

at gaining Carter votes in some of the key swing states he needs to win, particularly Pennsylvania and Ohio. Pennsylvania, which went for Carter by a slight margin in 1976, is now in Reagan's column, according to a Gallup poll commissioned by the *Pittsburgh Gazette* and released Sept. 29. Although both Reagan and Carter campaign staffers say the program could boost his standing in Pennsylvania and other steel-oriented states, they also concur that it could be a very temporary phenomenon.

In an effort to recapture the urban vote, Carter is pouring taxpayers' dollars into cities strategically situated with respect to the election. Chicago, Cleveland, New York, and Miami have all received large doses of federal funds over the last few months. During the last week of September, the administration promised more than \$50 million to Detroit.

This month, the Carter administration will announce its quarterly awards of urban development grants to economically distressed cities. The announcement, totaling \$150 million, is coming a month earlier than usual. About \$200 million in federal aid for local mass transit programs is expected to be released to local governments soon. According to one bus manufacturer, the Transportation Department has been holding up the announcement so that it will come nearer the election.

Carter is attempting to woo the farm belt, by paying out \$300 million in cash over the next month to compensate farmers hurt by this year's drought. In addition, much of the \$2.6 billion in promised drought-relief loans will be committed before Nov. 4, Agriculture Department officials say.

And the Department of Energy will soon award an additional \$300 million in development money for synthetic-fuels projects. So far, the administration has doled out synfuels money to 46 states.

Despite this outright attempt at vote-buying, Carter is still in deep trouble. The results of the *Times*-CBS poll are being confirmed by surveys commissioned by regional organizations. Republican pollster Richard Wirthlin, acknowledged to be one of the most accurate pollsters, believes that Reagan is now positioned to capture enough swing states to win the election. Wirthlin says that Reagan has a solid lock on Wisconsin, Illinois, and New Jersey, with a strong edge over Carter in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, and Texas. New York and Florida are "up for grabs," as one Carter campaign aide put it; how they go will depend in large part on the Jewish vote. And while Floridians' anger at Carter for the recent influx of Cuban refugees has been partly assuaged by the convenient timing of Fidel Castro's decision to halt the flow, Democratic Senator Henry Jackson was nevertheless loudly booed when he mentioned Carter's name at a Miami rally for Florida Sen. Richard Stone last week.

## DEMOCRATIC POLITICS

# Texas Liberals retain control

by Anita Gallagher

A sparsely attended two-day Texas state Democratic Party Convention concluded in Houston Sept. 27 and elected Robert Slagle, a lawyer and the choice of the Carter White House, chairman of the Texas Democratic Party. After the election, the remaining delegates passed a resolution to repeal the state law against sodomy proposed by the Gay Rights Alliance, in a sharp repudiation of the Democratic Party Convention's 2 to 1 vote against repeal in June.

Political observers in Austin agreed that the results demonstrate that the liberals in the Democratic Party are at present firmly in control and have again turned back for the time being a challenge from the conservative wing of the party.

"This is going to weaken the Democratic Party, no question about it," said *Houston Post* reporter Juan Palomo. "This is going to mean a two-party system for Texas a lot sooner than most people thought." Texas has been overwhelmingly Democratic for the past hundred years.

The battle between the victorious Slagle and 38-year-old State Rep. Luther Jones was to some extent a surrogate war exercise between current Democratic National Committee Chairman John C. White, a Slagle backer, and John Hill, the unsuccessful Democratic candidate for governor in 1978, who supported Luther Jones at the convention. Both Hill and John White are expected to seek the Democratic nomination for governor in 1982, when Republican Governor Bill Clements's term expires.

Slagle was clearly perceived as the candidate of White and Carter White House. Bob Strauss personally spoke at the convention on Saturday and attempted to rouse support for Carter's campaign.

Rep. Luther Jones's support was based on forces identified with the Open Convention, such as Billie Carr, a leading Texas supporter of Ted Kennedy's candidacy. On Saturday, Slagle got 64 percent of the vote, while Jones received 33 percent.

A third candidate for the chairmanship was David Samuelson, former commissioner of Travis County (Austin), who was credited with 2 percent of the vote.

