

## Democratic Convention - August 11

Democrats will have their week at selecting candidates and adopting a party platform on August 11. A large number of minority people - a sharp contrast to the Republican convention - will be on the floor, including 71 upfront lesbians and gay men.

Jimmy Carter is predictably the candidate with Ted Kennedy playing a role in bringing up key issues on economics and possibly human rights. It appears that there will be no floor fight over the adopted non-discrimination clause in the proposed platform on "sexual orientation."

Taking a look at the obvious candidates:

### TED KENNEDY

Carter has 1,970 delegates committed and needs only 1,666. Kennedy has 1,220 and recently lost a Demo Rules Committee battle that would have opened up the convention on the first vote. Barring a miracle, it appears that Carter will be elected on the first ballot.

What will Kennedy and his supporters do at the convention? This will be the center of attention on August 11. Kennedy states that he will push for a change in the platform's view of economics. It is assumed that the "gay rights" plank will not be controversial nor will there be a major attempt to expand it.

Kennedy is endorsed by most gay activists who have leadership roles. He is clearly the most outspoken advocate of gay rights in the presidential race and had openly identified with that effort. Kennedy is endorsed by the Toklas Democratic Club and most other gay political clubs across the country. It is the Kennedy delegate-selection caucus meetings that took-off in urban areas with considerable gay activism.

"Liberals" of the Democratic/CDC philosophy will find a spokesperson in Kennedy. However, the Carter people know - as a recent national pole indicated - that only 18% of the American public now consider themselves "liberal" with 39% considering themselves "conservative."

There will probably not be a coronation of Carter as there was of Ronald Reagan. Kennedy and the large minority representation on the convention floor will not allow Carter an easy nomination.

Another question to those viewing might be what effect Kennedy and his supporters will have on the future election. VP Mondale believes that the wounds will be hard to heal if there is "a tearing out of each other's hair" on the floor. Some analysts believe that what Kennedy may be doing at the convention is looking ahead to another attempt in 1984.

### JIMMY CARTER

The President has consistently refused to issue an Executive Order giving job equality in federal employment, including the military, to homosexuals. His aides claim that present law and policy is enough. Carter himself has refused to meet with gay people to discuss this and related issues on non-discrimination.

Carter has been credited in the past with "opening the doors" to the National Gay Task Force in Washington - resulting in some liberalized policy changes on the treatment of homosexuals. He recently approved of a letter from an Assistant Attorney General to Sen. Alan Cranston - endorsing a non-discrimination policy in immigration matters. Although Carter's people opposed any detailed gay rights plank in the platform, they did approve an equality section that mentions non-discrimination on sexual orientation.

Midge Costanza recently told a Toklas gathering that Carter is frightened by gay rights issue and that her support of gay rights was a major factor in her being moved to a basement desk. She said it was herself - not Carter - that "opened doors" in Washington until she was halted. Costanza said Carter's top aides, Hamilton Jordan and Jody Powell, were homophobic in their telling of "fag" jokes.

Gay Carter supporters contend that the president has gone about as far as he can go at this time without suffering a backlash. They contend that he has been progressive on gay rights and - most important - that "he will be elected so let's be on the inside when he is elected."

Two hundred Georgia Baptist preachers recently met in Atlanta and virtually endorsed Reagan. Columnist Evans & Novak reported that the word "queer" was frequently used in podium attacks on homosexuals and Carter was chided for "favoring homosexuals." One widely circulated piece of literature attacked homosexuality while praising Reagan as "a real man of faith."

President Carter appears to be getting it from all sides.

## Alice Float Is Tremendous Success

by Charlie Weaver

Alice was a smashing success in this year's Gay Freedom Day Parade. Travelling down Market Street on Sunday June 29, the float and marching contingent were greeted by a constant stream of applause and cheers.

The float, decorated in red, white, and blue, portrayed the scene of a U.S. Immigration-Port of Entry customs inspection where the Statue of Liberty was prohibited from entering the country when male clothes were found in her suitcases. Alice member Rita Reel was simply stunning as the Statue of Liberty. Ms. Liberty's gown will be setting fashion trends for the 80's. The float was accompanied by lively and patriotic George M. Cohan songs which provided an ironic twist to our presentation of the theme.

Joining Alice on the float were Alice members Assemblymen Art Agnos and Willie Brown and Supervisor Carol Ruth Silver as other tourists at the Port of Entry and Alice members Public Defender Jeff Brown and Sheriff Mike Hennessey as Immigration Officers. We owe them special thanks for supporting Alice and the Gay Community.

The members of the Float Committee, who worked many long and hard hours in the three months before the parade, also deserve special thanks, as do those Alice members who marched with us down Market Street carrying red, white, and blue balloons.

Working on the float and being in the parade was a highlight of this year in Alice and I hope that next year there are even more people who want to again make Alice a highlight of the parade.

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Minnick at 552-6239 (eves.); Steve Walters at 494-1860 (days); or Connie O'Connor 558-2411 (days) and 567-8609 (eves.).

A good time for a good cause!

Mark your social calendar *now* and bring friends.

The **NO on A** Campaign Headquarters is the old Scott for Mayor Headquarters, 2275 Market near Castro. If you have any extra time to give the campaign call San Franciscans For District Elections at 863-6290 - ask for Denise Hinckle - tell them you're an Alice member who is willing to work. Lots of effort is needed if we are to defeat Prop. A on August 19.