

GOP Looks To Its Own Interests

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laws, and seeks to drive unions out of politics.

The Republican delegates were clearly looking out for their own narrow economic interests. According to the WASHINGTON POST, 85 percent of the delegates gathered in Detroit opposed the concept of the Humphrey-Hawkins full employment proposal; 90 percent disagreed with the view that business is a bit too powerful; 88 percent opposed any federal proposal for national health insurance, and 75 percent backed a call for a balanced budget regardless of the cut-backs it would cause in needed social programs.

Moreover, they saw in Ronald Reagan's ultra-conservative and anti-labor views the embodiment of their politics of self-interest and greed. In his acceptance speech, Reagan emerged as the champion of big

business and small government who, with messianic zeal, is dedicated to dismantling the programs begun under the New Deal. Reagan spelled out for us as clearly as Barry Goldwater did in 1964 that his purpose is to undo and weaken the social program of the federal government.

The cornerstone of the Reagan program is a 30 percent cut in income taxes — a program known as the Kemp-Roth tax bill. This proposal not only would eliminate and weaken social services, but the influx of money it would release into the marketplace would unleash a new inflationary spiral. Most importantly, those who would benefit from a Reagan tax cut most would be the rich and members of the upper middle class.

Reagan's scorecard on other economic matters is equally poor. He opposes federally-created temporary jobs, is opposed to wage,

price and profit controls, has indicated that he is against minimum wage legislation, and is against one of President Carter's most popular proposals — the windfall profits tax on the oil industry. In addition, Reagan has suggested that unions be placed under anti-trust laws, a move that experts agree would cripple the bargaining power of unions by banning industry-wide and region-wide negotiations.

Another alarming feature of Reagan's program is his opposition to the Equal Rights Amendment. The question of equal rights, Mr. Reagan feels, is better left to the courts. But this stance is transparently dishonest. Reagan, after all, supports constitutional amendments to balance the federal budget and favors an amendment that is against making abortions a matter of personal conscience.

Study of Mr. Reagan's program leads to the inescapable conclusion

that the former California Governor's domestic policies are those of an extremist conservative. That his prescriptions are not being denounced as extreme is an indication of the political disorientation of the media and the willingness of some politicians to abandon ground when faced by attacks from conservative political action committees and right-wing ideologues.

There is still time to stop the Reagan onslaught. But the only way to do so is by articulating a policy which calls for social justice. Only a Presidential candidate who challenges Mr. Reagan's policies at their root and proposes a comprehensive program to stem inflation while guaranteeing full employment will be able to win in November. Meanwhile, for blacks and labor, the time to register voters and motivate them to vote is now.

will set the tone of won gains of blacks, policies in the 1980s. workers, women and the Unless we want policies poor, we must act which attack the hard- together to stop Reagan.



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