

PRID PRESS

The Official Voice of Park River Independent Democrats—Larry Bronfman, Editor
2121 Broadway ■ New York, NY 10023 ■ 212/362-9431

Notice of Club Endorsements & General Membership Meeting

Thursday, October 15, 1981

8:15 P.M.

at the

PRID Clubhouse

Agenda

1. District Leaders Reports
2. Public Officials Reports
3. Club Endorsements for:
 Mayor
 Borough President
 Justices of State Supreme Court
4. Discussion & Debate & Vote on Prison Bond Issue
5. Community Affairs Report
6. New Business
7. Good & Welfare

Dates to Remember:

October 11th: PRID vs. CFD Softball Game
(see details page 8)

October 12th: PRID Executive Board Meeting

Report from the President

On Solidarity Day: The waves and signs of placards bobbing up and down Constitution Avenue and across the Washington Mall said it all: "Labor builds for peace, not for war"... "The best defense is a first rate education"... "Feed the people, not the Pentagon"... "Reagan breeds social insecurity"... "Make jobs not war"... Joe Blazer sang, "This Land is Your Land"... and Lane Kirkland urged the over several hundred thousand marchers who gathered in front of the U.S. Capitol to "Let us return to our communities to work for a new mandate...to work for more books and less arsenals...to work for more justice and less revenge."

Unlike many of the demonstrations and marches of the late 60's and early 70's, this one was above all peaceful and orderly (no doubt a cause for the limited TV coverage). But, unless Reagan's "voodoo economics" programs work, it may turn out to have been merely a prelude to more acerbic confrontations between a President and his supporters who are convinced that we must substitute butter with guns and the many millions of us who think otherwise.

On Reaganomics: Some weeks ago E. L. Doctorow, author of "The Book of Daniel" and "Ragtime" gave moving testimony before the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, which was examining proposed cuts in funding for the National Endowment for the Arts. In his opposition to such cuts this was what Doctorow said:

"I cannot avoid the feeling that it is senseless for me to testify here. People everywhere have been put in the position of fighting piecemeal for this or that social program while the assault against all of them proceeds across a broad front. The truth is, if you're going to take away the lunches of schoolchildren, the pensions of miners who've contracted black lung, the storefront legal services of the poor who are otherwise stunned into insensibility by the magnitude of their troubles, you might as well get rid of poets, artists and musicians.

"I am waiting for a rising sound of protest from the Halls of Congress, but I have not yet heard declared what we all know to be true...that the so-called economic policy issuing from its government, for all its supply-side jargon and budgetary pieties, is a simple, undeniable eviction procedure, a brutal eviction not only of widows and children but all citizens except the already privileged, all interests except those of wealth and business.

"And so in my testimony for this small program I am aware of the large picture and really, it stuns me. What I see in this picture is a kind of Sovietizing of American life, guns before butter, the plating of the nation with armaments, the sacrifice of everything in our search for ultimate security.

"We shall become an immense armory. But inside this armory there will be nothing. Not a people but an emptiness. We shall be an armory around emptiness. We shall be an armory around nothingness, and our true strength and security and the envy of the world...the passion and independent striving of a busy, working and dreaming population committed to fair play and the struggle for some sort of real justice and community...will be no more..."

-Gary Gailes



PRID at Solidarity Day in Washington

District Leader Mary Geissman's Report

As this is the first edition of the PRID Press since last spring, I would like to briefly touch on several items in this report.

1. On behalf of our endorsed candidates and the club, I want to give a big thank you to Barbara Gonzo for her outstanding work as the club's campaign coordinator. Barbara called on many of you to distribute literature, table, work on primary day, etc. Prior to the original primary date, Barbara had all our hall cards distributed for posting and volunteers organized to distribute palm cards at the polls on September 10th. Despite being disheartened when the primary was called off, Barbara came right back and organized everything again for the rescheduled primary on September 22. Thanks also go to Barry Fertel who served as co-cordinator and to all of you who volunteered.

2. Also, a belated thank you in print to Sharon Brown for serving as petition coordinator this summer. Because of Sharon's persistence, Park River filed over 1500 signatures for County Committee, one of our highest totals in recent years.

3. The County Committee was one of the casualties of the postponed primary. When the new City Council districts were drawn this year some election district boundaries were changed. These new ED lines are also subject to approval by the Justice Department. As part of the agreement under which the primary was held on September 22nd, the Board of Elections returned to the 1980 election district lines. However, the County Committee petitions had been circulated using 1981 ED's, so County Committee elections could not be held.

What does this mean? Those of you who were elected to the County Committee in 1979 remain in office until new elections are held. These new elections might be held at the same time the City Council primary is scheduled. You may have to recirculate petitions, or possibly some agreement will be reached whereby signatures collected last summer will stand if ED boundaries don't change. The state legislature probably will have to sort all of this out when the primary is rescheduled.

