

Why Lowell Weicker seeks the presidency

In last week's issue, we documented the "Haig" presidential strategy — of cluttering the Republican primary field with "favorite son" and joke candidates, to enable NATO Commander Alexander Haig to emerge as the "compromise" choice of a deadlocked GOP convention in 1980. One of those joke candidates is Connecticut's GOP Senator Lowell Weicker, as yet undeclared, but emphatically running. An aide to the senator talked with Executive Intelligence Review last week about Weicker's candidacy and his view of the issues. The results:

Q. Why does Sen. Weicker think he should be President of the United States?

A. The Senator wants to be President because Carter has shown no leadership qualities and has completely botched one foreign policy situation after another. The Camp David fiasco for instance, was nothing but a media splash before the November elections. He never should have portrayed the discussions with Sadat and Begin as meaning that peace was at hand when the Palestinian rights question had not been taken into consider-

Manchurian candidate?

University's Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), one of Kissinger's current bases of operation.

On Jan. 25, Bush delivered a major speech at Georgetown under the auspices of its School of Foreign Service. At approximately the same time that Teng was burning the impressionable Hedley Donovan's ears with dire warnings of Soviet "hegemonism," Bush was echoing the Chinese leader almost verbatim.

Like Teng, Bush maintained that the "United States has been in a general strategic retreat since the early 1970s." Like Teng, Bush berated Carter for being too soft to stand up to the Soviet challenge. Like Teng, Bush accused the Soviet Union of making a global power grab, citing the recent events in Iran, Ethiopia, South Yemen, and Afghanistan as evidence. Bush concluded his tirade by quoting Winston Churchill, Arnold Toynbee and London Economist contributing editor Norman McCrae, who following a tour of Great Britain, New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, Canada and the United States, observed that there is a "crisis of crumbling institutions throughout the English-speaking union."

While the audience of 400-odd people, including former CIA station chief Ray Cline (now at CSIS) took it all in, one person was heard to mutter as he left the hall: "But what I can't figure out is, who brainwashed who?"

ation much less settled. Later, he made things worse by fostering a position of linkage to Palestinian rights when the Israelis had made it clear they were not ready to do so. He made Begin into a whipping boy. And now he can't even pull Jordan and Saudi Arabia into Camp David even after we sold the Saudis all those jets.

Q. What does Sen. Weicker have to say about domestic issues?

A. The main problem is with the economy and in this area Carter has been a flop. The key to helping the economy is the energy question. We must cut down on deficit spending on our overdose of petroleum. The Senator would like to see deregulation of fossil fuel pricing and mandatory conservation. For example, he thinks there should be one day in the week, perhaps Saturday, in which people are not allowed to drive their cars.

Q. What does Weicker think of nuclear power and fusion energy?

A. He supported the Clinch River Breeder Reactor and is for the orderly development of nuclear power. Fusion — I'm not sure he knows what that is. He also thinks that nuclear energy development should be balanced by accelerated solar energy development.

Q. Rep. Jack Kemp, also a Republican, has stated on T.V. that he thinks that the role of the U.S. in the new European Monetary System is one of the most important issues facing the United States today and plans to push for U.S. involvement during his campaign. What does Sen. Weicker think the U.S. role should be?

A. I don't think the senator has ever mentioned anything about that.

Q. There is a heated battle going on across the country over whether marijuana and other drugs should be decriminalized. Has Sen. Weicker taken a stand on this issue?

A. I don't believe he has said one way or the other.

Q. Could you please tell me what issues the Senator thinks are most important?

A. He's very concerned about ethics and open government. These are very big issues with him. He would like to see the public allowed to have access to congressional and administrative proceedings and full tax return disclosure by all public officials.

He is against the public financing of political campaigns because he thinks this is a rip-off of the taxpayers. He is a leading defender of individual rights and protection from governmental interference especially in income tax returns. The Senator was a co-sponsor of the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts and also co-sponsored the 1977 amendment which made auto emission standards more stringent. He was also adamantly opposed to the Concorde. Weicker opposes the Senate ethics code because he thinks the income ceiling is unethical, and favors income tax disclosure instead.

Q. What does he think of Proposition 13 type legislation?

A. He thinks it is demagogic. They say they will cut taxes without saying where revenues will come from.

Q. How does the Senator think the U.S. should relate to Mexico, especially in light of the fact that Mexico has discovered huge quantities of oil?

A. Once again Carter has committed another foreign policy blunder. He has treated the Mexicans as second class North Americans. He infuriated them with this illegal aliens business. Now the Mexicans have found oil. Now what do we do, sweeten up to them?

Q. Energy Secretary Schlesinger has said that the Mexicans must not develop their country too fast or Mexico will become another Iran. Schlesinger speaks of "appropriate technologies" for Mexico. Meanwhile, the Mexicans have said they want our technology for their oil. How would Weicker deal with this question?

A. Weicker has said it will be a very very difficult process — very touchy — an extremely delicate exercise in diplomacy. The key is leadership and bargaining ability.

Q. What does the Senator think of Carter's budget Does he agree with any of the criticisms made against it by liberal Democrats like Kennedy?

A. He is just studying the budget right this minute, so I can't answer that question fully. One thing he would be against is cutting off one's nose to spite one's face. Especially when it comes to what he considers our greatest natural resource — the ocean. If the budget eliminates research funding here, he'll fight it.

Q. How serious a candidate do you think Senator Weicker is?

A. Well, I can tell you that he had what was supposed to be a private meeting with Reagan and his top assistant Sears this morning and 50 reporters showed up. Weicker gave a very eloquent statement to the press and Reagan and Sears came away knowing that Weicker would be a formidable opponent.

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