How GOP and Demos Differ in Accepting Extremists

By DON FEDER

Democrats should stop smirking over the election of white supremacist David Duke, running as a Republican, to a seat in the Louisiana legislature. Those who condone the basest bigotry, for the sake of political expediency, should be among the last to indulge in smugness in the matter.

Republicans did their best to dissociate themselves from the former Klansman. President Bush endorsed his opponent, while former President Reagan taped a radio spot for the anti-Duke candidate. GOP National Chairman Lee Atwater will press his National Committee to censure Duke at its next meeting, and has urged Louisiana

Republicans to exclude the racist from their councils. Despite these earnest disavowals, the

Democrats are on the offensive. House Majority Whip Tony Coelho (D.-Calif.) admonished the GOP was 'playing with matches" in its Southern strategy, implying Duke is the flame they've ignited.

While Coelho skirted the edge of political slander, civil rights activist Jason Berry, in a column in the New York Times, went sailing over the precipice, flag unfurled. Republican positions on affirmative action, busing, crime and welfare are appeals to preju-dice, Berry charged. "Republican strategy has made racism politically fashionable."

If the GOP stand on the enumerated issues constitutes racism, then most Americans are bigots. A majority of blacks also oppose forced busing and quotas, and worry about crime. Are they covert Klansmen as well?

It's not unusual for extremists, hun-



What is it about the Democratic party that allows extremists like Lyndon La Rouche (above) to operate under its banner with impunity?

gry for legitimacy, to attempt to infiltrate the major parties. In 1980 Tom Metzger, former grand dragon of the KKK campaigning in a white sheet, won not a piddling little state house seat in the Deep South, but a Democratic congressional primary in California.

LaRouche secured the Democratic nomination for lieutenant governor of illinois. If we accepted Coelho's logic, we could be com-pelled to inquire what it is about the Democratic philosophy which attracts crawly creatures like Metzger and laRouchies to its banner.

MISCELLANEOUS

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In 1986, a follower of Lyndon

Dukes: Democrats are increasingly willing to endure theirs, for the sake of their coalition. When it was disclosed in the course of the campaign that several advisers on a Busli ethnic task force had extremist backgrounds, the presidential candidate didn't stop to consider whether repudiating them would lose votes among Americans of Eastern European descent. He simply expelled

them posthaste.

Republicans disown their David

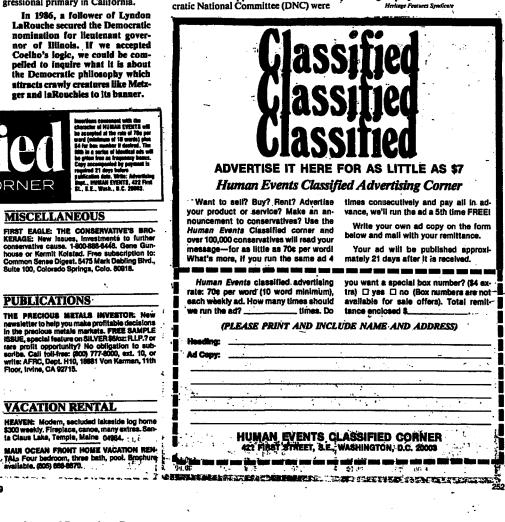
Would that Democrats exhibited such fortitude. When the anti-Scmitism of Steve Cokely hit the front pages last spring (in a series of lectures sponsored by the Nation of Islam, Cokely claimed there is an "international Jewish con-spiracy," that Jewish doctors were injecting black children with the AIDS. virus, and that the crucifix is a symbol of white supremacy), it took weeks of intense pressure for Chicago Mayor Eugene Sawyer to dismiss his aide.

As a mayoral spokesman explained it, Sawyer was reluctant to rid himself of Cokely because he was "afraid of a revolt in the black community."

This tolerance of hatred was raised to a national plane following the Atlanta convention. Two of the 12 members Jesse Jackson appointed to the DemoFarrakhan ("Hitler was a great man") enthusiasts. One, the Rev. Willie Barspoke at a Muslim rally on TOW. Feb. 25, 1988, rhapsodizing, "I love my brother Minister Louis Farrakhan."

What do you suppose the Democrats did when the records of their newest National Committee members were disclosed? Absolutely nothing, How do they treat Jackson himself, a man who at various times has observed that New York is "Hymietown," all his media critics are Jews and that he's "sick and tired of hearing about the Holocaust" (who additionally has refused to condemn Farrakhan and declined to call for Cokely's removal)? At their last convention, he shared the podium with the presidential nominee; Dukakis warmly embraced him. Ron Brown, a former Jackson aide, is the new chairman of the Democratic National Committee.

Democrats will ignore the most vile anti-Semitism and obscene expressions of anti-white sentiment so as not to alienate their minority support. On the day that George Bush embraces David Duke, on the stage of a GOP National Convention, Republicans will begin to approach the guilt of Democrats in pandering to prejudice.





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