The meeting of the entire Manhattan County Committee at which officers are elected and rules are adopted will not be held this October. It will be held within thirty days after the election of the County Committee - whenever that may be.

4. District Leaders were elected at the September 22nd primary due to some last minute negotiating at the Justice Department by the County Leader, Denny Farrell and one of the County Law Chairs, Doug Kellner. One happy result was the election of an old friend of PRID's, Kathy Freed.

The new County Executive Committee met on October 1st, to elect officers. Denny Farrell was elected without opposition to a full two-year term. Other officers elected are Raul Rodriguez, Chair of the Executive Committee; Jerome Tarnoff, Vice-Chair of the Executive Committee; Albert Blumberg, Chair of the Policy Committee; and William Perkins, Vice-Chair of the Policy Committee.

Farrell announced that all committee chairs would continue to hold their positions which means that I will continue to be Chair of the Judiciary Committee.

District Leader Mike Abram's Report

The recent cancellation of City Council elections, and postponement of the other municipal primaries, certainly rocked the political establishment. These actions dramatically remind us of the continued importance of the Voting Rights Act. Perhaps Strom Thurmond will take heed, since he undoubtedly enjoyed the political embarrassment to our city.

What will happen now in the City Council races? The Justice Department will decide by the end of this month whether to approve the council redistricting. Assuming it is not approved, lines will have to be redrawn in at least some districts, and the primary will have to be rescheduled. The primary could be held as early as January - or as late as June or September.

Meanwhile, in a separate legal action, members of the West Brooklyn Independent Democrats sued to obtain a ruling that the Borough-wide at-large council seats (held in Manhattan by Henry Stern and Ed Wallace) violate the one-person, one-vote principle. The theory is that the votes of voters in a small borough - Staten Island - have much more weight per voter through the at-large members than in the large boroughs. This court case could take a couple of years. But it probably won't hold up the council primary once the redistricting issue is settled.

What this means for us is that Ed Wallace will be facing a primary, as early as this winter. We must continue to campaign for Ed - our endorsed candidate, PRID member, and good friend to many in the club.

Speaking of campaigning, I am also pleased to report that Dave Dinkins will be campaigning for Borough President as the candidate of the Liberal Party. We will vote on the endorsement issue at the club's October meeting.

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Congressman Rangel and PRID members campaign for Dave Dinkins.

Report from Parks and Environment Committee

1. Through the efforts of an active Parks constituency and our elected officials, the Parks budget for FY 1982 has been increased as follows:

<u>Expense Budget</u>	\$1,500,000 for tree care	<u>Total Expense Budget:</u> \$109,000,000
	\$1,500,000 for personnel	

Capital Budget Increase of approximately \$39,000,000. This includes \$1,250,000 for tree planting in the Bronx, Brooklyn and Queens, and approximately \$16,000,000 for P-245 projects - a lump-sum for park and playground rehabilitation costing less than \$750,000 per project.

Total Capital Budget: approximately \$84,000,000. Ruth Messinger has been successful in securing funds for needed improvements in Riverside Park, including money for renovation of the 105th Street Playground. Funds requested for the total rehabilitation of Riverside Park are under review by the OMB.

2. Although the Christo Gates proposal was rejected by the Parks Department, Christo and his attorney, Ted Kheel, have announced their intention to re-apply for a permit. We must remain alert and prepared in regard to this and other potential incursions into our parks.

3. We will receive approximately 120 daffodil bulbs from the Parks Council for planting this October. Two proposed sites are: Verdi Park at 72nd Street and the 79th Street Boat Basin. Suggestions for sites are welcome. This will be an outdoor event for PRID, and your participation is encouraged.

4. Dutch Elm Disease continues to be a major problem. Approximately \$150,000 per year, for a period of several years, is needed to ensure that the major stands of elms in Riverside Park and Central Park remain.

5. Revised drawings for the building at Wollman Rink met with approval by the majority of private groups concerned with Central Park. The Central Park Consultative Group (CPCG) had a constructive influence in redefining the original submission. There is concern, however, about plans for an extensive restaurant facility at the Rink. The Parks Department is urged not to relinquish its responsibility for public facilities. The proposed Loeb Boathouse renovation must also be examined carefully.

-Eleanor Garz, Chair

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BULLETIN

As we go to press, the Supreme Court Democratic Judicial Convention has just ended with a smashing victory for PRID's Judge Eve Preminger. Joining Eve Preminger as Democratic nominees for State Supreme Court are Ken Shorter, Edith Miller, David Levy, Joseph Serbone and incumbent Xavier C. Riccobono. The Preminger campaign was led by Park River's Henry Berger, Ann O'Shea and Alan Handell who placed her name in nomination.

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The Wit and Wisdom of George Washington Plunkitt, Jr.

(Editor's Note: Plunkitt sometimes expresses a point of view that others share. Nevertheless, the opinions, observations and speculations below are not those officially held by PRID.)

