

pendent nuclear forces. The Russians have ominously suggested that proposed 50% cuts in strategic systems will have to include the British and the French, who vehemently oppose any such talks. The State Department, at Soviet behest, is armtwisting Israel to abandon deployment of its Jericho II nuclear-capable IRBM.

In spite of all this, the Russians in late October took the risk of calling off the summit; European press accounts suggest that a prime mover behind this final round of blackmail was former Soviet Ambassador to Washington Anatolii Dobrynin. Dobrynin argued that, because of the Oct. 19 stock market crash, Reagan was so desperate for a summit that further concessions could be extorted. The Soviet media by that point were routinely comparing Reagan to the hapless Herbert Hoover of 1929.

Soon thereafter, the Dec. 7 summit date was announced, despite the fact that the treaty was far from completion—not the smartest negotiating ploy. The Russians exploited the deadline pressure to the hilt, forcing the U.S. representatives into 22-hour-a-day negotiating and withholding vital information. As a result, large parts of the memorandum of understanding that accompanies the treaty were composed in haste on the eve of the summit deadline, including on the plane bringing the treaty from Geneva to Washington, and in the State Department during the night before the treaty was signed. The resulting text is larded with inaccuracies and ambiguities, with at least three errors now officially acknowledged. All this to get a treaty that undermines European defense and weakens the cohesion of the alliance.

The INF treaty is vitiated by all of the inherent fallacies of arms control. The ancient Romans knew there are no real rules of war: *Inter arma silent leges*. Wars are won by successful cheating and that means that the rules, from the neutrality of Belgium to the SALT II limits, are there to be broken. The U.S.S.R., a great power not noted for a legalistic bent, will cheat repeatedly, successfully, and massively if such cheating represents a vital imperial interest. Thus, the verification apparatus of the INF treaty makes no sense unless, by a foolhardy leap of faith, one assumes that the Russian marshals have obediently supplied the locations of all their launchers and reloads. Inspection is to be carried out only at the sites specified in the treaty, and at no other sites. The treaty has no mechanism of enforcement, such as a clause providing for abrogation if violations occur. Enforcement is left to U.S. political will—an absurd proposition, since both Reagan and Congress have rewarded Moscow for cheating on the ABM treaty: Reagan by signing INF, and Congress by mandating the narrow interpretation of the ABM treaty.

Roosevelt never submitted the Yalta accords to the Senate for ratification. Woodrow Wilson tried to get Versailles and the League of Nations ratified, and failed. Stopping new summits and new sellouts on SDI, START, and all the rest will now depend on blocking Senate ratification of the INF Treaty.

Campaign 1987

The seven dwarfs, and other jokers

by Nicholas F. Benton

1987 saw the launching of one of the most bizarre presidential races in the history of the United States, unparalleled for the lack of distinction of any of the candidates running—with the notable exception of Democrat Lyndon LaRouche, on whom the Justice Department has spent millions trying to tie up in the courts.

It was a year that went through the first phase of a stock market crash, but instead of ensuring that this would lead to a change of the party in power, the mediocrity of the Democratic candidates left the matter distinctly in doubt.

In fact, as 1987 drew to a close, the disarray in both parties was worsening. Most of the highlights are well known, but taken in their totality, they present a picture that is ominous in its implications for the nation. Perhaps in less troubled times, when the nation was not faced with a superpower adversary poised to exploit every weakness, the prospects of a choice among mediocrities for President would simply go down as an unhappy, periodic by-product of a less-than-perfect democratic system.

But in these times, it is fatal to the future of civilization. Whether or not the American electorate is prepared to respond accordingly, and break the rules, as set by the Eastern Establishment, their controlled media, and party leaderships, will be the big question that gets answered in the first months of 1988.

The Democrats

In the Democratic Party, the clear front-runner for the nomination since the 1984 landslide reelection of Ronald Reagan, **Sen. Gary Hart** (Colo.), was driven out of the race under siege. The scandal of his extramarital relations with model Donna Rice, replete with color photographs that appeared on the cover of every supermarket tabloid, forced Hart to withdraw from the running only days after he launched his campaign.

Lacking a front-runner, the remaining “official” Democratic candidates became the subject of universal derision. **Sen. Joseph Biden** (Del.), soon followed Hart onto the sidelines under the cloud of a scandal of his own—plagiarism.

The same cloud began to drift over other candidates. Leading staffers in the campaign of Massachusetts **Gov. Michael Dukakis** were found to have planted in the press the stories of Biden stealing unattributed quotes from British Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock, and they were forced to resign. Dukakis teetered on the brink, and remains severely damaged by the incident.

