

The liberal PACs team up against moderate congressional Democrats

by Barbara Dreyfuss

A group of zero-growth liberals under the wing of elderly éminence grise Averell Harriman is operating in collusion with the "New Right" networks of the Heritage Foundation and William Buckley to undercut the moderates within the Democratic Party. The liberals' strategy, modeled on the McGovern offensive of the early 1970s, is to cut off elected Democratic officials and party leaders from the labor, business, and farm constituencies that have been the party's base for the past half-century, and to work for the defeat of the mainstream Democrats who represent those constituencies.



Pamela Harriman

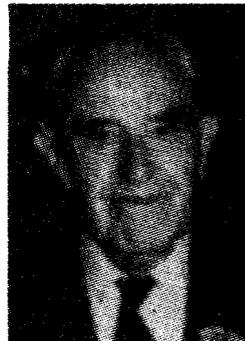
The liberals are operating out of a half-dozen political action committees and associations, known as PACs, including **Democrats for the 1980s**, set up by former Carter administration officials Edmund Muskie, Stuart Eizenstat, Robert Strauss, and Harriman's wife Pamela; the **National Committee for an Effective Congress**, run by environmentalist Russell Hemenway and including

Bishop Paul Moore of the ultraliberal New York Episcopal Cathedral of St. John the Divine, and Barbara Tuchman, whose book *A Distant Mirror* presents a back-to-the-dark-ages perspective; the **Democratic Policy Committee** chaired by former Secretary of State Vance; and the **Americans for Democratic Action**.

In late April, the National Committee for an Effective Congress (NCEC) announced that it intended to force the defeat of 62 Republican and Democratic moderates in the 1982 congressional elections. Their list contains more than 20 progrowth Democrats who have been key backers of nuclear energy development, water projects, and high-technology agriculture, including House committee chairmen Donald Fuqua of Florida (Science and Technology); Kiki de la Garza of Texas (Agriculture); and Jamie Whitten of Mississippi (Appropriations).

The liberal attack on party moderates is aimed at

stripping the Democratic constituency of its progrowth representatives and completing the job begun by that faction known as "McGovern Democrats" under the Carter regime. As Lloyd Cutler, White House counsel under Carter, complained in the fall 1980 issue of *Foreign Affairs*, if the Democratic Party leadership is responsive to its constituency, it becomes difficult to impose severe austerity in the country. That difficulty was witnessed shortly afterward by the defeat of Carter and the McGovernites, in favor of the moderates now targeted.



Averell Harriman

Other liberal political action committees (PACs) have developed similar hit lists, based on their zero-growth opposition to increased funding for nuclear energy, NASA programs, and water development projects including the critical Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway.

The common denominator of this convergence of McGovernite and ultraright PACs is their control by the same Anglo-American oligarchy that deployed the Carter administration to enforce austerity, aims embodied in the Carter State Department's *Global 2000 Report*.

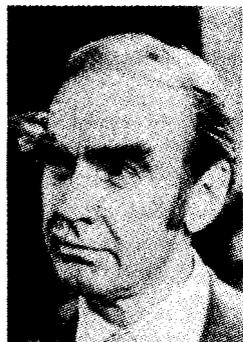
One such group, the Democrats for the 1980s, exemplifies this point. The Democrats for the 1980s is rife with Carter administration controllers, especially the granddaddy of Democratic Party liberalism, Averell Harriman, and his second wife Pamela, the mother of Winston Churchill III. It was Anglo-American patrician Harriman who was crucial in all of the last decade's efforts to destroy constituency politics in the United States. Another of the group's backers is former Secretary of State Edmund Muskie, who gave the first public endorsement to his predecessor Cyrus Vance's *Global 2000 Report* by recommending stabilization of the world population at 3 billion. A Democrats for the 1980s leader is former DNC chief Robert Strauss, whose party reforms secured Car-

ter's disastrous renomination through "closed convention" thuggery. Carter's domestic adviser Stuart Eizenstat is also on the board of directors.

