PERISCOPE

Wooing Jews Away From the Democrats

Ronald Reagan and John Anderson plan massive campaigns to win Jewish voters. The Democratic Presidential candidate usually captures the Jewish vote by a wide margin, but Jimmy Carter's opponents are convinced that he has lost substantial Jewish support as a result of his Mideast policies, which at times have seemed to favor a dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organization. The Jewish vote could be crucial in such states as California, Illinois, Massachusetts, Connecticut and New York. The Reagan camp plans to announce a list of prominent Jewish supporters, some of them Democrats. Anderson's staff has begun mailing campaign literature targeted to Jewish voters.

Warning Moscow Not to Fly Old Glory

On orders from the State Department, the U.S. Embassy in Moscow has delivered a formal démarche to the Soviet Foreign Office and has given Soviet Olympic organizers the same message—that the United States doesn't want its flag flown at any of the Moscow Olympic ceremonies. The United States took the unusual step because of rumors that the Soviets intend to fly the flags of all International Olympic Committee members, even the boycotting countries. The Soviets received the U.S. demand without comment. If they comply, it would mean skipping the closing ritual—flying the flags of the current and next Olympic hosts. The 1984 Games are scheduled for Los Angeles.

Cruel Test for a Children's Drug

Doctors are upset by the Food and Drug Administration's reluctance to consider approving an anti-viral agent called isoprinosine, already in use in England, France, West Germany and Italy. A medical advisory group recommended the drug to the FDA after concluding that it could save 80 per cent of the victims—mostly children—of a usually fatal form of encephalitis. But the FDA won't license isoprinosine without a "double-blind" study. Doctors conducting it would have to treat half the children with isoprinosine and half with a placebo—knowing that those on the sugar pills wouldn't have a chance to survive. Doctors who have used isoprinosine—including some from Yale University and Boston's Massachusetts General Hospital—say they couldn't ethically participate in such an experiment.

The 'Midnight Dumping' Problem

"Midnight dumping"—the surreptitious and illegal disposal of toxic wastes—has spilled across the southwestern U.S. border into Mexico. A crackdown within the United States has prompted unscrupulous dumpers to truck PCB and other poisonous chemicals across the border. The Mexicans are angry, and the pollution has become such an issue that governors of U.S. and Mexican border states held a closed-door meeting to discuss it at their first international conference last week in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico.

Courting a Dissident's Support

Carter Administration officials have overlooked a display of hostility on the part of John Lewis, a black civil-rights leader and former member of the Carter team. When Rosalynn Carter made a Mother's Day appearance in Atlanta, Lewis was on hand to greet her—as one of a group of demonstrators protesting the President's proposed budget cuts. Lewis, who has longstanding ties to the Kennedy family, resigned last December from an executive post that included running VISTA, the domestic peace corps. He promised to stay neutral during the primaries and to work for Carter if the President won renomination, and White House aides accordingly put in a good word for Lewis when he applied for a job with the new Consumer Cooperative Bank. The aides had second thoughts after Lewis marched against the First Lady, but they decided not to risk losing his support.

Big Oil Vs. Conservation in Alaska

Environmentalists and others trying to preserve land in Alaska are tangling again with the oil industry, which fears that pending legislation could prevent exploration of the William O. Douglas Arctic Wildlife Range near a proven oil field in Prudhoe Bay. Oil lobbyists are quietly fighting two proposed bills that would classify about 100 million acres of Federal land in Alaska as parks and other protected areas.

Carter's Pique at a U.S. Ambassador

Top White House officials say that Jimmy Carter was annoyed by the behavior of his ambassador to Italy, Richard N. Gardner, during the recent Presidential trip. In Rome, Carter left orders that he wanted to lunch only with Rosalynn and Amy after their Saturday audience with Pope John Paul II. When White House aides checked arrangements at the U.S. Embassy and found the table set for seven, they had four places removed. Somehow, the extra settings reappeared before the President arrived, and Gardner and his wife and two children sat down with the Carters for lunch. On his last night in Venice, when Carter planned to dine with a few close aides, Gardner and his wife joined the dinner party uninvited.

Widening the Suez for Flattops

By next fall, 42 dredges will have widened and deepened the Suez Canal enough to enable U.S. aircraft carriers to sail between the Mediterranean Sea and the Indian Ocean in just a few days. The last U.S. carrier dispatched from the Mediterranean to the Persian Gulf area—the Nimitz—spent more than two weeks sailing around the Cape of Good Hope. The widening of the canal will greatly ease the pressure on the Navy's resources created by the shifting of two carriers to the Arabian Sea to handle the Iranian crisis. But the Soviets have added a new naval base on Dahlak Island, an Ethiopian possession in the Red Sea, and could conceivably block U.S. fleet movements through the canal in the event of a major war.

Envy on the Campaign Trail

Some of President Carter's campaign staffers, drawing mostly modest salaries, resent the raises given two ex-colleagues who left to work for the Democratic National Committee. Evan Dobelle received a $20,000 increase to $60,000 a year, and Leslie Francis moved up from $40,000 to $55,000. Both can argue that they are making up for considerable cuts they took from previous jobs to join the Carter campaign. But their former co-workers are still jealous—especially of Dobelle, whose wife, Kit, pulls down $59,000 a year as Rosalynn Carter's chief of staff.

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