Who was left? There was civil rights activist **Jesse Jackson**, with the highest name recognition, but no chance of getting anywhere close to the nomination. Democratic chairman Paul Kirk made that clear on national TV more than once. "Jesse, I am sure, will do what's best for the party," Kirk said, meaning that even if he walks into the convention with enough delegates to win, he will not take the nomination, because, presumably, it would mean certain defeat for the party.

Not that a Jackson nomination would bode any better for the nation, anyway. Jackson, in his own zeal to win the approval of the elite controllers of the party, dropped his "radical" image altogether, to become just another "mainstream" Democratic leftist, indistinguishable from the rest of the cast of forgettable mediocrities.

Who else?

Sen. Paul Simon (Ill.), the man with the Dumbo-sized ear lobes, who wants to balance the budget, kill the SDI (a universal among all the "official" Democratic candidates), and increase spending in all social areas, all at once.

Bruce Babbitt, former governor of Arizona, whose head bobs like a Muppet, and has a corporatist "final solution" to everything, including some chilling ideas about how to deal with the nation's elderly that would embarrass Colorado's former Gov. Richard "The Elderly Have a Duty to Die" Lamm.

Sen. Al Gore (Tenn.), the preferred candidate of Soviet agent Armand Hammer, who some say looks like the movie star who plays Superman, but acts more like a Clark Kent who can't fight his way out of a telephone booth.

Sen. Richard Gephardt (Mo.), author of the trade bill which, if passed next year, would spike the U.S. economy and the Western alliance more swiftly than anything Gorbachov could dream up. Gephardt voted for the big tax cut of 1982 that converted the debt burden developed in the 1970s into a massive federal budget deficit in the early 1980s.

Then there is **Lyndon LaRouche**, the bane of the Eastern Establishment and the Soviets, kept out of all the debates where his sharp critique of the economy and national security issues would have humiliated every other candidate. From debating skills to the issues, none of the other Democratic candidates could afford to have themselves measured against LaRouche on equal footing before the public.

And so, the Justice Department proceeded to indict LaRouche on a trumped-up charge of "obstruction of justice," a case which finally came to trial in Boston at year's end (see article, page 69).

The field of candidates was otherwise so bereft of talent, that **Gary Hart**, in mid-December, could not contain himself, and decided to leap back into the race. This never would have happened if any of the other Democratic candidates had shown the slightest promise of fulfilling the qualifications for the job, because Hart's improprieties would have ensured that he was nothing but a laughingstock under any other circumstances, especially considering that there are still more scandals brewing involving Hart and at least one former senator's wife.

Nonetheless, Hart's surprise move clearly enraged Kirk, who thought that maybe the situation in his party was at least moving toward a deadlocked convention where **Sen. Ted Kennedy** (Mass.) could be drafted to run.

Now, Hart's move has not so much brought derision upon himself, as underscored the abject moral and intellectual poverty of his "official" competitors.

The Republicans

But if you think the Democrats are in disarray, the situation in the Republican Party is no better. The GOP's biggest problem, is that a Republican administration, now in office, is leading the nation into an economic and strategic debacle of monumental proportions, that is most likely to hit before Election Day in 1988. This is the overriding reality that all Republicans fear as a "worst case scenario"; but none has the guts to look reality square in the face and endorse an emergency program, along the lines outlined by LaRouche, which would set them apart from their competitors.

In fact, in their folly, the Republican candidates are tending to do the opposite, to tail after **Vice President George Bush** down that road to disaster. The latest "sucker" on this score is **Sen. Robert Dole** (Kan.), who, under pressure from his big financial backers like grain cartel magnate Dwayne Andreas, came out in favor of the Intermediate Nuclear Force (INF) treaty, on condition that he be allowed to upstage Bush with a big pat on the back from the President in the White House press briefing room on Dec. 17.

One way or the other, all the Republican candidates have locked themselves into identification with the great Reagan pratfall of 1988. The Bush case is obvious. Dole has now determined to out-Bush Bush. **Al Haig** hasn't changed a bit from the time he pronounced himself "in charge," as secretary of state, when Reagan was shot in 1981. Former Delaware governor **Pete DuPont** is a stalking horse for radical "new ideas" spawned on Wall Street, to chisel the elderly out of Social Security benefits and health care. **Rep. Jack Kemp** (N.Y.) pushes the Strategic Defense Initiative, but is stuck on the same "supply side" economics litany that is going to be universally blamed for the Great Crash of 1988. TV evangelist **Pat Robertson** calls for bringing the U.S. troops home from Europe.

1987 was a year whose political mediocrity cries out for Americans to overturn the applecart in '88.