

## Eye on Democrats by Anita Gallagher

### Tip O'Neill: 'no longer fit to serve?'

With a loud kerplow, like a drunk falling off the wagon, in a Nov. 1 interview with the *New York Times*'s Scotty Reston, Democratic House Speaker Tip O'Neill threw out the foreign policy bipartisanship which the President had praised.

You might ask, why do the Soviets bother to write their own anti-American propaganda, when the speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives is ready to say the following:

"He [the President] is wrong in his policy. He's caused us continuous harm. He flubbed everything along the line anytime an opportunity that we've had. [sic]"

O'Neill, who will be 71 in December, declared that, "He [the President] only works three to three and a half hours a day. He doesn't do his homework. He doesn't read his briefing papers. It's sinful that this man is President of the United States. He lacks the knowledge that he should in every sphere, whether it's the domestic or whether it's the international sphere."

O'Neill sniped that Nancy Reagan could be the "queen of Beverly Hills" if Reagan would retire.

What has been the response of Democrats to this disgraceful display? Where are the aspirants to speaker-

ship, who are gnashing their teeth over when the dinosaur O'Neill will retire, like Majority Leader Jim Wright, who thundered in the pages of the Fort Worth *Star-Telegram* last March that he was not going to stand by indefinitely while O'Neill serves on and on?

One strong objection came from the National Democratic Policy Committee, the political action committee Lyndon LaRouche founded in 1980. Said its chairman, Warren Hamerman: "Tip O'Neill is no longer fit to serve as speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives." Hamerman charged that the 180-degree reversal of initial bipartisan support for the President's action "reeks of Averell Harriman and his hatchetman, [Democratic National Chairman] Charles Manatt."

O'Neill will not run unopposed in 1984, said Hamerman.

The candidates for the Democratic nomination were quick to get in their criticisms of the Grenada invasion as well. Sen. Alan Cranston (D-Calif.) declared that "the invasion of Grenada had no basis in international law unless American lives were in danger—and there has been no convincing evidence that they were. . . . A trigger-happy President has skirted the War Powers resolution and shamefully shackled our free press." Frontrunners Glenn and Mondale warned of an overreliance on force, while George McGovern wailed that the action was taken without the support of Britain, by a President "who sees Russians and Cubans everywhere."

When the Congressional Black Caucus met with Dominican Prime Minister Eugenia Charles, Rep. Gus Savage (D-Ill.)

that Charles was "just a puppet" for U.S. interests. Rep. Julian Dixon (D-Cal.)

were "aggressors." But Rep. Ron Dellums, named as a target of a drug investigation on Capitol Hill some time ago, may have topped them all, if the rumor that two of his aides were interviewed on Radio Havana is true.

### Bad news for Manatt in North Carolina

Lieutenant Governor James Green of North Carolina, a conservative Democrat and the principal opponent of Manatt flunkey Gov. Jim Hunt, was acquitted on Oct. 28 of four counts of bribery charges. The question "Cui bono?" led many to believe that it was Hunt who was behind the investigation brought by the State Attorney General, Rufus Edmisten. Indeed, the FBI, whose agent had made the attempt to entrap Green, itself brought no charges.

The indictment did tie up Green, who had been expected to run for governor. Hunt has announced as the Democratic opponent to U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms (R).

of the state's conservative Democrats, who supported legislative action against Paul Volcker's high interest rates. In last year's state legislature session, Green cast the deciding vote to defeat a nuclear freeze resolution in North Carolina's state Senate.

If Green announces, he will most likely face none other than Attorney General Rufus Edmisten, who brought the indictment against him. Green's campaign could make the ultra-Fabian campaign Jim Hunt will run against Jesse Helms look like just that.

It was North Carolina's Jim Hunt who was delegated by Banker Manatt to come up with the rules of Democratic delegate selection in 1984 which are the product of the so-called Hunt Commission. A prime aim of the reforms was to shorten the primary season—a bad joke in light of the unseasonable straw polls that have been held, and fixed, since January 1983.

The other great wisdom of the Hunt Commission was to make many of the Democratic members of Congress unpledged, power-broker delegates to the convention. These delegates will be selected in a caucus set for January that none other than Tip O'Neill will chair.