Of special interest is the appearance of House Speaker Tip O'Neill on the organization's board. O'Neill is not simply well known on the Hill for his strident opposition to bipartisan cooperation with moderate Republicans close to the Reagan White House. O'Neill was specifically mentioned by participants at the Socialist International "Eurosocialism" conference in December as the key to turning the Democratic Party into the U.S. front for the Socialists, both because of his own Fabian programmatic bent and his Capitol Hill muscle. True to the Socialists' expectations, O'Neill has warned Hill Democrats that if they move to collaborate with the Reagan administration on the budget, they can fend for themselves in the 1982 electoral race.

NCPAC joins party wrecking

Many conservatives are wondering why the right-wing "ultras" of the National Conservative Political Action Committee (NCPAC) are working to defeat the same mainstream Democrats targeted by the McGovernites.



Jim Wright

NCPAC, which made headlines in 1980 when it took credit for defeating a number of liberal senators, announced a campaign on April 13 to defeat three House Democratic leaders: Majority Leader Jim Wright (D-Texas), Budget Committee Chairman Jim Jones (D-Okla.), and Ways and Means Committee Chairman Dan Rostenkowski (D-Ill.). These moderates have acted forcefully in the fight for a positive economic growth policy; Wright especially has hit hard on the disastrous economic consequences of Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker's high interest rates. Despite NCPAC's claims that these three Democrats are "obstructionists" on the President's economic program, they have in fact led efforts to collaborate with the White House. NCPAC has also threatened to target members of the Conservative Democratic Forum if they do not give unqualified support for the President's tax program. The threatened Forum members are those who have worked out a budget program that is now backed by the White House and have been holding meetings with Republican leaders to work out a similar arrangement on taxes.

While conservatives and moderates are NCPAC's sighted targets, the group has conspicuously refrained from drawing a bead on the ultraliberals, and especially the most outspoken "obstructionist," Tip O'Neill.

NCPAC's convergence on the liberal targeting is especially clear in the case of Rep. Jim Jones (D-Okla.). An official of NCEC declared that his group was delighted that NCPAC had chosen the Budget Committee chairman, because it saved them the trouble of having to do it. "NCPAC has targeted Jones on the budget, so that decided it for us," said an NCEC official. "Now we want to give him a chance to toe the [liberal] line."

NCPAC's work against moderate Democrats parallels that of the liberal Progressive PAC which plans to raise \$1 million in 1981 to go after Democrats who "agree with the program of Interior Secretary [James] Watt" on the need for internal improvements utilizing the nation's natural resources, said one of the group's executives. Democrats for the 1980s, while now reviewing their prospective "defeat list," declared that they will protect congressmen from NCPAC's attacks. They have so far refrained from such defense, except in the case of liberal Maryland Democrat Sen. Paul Sarbanes.

Common issues

NCEC, Progressive PAC, and the other liberal political action committees are using almost identical criteria to determine their targets as NCPAC. "Pork-barrel legislation is an area conservatives and environmentalists agree on," declared Marion Edey, a leader of the League of Conservation Voters, which is run by the leadership of the environmental lobbies. Edey, also a member of the U.S. Association for the Club of Rome, revealed that the League is considering seeking the defeat of Wright, Jones, and Rostenkowski for the same reason as NCPAC—their favorable voting records on nuclear energy and water development. "It could be that NCPAC doesn't like Wright, as his leadership helps the Democratic Party," she admitted.

Similarly, Progressive PAC is "very concerned," according to leader David Abrams, about Jim Wright's and Jim Jones's records on environmental and energy issues, but are evaluating the congressmen's vulnerability before moving openly against them.



Daniel Rostenkowski

NCPAC's activities have caused consternation among leading Republican figures who fear their hate campaign may backlash and help the liberals gain at the polls. Republican National Committee Chairman Richard Richards, a conservative and long-time supporter of President Reagan, told reporters April 27 that groups like NCPAC "create all kinds of mischief. They're not responsible to anyone." Richards intends to establish a task force to review the potential for curbing the

political role of such groups.

