off that meeting was best

summed up by one participant: "I'm afraid Carter will get us in a war for reelection." Within 72 hours, the spate of CFR-linked attacks on the Carter candidacy had surfaced.

'Incapable of Guiding the Country'

On May 4, the *Des Moines Register*, ran a lead editorial calling for Carter to quit the race, with equal emphasis on the demand that the Democratic convention be opened up for a choice other than Kennedy. Said the Register, which is owned by the Cowles Communication chain and linked directly to the *New York Times*: "(Carter) seems incapable of guiding the country and running for President at the same time ... he is letting politics influence his policies. Given the state of the world today this is tragic ... Kennedy is not the man to unite the nation. There is such a man, however. His name is Walter Mondale and if Carter would throw his support to Mondale, the Kennedy campaign would lose much of the reason for its existence...."

The same theme was picked up the next day, by New York Governor Hugh Carey. Stating that the "nation is in trouble," Carey called on both Carter and Kennedy to release all their delegates to allow for a "totally open convention." Carey also indicated a preference for a Mondale candidacy.

Yesterday, New York Senator Daniel "Pat" Moynihan, who had been among the individuals who reportedly pushed Ted Kennedy into making a run, announced that he too "wanted an open convention" and a "third choice." Like Carey, Moynihan will not go to the convention as a delegate.

widespread and deep. They are thinking that we are getting them into a war. There is no leadership from Washington. I'm very worried about U.S.-European relations. Things are pulling us apart.

'Brzezinski is the problem in all this'

The following interview with Helmut Sonnefeld, former aide to Henry Kissinger and senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, was made available to the EIR by an investigative reporter.

Q: What do you think of the administration's efforts to rescue the hostages?

A: I have been reluctant to second guess the administration. I deplore the focus on Iran. We are so preoccupied with it. I have argued that the logical next step is physical force. I prefer mining of the ports to a blockade which raises the question of stopping a Soviet ship. I have not made up my mind on how and when we should do this.

Q: There has been a lot of criticism of Brzezinski for the raid.

A: Brzezinski is the problem in all this. He has shown little evidence of serious talent in managing crises. In fact in that respect Vance in the Johnson administration was a better crisis manager. There is a malaise around about the lack of American leadership. Nitze and Jackson are criticizing, saying that the U.S. is putting its prestige on the line where its capacity is limited. Nitze says all the time that he was never so scared in his life. The Joint Chiefs of Staff know how difficult the military situation is. Some think the Soviets would be deterred because we act like we would go nuts. In the present circumstances they won't go beyond Afghanistan. There is a great fear of drifting without a sure hand into the unknown, into a military conflict. I have some queasy feelings myself.

Q: What about the idea that Carter must be gotten out of the White House, that some compromise has to be accepted?

A: I hear this being said more and more. This presupposes that Carter will quit, and I don't see that he has it in him. I've thought of this in the past myself. If he keeps winning the primaries he will think he's vindicated. The problem too is that then we will end up with Mondale or Muskie. I don't especially want Mondale but I like him, he's more decisive than Carter. There is a lot of gloom and doom because there is no light at the end of the presidential front. If you travel through Europe as I have just done, on the electoral prospects, the malaise is

'Carter was right to lose his nerve'

The following interview with Professor Scott Thompson, of the Fletcher School of Diplomacy, Tufts University, was made available to the EIR.

Q: What do you think about the way that Carter handled the attempt to rescue the hostages?

A: Carter was right to lose his nerve. The Carter Doctrine says if the Soviets cross the line it will be war. The hawks don't threaten that because we can't do it. Those of us who are hawks would tell the President to back down if the Soviets stood up to us.

Brzezinski has no understanding of military power. He tries rhetoric as military power. This is the essence of appeasement. Words don't say anything. Carter lost his nerve. He aborted when things got shakey.

Q: What effect do you think this will have on his reelection?

A: I've been hearing Kennedy people say that if they get a campaign going, if they stop the president, they will back a compromise candidate. Mondale is the most likely. Last night at the Council on Foreign Relations where Walter Levy spoke on the decline of the West, our table was talking about this question of Carter all night. There is a remote chance that he would not run but there is still the problem of Rosalyn who will say, "Look Jimmy, how you were down in the polls before and came back."

I'm afraid and Washington students of foreign affairs are afraid that Carter will get us in a war for re-election. Very important people are concerned about this—even people close to Carter. He's going to have many chances to stand up to the Soviets and people fear he will. People last night were talking about this. This is the most common talk. All the major departments in the government are concerned about it. Carter was overreacting. He misjudged like in 1914. The main thing we have to do is to get him unelected. In general discussions people see Mondale as the Democratic candidate but he couldn't win.