

the liberal domestic policies traditionally supported by the Jewish community in the US.

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«The hour's late, the possibilities great» is one of the most famous quotes of the Rev. Jesse Jackson as he campaigned for Dukakis across the US. Prior to losing the bid for the Democratic presidential nominee, the Rev. Jackson, a long-time civil rights leader, ran a campaign unprecedented in US politics. Never has an Afro-American or a person of any other minority been a serious contender for the White House. However, the Jackson campaign did not limit itself to minority issues, but encompassed issues of concern to all sectors of the American public. The Rainbow Coalition really was a rainbow of all colors, women and men, young and old, farmers, laborers and professionals, with a similar agenda.

Jackson's forces were credited with registering over 500,000 new voters this year alone - an important electoral strategy after less than 50% of eligible voters cast their ballots in 1984. Jackson appealed to millions of Americans about the need to find a «new direction» and profoundly transform both domestic and international policy. Perhaps Jackson's most important victory in terms of influencing mainstream party politics was the Democratic Party's position on South Africa. Jackson refused to compromise on apartheid and pressured the Democrats to officially declare South

Africa a terrorist state. This was the exact language adopted in the final party platform to lay groundwork for a Democratic administration to enact total sanctions against Pretoria. Jackson was also the only front runner to push for a complete moratorium on nuclear missiles and flight testing, a no first strike nuclear weapons policy, Palestinian self-determination and statehood, and an end to Washington's war on Central America.

With 7 million voters behind him, Jackson called for a pro-peace, anti-intervention stance with a fundamental re-orientation of US policy away from East-West confrontation and towards improved relations with developing countries, away from the nuclear arms race and the Reagan military build-up, and towards promoting self-determination and human rights. Concerning Jackson's Middle East position, he stated at a major Los Angeles address on foreign policy in May, «In the Middle East, Israeli security/Palestinian self-determination are two sides of the same coin. We must break the cycle of violence, provide guarantees for mutual security in exchange for mutual recognition, land in exchange for peace» (*Middle East Report*, November-December). Additionally, the Jackson forces played a key role in raising the subject of Palestinian self-determination at the Democratic National Convention held in July, where the resolution received over 1500 endorsements in only two days. This was due to four main factors: the intifada, Arab-American ac-

tivism, the success of the Jackson campaign and the support of progressive Jews. Jackson was targeted by the pro-Israeli lobby within and outside of the Democratic Party, primarily due to his pro-Palestinian stance.

CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION RESULTS: WHO CONTROLS CONGRESS NOW?

Besides their 41st president, Americans went to the polls on November 8th to elect 33 Senators (two per state and 100 in total) and 408 of the 435-member House of Representatives (with three vacancies), as well as, 12 Governors (out of 50) and thousands of other state and local officials. Of the Senate seats filled, 18 were previously held by Democrats and 15 by Republicans. Prior to the elections, Democrats controlled the House by a margin of 255 to 177 and the Senate by a 54 to 46 majority. They also had a 27 to 23 lead in Governors. Democrats have formed the majority in Congress from 1955 to 1981, and this year is no different. As a result, the House in the 101st Congress will look much like the House in the 100th, heavily Democratic. Only seven seats changed and Democrats picked up at least two seats and could have a 5-seat gain by the time the absentee ballots are counted in a few tight races. Republicans lost net party strength in the Senate, but managed to promote two prime right-wingers from the House to the Senate. 98.5% of the House of Representatives incumbents were re-elected to office. All the members of the Congressional Black Caucus were re-elected. In the Senate the 34-member «class» up for re-election in 1990 is disproportionately Republican, and Democrats could easily add three or four new Senators.

President-elect George Bush is the first president to lose members of the House where Republican strength has dropped to a record low for a year in which the party won the presidency. This marked the first time in 28 years that a political party lost the White House, while gaining strength in Congress.

All in all, for peace and justice activists world-wide, the retaining of

THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE: IS THIS DEMOCRACY?

The President of the United States really was elected on December 19, 1988, at the meeting of the 538 members of the Electoral College. The College was established in 1804 under the 12th Amendment to the Constitution and was expressly devised to prevent the election of a candidate who merely attracted a majority of the popular vote. The College's members are nominated by the individual state parties and their numbers are determined by state population density. It

was established to provide a safeguard against the election of a maverick or extremist candidate. The candidate with the most ballots takes all of a state's votes. Alternatively, a candidate who wins the 12 states with the most college votes can win the election regardless of the national popular vote and national poll margin. This has occurred three times in the history of US presidential elections. Therefore, following this line of thought, is there really a need to have popular democratic elections, since ultimately it is the Electoral College which decides who has the right credentials to become president?