The National Democratic Policy Committee (NDPC), formed after the Carter-McGovernite defeat to secure the election of moderate Democrats and seek bipartisan collaboration on a progrowth economic program, has opened fire against both McGovernites and their "conservative" shadows who would drive the moderates out of Congress. "We intend to make sure that these people don't destroy the mainstream of the Democratic Party which is committed to a real economic revival," said an NDPC spokesman. The group intends to make the activities of both liberal and conservative party-wreckers a major issue at the Democratic National Committee meeting in Denver, Colorado on June 4.

A review of the leading liberal and conservative "ultras" among political action committees reveals the source of their control: the Anglo-American oligarchy.

- **National Conservative Political Action Committee**, (NCPAC) was set up by the collaborators of the Buckley family and the East Side Conservative Club in New York City. The Buckley family have long been assets of the British oligarchy beginning with the father of William and James, who worked closely with British Petroleum. Far from being conservative, the Buckyleys' philosophy in fact is rooted in British classical liberalism, as NDPC advisory board chairman Lyndon LaRouche proved in his 1980 book *How to Defeat Liberalism and William F. Buckley*.

William Buckley is a public supporter of marijuana decriminalization and is a board member of the pro-Khomeini Amnesty International. Buckley established his journal *National Review* with the help of Leon Trotsky's former aide, James Burnham, who was himself trained at England's Oxford University.

Former Senator James Buckley, now in charge of the State Department's Bureau of Oceans and Environment has been dubbed by Citizens for Global 2000 as their "asset in the Reagan administration."

The Buckyleys are prominently tied to the East Side Conservative Club, whose chairman Tom Bolan is the law partner of mob lawyer Roy Cohn.

NCPAC was set up in 1975 by Terry Dolan, Charles Black, and Roger Stone, whose political activities are characterized by their relationship to the Buckyleys and Bolan.

Charles Black, for instance, is a former national board member and former head of Florida's Young Americans for Freedom (YAF), which was established under Buckley direction. His business partner Roger Stone helped run James Buckley's campaigns in 1970 and 1976, and has worked with the family in Westchester politics. As Northeast regional director for the Reagan campaign last year, Stone was in close collaboration with its finance official, Tom Bolan. "I know

Bolan very well," Stone recently admitted, while Bolan's office says that the two have a long association. Stone's old college friend Terry Dolan is associated with the same networks.



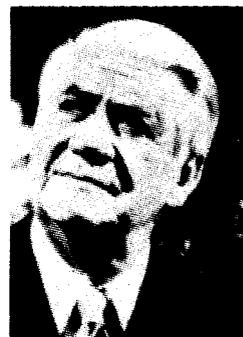
Robert Strauss

NCPAC's current board lists many YAF figures, including former executive director Frank Donatelli.

- **National Committee for an Effective Congress (NCEC)** was set up in 1948 directly by British intelligence to undercut farm, labor, and urban Democratic machines. Its first chairman was Robert Sherwood, who was the World War II liaison between British intelligence's North American chief Sir William Stephenson and President Roosevelt.

NCEC's current director of the national committee, Russell Hemenway, was intimately involved in the "reform" movement of the fifties and sixties and is a leading member of the Sierra Club and the Wilderness Society; the former has launched a campaign against Interior Secretary Watt, and both back the genocidal *Global 2000 Report*.

In electoral politics, NCEC's first campaign was to back social democrat Hubert Humphrey's bid for the Senate, and later backed Estes Kefauver, who pioneered in scandalmongering against the trade-union movement.



Tip O'Neill

On Capitol Hill, NCEC led the 1950s-60s "reform" movement which sought to strip congressional committee leaders of their ability to be responsive to their constituency by forcing through rules changes.

- **Democrats for the 1980s** was established by the same people who forced on the nation the disastrous Carter administration that was so soundly defeated in November. Its backers include Averell and Pamela Harriman; Edmund Muskie; Robert Strauss; and board members Stuart Eizenstat and Tip O'Neill.

Peter Fenn, director of Democrats for the 1980s, confirmed that his group intends to back only liberals in the mid-term elections and that voting records of congressmen will be carefully scrutinized.

- **Progressive Political Action Committee** was set up by Victor Kamber, a Jesuit-trained associate of Socialist International networks in the labor movement. Its executive director Leslie Israel was one of the Democratic Party insiders responsible for installing Robert Strauss as DNC chairman.