New York City was finally permitted to hold its primary elections. The results did not produce any significant surprises, except, maybe, for Andy Stein. Andy outspent Dave Dinkins by more than \$400,000, yet he barely squeezed out a narrow victory. Andy's prospects for a statewide race can't be bright if he can just beat an opponent he outspends two to one in his home base, where he should be strongest. Ant if a few West Side political leaders...like Ruth Messinger, Dick Gottfried and Jerry Nadler...had endorsed Dinkins rather than Stein, maybe some Westsiders would have followed and switched their vote to Dinkins. A switch of 4,000 out of 142,000 cast would have given victory to Dinkins.

Did you notice Ed Koch did as well in the Republican primary as the Democratic primary? At least one of the parties doesn't know what's going on at City Hall.

The cancellation of the City Council primaries probably saved Ed Wallace's politician neck...at least for now. In some districts where the Council-at-large race was not removed from the machine, Wallace didn't fare well. Take note that it was Nancy Ross, not Bill Woodward, who did best. Ross, whose political antecedents are subject to serious scrutiny, is a serious threat to win this seat if the election is ever conducted. But the continued existence of the ten at-large council seats is now under attack. A suit challenging those seats as violating one person, one vote principles is pending in Federal court in Brooklyn, and a decision is due soon. If the challenge is successful, the Council could redraw its district lines, protect all the district incumbents, and still increase minority representation... all it would cost is ten at-large seats. And if the at-large council seats go, the Borough Presidents' votes on the Board of Estimate will certainly be challenged next. Looks like the courts will be writing the next several chapters of the City's political history.

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Minutes of PRID Meeting

Gary Gales, PRID President, chaired the General Membership Meeting, held on August 31st. The meeting opened with a discussion by Representative Ted Weiss, a PRID member, about President Reagan's budget cuts. Congressman Weiss expressed doubts about the future of federally funded social programs that benefit out community's residents. Assemblyman Gottfried then spoke of how federal budget cuts were adversely affecting N.Y. State programs. After these talks, our District Leader, Mary Geissman, urged PRID members to attend Solidarity Day, the rally to be held in Washington, D.C., September 19th, to protest Reagan's economic policies. Barbar Gonzo, PRID's Campaign Coordinator, asked for volunteers to distribute club literature at subway stops, tables and rallies before and on Primary Day. Sharon Brown, a coordinator for the Dinkins for Borough President campaign, also requested volunteers. Jerry Koenig, who appoints election inspectors for PRID, asked PRID members to work as inspectors on Primary Day. The meeting ended with a statement by Andy Engel concerning crowded conditions on Columbus Avenue.

-Susan Tucker, Recording Secretary

PRID Registration Drive—A Hugh Success

Park River's participation in the annual Columbus Avenue Festival this year, held on Sunday, September 27th, was a resounding success. Thanks to the quick response of several club members, we were able to set up a voter registration table at the event on very short notice. Through the participation of Murray Siegel, Vice President of the West Side Chamber of Commerce, we were given the use of a space at 74th Street without charge "as a community service."

The community responded by nearly overwhelming the teams of PRID volunteers and turning in almost 500 registrations from about five hours of concentrated activity. Starting off with the reliable service of Larry Bronfman and David Finn, we were soon joined by Fred Beckhardt and Judith Bronfman. They were relieved in turn by Barry and Valerie Fertel (with sideline participation from young son, Jeremy). Then Ed Gunther and Gloria Scott arrived to provide the final push as the effort ran out of forms near the conclusion of the Festival.

Credits should also go to the background preparatory work of Bob Levin and Gary Gales who stepped in to offer crucial assistance at the right minute (literally, the last minute before the Board of Elections closed on Friday) to pick up the necessary forms.

Stopping by to give added impact to our efforts were Congressman Ted Weiss, City Councilman Ed Wallace and Councilwoman Ruth Messinger. They expressed their support and appreciation for the effort, especially in view of the confusion surrounding the recently held partial primary.

Club members who join in these registration drives invariably comment on the sense of satisfaction they derive from meeting the general public in this capacity. They are repeatedly complimented and thanked by registrants for providing the opportunity to answer their questions and fill out the forms. It is an ideal method of being involved with the local community, and we encourage club members to join us the next time such an effort is mounted in the area.

-Peter M. Jenkins, Community Affairs-V.P.

(Editor's Note: And thanks to Peter for putting it all together!)

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COME ONE—COME ALL! **Park River Dems vs. Community Free Dems** **FIRST ANNUAL SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP**

Sunday, October 11, 1981
11:30 A.M.

CENTRAL PARK SOFTBALL DIAMONDS
Due East from 85th St. & CPW

FREE BEER—SODA—FRIED CHICKEN



All PRID members are invited to play or cheer their friends on.

All players and cheerleaders should meet at the lobby of 1 West 85th St. (Mike Abrams Bldg.) at 10:30 A.M. or proceed directly to the playing field in the Park for a brief warm-up practice before game time.

Softball gloves will be available for everyone who wants to play.