Samuelson, who announced for the chairmanship late, after the Democratic National Convention in August, said his campaign was based on bringing together "the Alliance of Producers who represent the constituencies of the Democratic Party—in agriculture, among entrepreneurial businessmen, minorities and labor."

### Producers' alternative

Samuelson's candidacy was quickly endorsed by the Moderate Conservative grouping of the Democratic Party, who had been backers of former Texas Governor Dolph Briscoe. The Modcons, as they are called, looked at Samuelson's candidacy as the way to reestablish the emphasis on economic production and a delivery system which gets the benefits of an "expanded pie" out to the different constituencies which had been traditional in the Texas Democratic Party.

Despite his Moderate-Conservative support, Samuelson was squeezed out by poor convention attendance, a rule change that prevented continuous balloting, and the refusal of the nominating committee to place his name in nomination. Observers in Austin said that the muscle against Samuelson was evidently ordered by the White House and enforced by the Democratic National Committee.

### Embarrassments and prospects

While Slagle won the election by presenting himself as more conservative than Luther Jones, the 31-member nominating committee run by Texas AFL-CIO head Harry Hubbard blocked Samuelson's nomination by committee and forced it to come from the floor. Hubbard had delivered the AFL-CIO endorsement to Slagle.

Passage of the resolution to repeal the sodomy law in Texas is regarded as a major embarrassment to the Democrats. Slagle had said that while he supports gay rights, he would not put the party on record for repeal of the sodomy law.

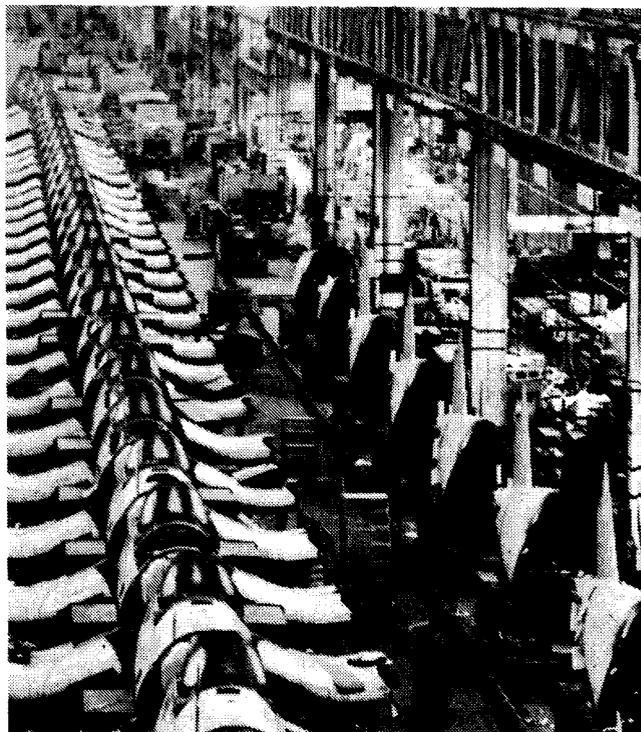
Although 3900 delegates to the June State Party Convention had voted 2-to-1 against it, current Texas Democratic Chairman Billy Goldberg allowed the vote to be taken with fewer than 400 delegates present.

Other resolutions on nuclear energy, reindustrializing the U.S. economy, and against Brilab and Abscam-style federal indictments failed to get out of committee.

Samuelson announced that he has joined the Advisory Committee of the National Democratic Policy Committee, a think tank to provide policy analysis to Democrats which is headed by former candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination, Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. Samuelson predicts that the "Alliance of Producers" will rebuild the Democratic Party because these are the policies endorsed by the party's constituencies.

## MILITARY POLICY

### 'Small is ready'



*U.S. Corsair fighter planes.*

## ENERGY MANAGEMENT

### Recalculating the oil crisis threat

Top administration officials have been forced to admit over the past several days that under the current circumstances the fighting between Iran and Iraq has not caused any major crisis in U.S. oil supplies and is not likely to do so unless there is a major expansion of the war, including expansion to other oil producing nations. Energy Secretary Charles Duncan stated bluntly Sept. 30 that oil supplies are plentiful and "under present circumstances the situation is manageable."

Duncan met with executives of the nine major oil companies over the weekend. He indicated that there was agreement between the Carter administration officials and the oil company executives that "with continued