

Samuels accepted Solarz support in the primary race for Governor, but it did him no good.

ON MORE LOCAL LEVELS, the CBID endorsed Rigler for Judge in the early 1970's and they were doublecrossed.

The IDOF combined with the Hesterberg club for mundane pragmatic reasons, and it became useless to the progressive or reform movement.

In the 42nd A.D. the local reform club backed a hack Sharoff and another hack Schneider for the Assembly, and the club folded.

In the 46th A.D., the Community Democratic Club made pragmatic deals with Esposito & Golden and the club became useless to the liberal or reform cause.

The other reform club in the 46th A.D. that was associated with K. Elstein, made deals with Larry Simon and Solarz, and faded away.

The WBID supported Solarz and Dugan in various races in the 52nd A.D. and faded into playing second fiddle to Dugan's club.

The Whitman club backed Solarz for Boro President (1973) and Congressman in 1974 and folded up.

The WGID in Williamsberg endorsed Omedo for City Council and became weaker rather than stronger.

Not a single reform candidate for the City Council in 1973, whose club endorsed Solarz for Boro President, won their local races.

IX (1980's)

The same story carries through the 1980's.

Mondale took support of slimy Solarz in the 1984 race and it did not do him any good.

Hart and Simon flirted with Solarz and in neither race did the 13th C.D. give them its vote.

Mark Green dallied with Noah Dear and Hyman Cohen (Brighton Beach Baths and Muss Corp.) and it did him no good

Carol Bellamy, backed the regulars in Park Slope against the CBID and Jim Brennan, and backed Walentas in the waterfront projects, and if this helped her in the 1985 mayoralty campaign, it is unknown to me.

Frank Barbaro dumped Joe Ferris in the 1985 mayor race, and it did not help him in the 1988 campaign for Jesse Jackson.

Harrison Goldin accepted the support of Brooklyn democratic boss (Howard Golden) and he lost miserably in the Brooklyn primaries.

Dan Feldman, let the reform clubs down for ten years. It did not help him in the D.A. race. Neither did his association with Marty Solomon help him.

The KCDC voted to make Marty Solomon and other disgruntled regulars affiliated members. This split the KCDC, and decreased its effectiveness in the early 1980's.

ON MORE LOCAL LEVELS, the Eleanor Roosevelt Independent Democrats allied itself with a conservative regular (Smoler) and still lost its primary race.

In the 48th A.D. the KCDC allowed Larry Douglas and Gerber to become part of the KCDC. This led to the ruin of the reform movement in the 48th A.D.

The CBID endorsed Montalto, Ann English, and Antonia Caban at various years. This did not help the CBID

Ann English made deals with Peter Abbate and Steve Solarz--and to dump Dukakis--to help her in Her race against Mega. She lost both honor and purse.

NO ONE CAN SATIRIZE MUNDANE PRAGMATISM
BETTER THAN ART BUCHWALD. HERE GOES.

Surely, Mr. Jefferson, you don't mean to go THAT far....

PHILADELPHIA, 1775.

THE Constitutional convention is meeting here to write a Declaration of Independence. In the hallways are lobbyists for special interest groups, working to water it down.

Thomas Oglethorpe, representing the English Tea Industry, but-tonholes Thomas Jefferson and says, "Tom, I have to talk to you."

"I'm awfully busy now. I have to put the finishing touches on the abuses that George III has heaped on us."

"It will only take a few moments," Oglethorpe says, grabbing Jefferson's arm and steering him around the corner. "Do you realize that your Declaration is going to play havoc with the tea industry?"

"Well, George III shouldn't have put a tax on it without consulting us."

"I'm not talking about tea, Tommy. I'm talking about jobs. Do you know how many people will be

laid off in the colonies if you people go ahead with this declaration?"

"That's just too bad. George is not going to tax us without our consent."

"Tommy, bend down, I want to whisper something in your ear. I've been authorized to spend five million pounds by the English Tea Political Action Committee to take care of our friends in the Continental Congress. We'll buy six tables at your next fund-raiser if you eliminate the tax protest from the document."

"I can't take it out. It's a key sentence in the Declaration and the one thing that has the colonialists all up in arms."

"Tommy, the Society of English Tea Expor-

ters is meeting in Toronto next month. How would you like to be the keynote speaker? We'll pay you 5000 pounds, and take you there and back in the East Indies Private Horse and Carriage."

"Oglethorpe, I have to go."

"All right, Tommy, we can play hardball too. We're going to pour 100,000 pounds into Virginia to see that you don't get elected."

Jefferson turns to leave when he is stopped by General Cornwallis. "Tommy, I'm glad I ran into you. The Joint Chiefs in London are very upset that your declaration won't let us quarter our troops in people's homes here. If it passes, we're going to have to build barracks

for them, and it's going to cost us a fortune that we planned to spend for flintlocks."

"I can't worry about the military. My concern is that your troops are moving in on our homes without any consent."

"That's no way to treat our boys in uniform. After all, we're keeping the French from making a pre-emptive strike on Boston."

"We don't see it that way. We consider you a foreign army."

"Tommy, if you take the quartering sentence out of the Declaration, we'll build three forts in your state, and a naval base in Portsmouth, which will add 20 million pounds a year to Virginia's economy."

"No soap, General. It stays in as I wrote it."

Cornwallis says, "Okay, Tommy, but don't come to us when you want our engineers to build you a dam."

Jefferson walks down to his office, where he is stopped by a fundamentalist minister from the Royal Majority.

