



CARL ROWAN

The Old 'Soft On Communism' Act Again

DETROIT — At a breakfast meeting with reporters Monday, Republican Party National Chairman Bill Brock was oozing optimistic reasons why Ronald Reagan is going to be the next president of the United States.

Brock figured that a hapless Jimmy Carter will be the single greatest asset in Reagan's campaign; that when Reagan hammers on "pocket-book" issues, the voters will throw out "an administration that deliberately throws people out of work to fight inflation;" that the tide of voters is running inexorably in favor of the Republicans. When the campaign began in 1976, only 18 percent of voters were supporting Republicans, compared with 30 percent now, while the Democrats' 54 percent support in 1976 has dwindled to 40 percent now, with the tide running inexorably in favor of the Republicans.

"Is there any way that Reagan could blow this election?" a reporter asked.

"Yes, by yielding to the temptation to respond in kind to the brutal attacks that we expect from the Carter campaign people," Brock replied.

Ironically, almost simultaneously in California Reagan was dishing out some unprovoked brutality of his own. He was telling Mike Wallace of CBS' "60 Minutes" that "the Soviet Union is going to throw a few

bones to Mr. Carter during the coming campaign in order to help him continue as president.

"I would be very worried about me if the Soviet Union wanted me to be president," Reagan added.

This is the modern version of the old ultra-right wing slander that "Democrats are soft on communism."

Reagan is starting early to portray Carter as the candidate of the Kremlin, and this is just the sort of reckless rhetoric that will convince millions of voters that Reagan is too irresponsible to be entrusted with the powers and responsibilities of the Oval Office.

Reagan told Wallace the Soviets are wrong if they think him "trigger happy." Brock tried to assure his breakfast companions Reagan is "stable and thoughtful" and will produce a coherent foreign policy. Very clearly, the Republicans perceive a need to lessen voter fears that Reagan is going to drag the country into nuclear war. But those fears will grow if Reagan persists in Soviet-baiting in a way designed to make Carter look like a tool of the Kremlin.

When a reporter suggested that two themes dominated the made for Reagan GOP platform — "soak the poor" and "confrontation and war with the Soviets" — Brock denied it.

"Our platform is

remarkably progressive on economic issues like jobs, economic growth, full employment, and to blacks," he said. "And Gov. Reagan is not challenging the Soviet Union. Jimmy Carter is the confrontationist, with nothing to back it up, and that is the ultimate in dangerous situations for this country."

Reagan and Brock are going to have to get their stories together. Carter can't be the Kremlin's patsy and a dangerous confrontationist at the same time.

The reality is that the Soviet Union is plenty ticked off at Jimmy Carter, with Soviet spokesmen accusing him of trying to starve the Soviet people with a grain embargo and other Soviets making angry remarks about the Carter-inspired Olympic boycott. The president has lost some of his 1976 support precisely because some liberals think he has gone too far in restoring the Cold War.

Americans should expect Reagan to say how he differs with Carter on arms control treaties, the U.S. military budget and similar issues. But they surely do not expect him to try to hang the hammer and sickle around Carter's neck.

This is neither campaigning nor statesmanship. It is just a plain old McCarthy-era cheap shot.

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SNEDC Gets \$275,000

For Black Developments

The Southern Nevada Economic Development Council (SNEDC) has received \$275,000 from the city of Las Vegas for two development projects in the black community.

The agency will use the funds to match grants from the Federal Economic Development Administration (EDA) to establish a revolving loan fund and to construct an "incubator" building at "A" Street and Washington Avenue.

The money was allocated from the city's Black Grant funds, the spokesman said.

\$200,000 of the money would be matched with approximately \$600,000 to \$800,000 to construct the incubator building, which will be used to provide new businesses a safe haven while they establish a clientele.

Construction on the facility is expected to start about October.

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Voters League Gears Up

"The league will be more than normally active this political year, and will immediately plan a series of meet the candidates nights," NAACP president Dr. James B. McMillan stated earlier in the week during a Nevada Voters' League meeting. A meeting was also

scheduled for Wednesday for the purpose of electing its officers for the new year. The names of those elected were not available at the SENTINEL press time.

The meeting agenda involved endorsement of those candidates the League felt would em-

brace the issues important to the chapter, McMillan said.

McMillan also announced he will be running in November for reelection to the NAACP presidency post. He wants to complete the programs on which he is currently working.