"Tommy, do you realize what you're doing? This declaration is heresy against the mother church. God wants us to be part of the British Empire. You're encouraging sin, abortion and homosexuality. We have to get the colonists to go back to the old values when people respected their king."

"Thanks, but no thanks. I worked too hard on this document to scrap it now."

"Okay, Tommy, if that's the way you want it. But if you ever run for President, the Royal Majority aren't going to let you forget this. We have the Lord on our side."

VIRTUOUS IDEALISM, MUNDANE PRAGMATISM, OR TAWDRY OPPORTUNISM

In recent endorsement meetings the Village Independent Democrats showed virtuous idealism in endorsing Tony Hoffman, Keith Crandell and Katharine Wolpe

The Central Brooklyn Independent Democrats showed virtuous idealism in endorsing Jim Brennan, Curtis Chase and Cynthia Gonzalez, and Laura Jacobson & Elissa Oberman for civil court Judges

Both the VID and the CBID share mundane pragmatism in endorsing Carol Bellamy for NYS Comptroller and a regular Brooklyn Democrat Knipel for a Judgeship.

Coriolanus, or probably a replacement by a "body snatcher" pod, showed a tawdry opportunism, in making a deal with the Volscian tribes attacking Rome,

II

I have only a low key objection to the CBID endorsement of Carol Bellamy. She only double-crossed the reform CBID 3 or 4 times (as compared to Solarz selling out the reformers some 200 times), is not a clear and present danger to the internal integrity of the CBID (having no stooge to put on the Executive Board in contrast to Solarz who has close alliances with Abbate, Dugan, and Noah Dear) and has the nice Protestant high cheek bones that I like. And pragmatically, it will be hard to campaign for Cuomo without using the joint Cuomo-Bellamy leaflets.

As for the mundane pragmatism of endorsing a machine regular (Knipel) as a judge, with the hope that this will induce Speaker Mel Miller not to undercut the CBID in the 1992 re-apportionment I can't feel too indignant. I will not be humiliated by having my friends question what the hacks (Marcy Feigenbaum, Councilman Williams and Ken Fisher) are doing on a 51st A.D. reform nominating petition committee of vacancy. I live in the 45th A.D.

III

But having to live up to my reputation of being the conscience of the reform democrats, let me express my misgivings in the most level headed method possible.

I offer \$100 as a campaign contribution to the favorite candidate of either the V.I.D. or the CBID member, who could show the most examples of such "ends justifying the means" or mundane pragmatism, actually doing a good government, liberal or progressive club any good, rather than it blowing up in the faces of the junior Tallyrands and causing the club to lose both honor and purse. I can't think of any such instance, but maybe others can.

IV

New York politics shows hundreds of cases where mundane pragmatism did the reform or liberal organizations harm. Here are a few examples from memory.

Milton Goldner

V (1950's)

In the 1950's, the West Side Democratic Club tied up with a disgruntled regular, backed Tammany Hall against Rudolph Halley for City Council President, etc. It did not strengthen the club and that club weakened and died.

The Midtown Democratic Club and the Tilden Democratic Club (reform) made a deal with DeSapio to oppose a common foe. Thus compromised, both clubs became weak and lack lustre reform clubs.

In Brooklyn, the Espianade Democratic Club allowed itself to be financed by a racketeer, Irving Horowitz, and it died an ignominious death.

The Brooklyn Young Democrats kissed the rear ends of Councilman Stein, and backed a mediocre regular for Boro President.. The club sickened and died.

VI (1960's)

In the early 1960's, the 45th AD Roosevelt Club flirted or fornicated with regulars, Berny Marcus, Lou Schwartz, Kenneth Rubenstein, a Mr. Kaplan, a Ruth Lerner etc. and it did not do them any good.

The WBID flirted with a phony insurgent, Charles Berkman and afterwards with Congressman Richmond, to their harm rather than benefit.

In the early 1960's, the Glenwood Independent Democrats, elected a Mr. Berman, who sold out to the regulars and both Berman and the club were ruined

In the latter 1960's, the peace candidate, Dubin, and the reform candidate Morris Wechsler, joined forces with Steve Solarz, and both were humiliated by the opportunism of Solarz. Dubin lost the election, and Wechsler died of heart failure.

The Roosevelt-Kingsborough Independent Democrats flirted with regulars Knigin and Lubka, only to end up spurned, betrayed and split.

The Carl Sandburg Independent Democrats flirted with the regular Lichtman and ended in failure.

The peace forces and the McCarthy campaign flirted with Solarz and both ended in defeat

The KCDC flirted with the Davidoffs, Keipers, and Larry Simons of the Lindsay apparatus, and it did not strengthen them at all.

The WBID endorsed Herb Freeman for Council-at-large and they were humiliated.

IN MANHATTAN and CITYWIDE, some reform clubs backed Shanely Egath, Carlos Rios, and a Rothman and the reform clubs involved, including the Rutgers Independent Democrats shriveled away.

Paul O'Dwyer did not stop Solarz from tying in with his city-wide campaign and neither man carried the old 54th (and now 45th) Assembly Districts for O'Dwyer

Humphry and McCarthy did not protest Solarz playing a two faced game in the 13th and 16th Congressional Districts, and both lost out.

VIII (1970's)

In the 1970's Badillo made opportunistic deals or accepted the support of Velez, Vander Beatty, and Sam Wright, and backed Koch for Mayor in '77 and neither Badillo or the Hispanic community were strengthened.

McGovern's campaign staff tolerated Solarz exploitation of it in 1972, but it did not do McGovern any good