

Fred Cook's Notes regarding our MNS "Elections 2024" Zoominar, Feb. 29, 2024

My bottom line: Our current presidential election demonstrates that the system is **not** going to offer choices we need. The choices that the two imperialist political parties are offering us are both **so bad** that I think we need to accept that it is decisively broken and write-in "None of the Above" or **any** other candidate with whom we feel **real affinity** -- at least in the **primary** stage. (So far [373,800 people have chosen "Uncommitted"](#) through Super Tuesday.)

Along with this goes an acknowledgement that we have to continue and expand on a decades-long, revolutionary struggle to build, from the grassroots up, a real, inclusive democracy in the United States.

The answer is to build revolutionary movements to implement:

- a) transparent and accountable systems for **voting and counting**, (which will mean **paper ballots with serial numbers**, marked in ink and paper receipts; ballots counted by hand multiple times by different teams with witnesses from any party participating, and **no black box electronics at any stage**).
- b) transparent and accountable systems for monitoring election financing (this will include overturning *Citizens United*), possibly limiting electoral campaign financing to only public and equal financing, having more timely and transparent accounting of election financing, impartial, timely, and effective enforcement mechanisms, and probably having legislators wear jackets showing the logos of their corporate sponsors, as race car drivers do :-), **and** ideally, no private money in campaigns, rather publicly and equally funded.
- c) **strictly enforce the registration of foreign agents and lobbyists** and limit the influence of foreign governments (such as the State of Israel, the State of Russia, the State of China) in our legislative and electoral processes; The role of US-owned, multinational, and foreign-owned corporations in swaying elections here needs further investigation and reporting.
- d) **enforce clear conflict-of-interest laws** requiring government decision-makers, including judges at all levels, to recuse themselves from making decisions that affect their own/family and major donors' finances.

- e) **anti-revolving door policies** that limit the circulation both ways of personnel from government agencies to corporations that are regulated by those government agencies.
- f) **and we need to realize the national security state** with its secrecy and rampant covert operations is an incorrigibly **corrupt and malign influence** in our own country and around the world.

Building public awareness and motivation to root it out is the huge, long-term task with which we are faced. I think we can expect significant, violent resistance from the ruling elite - including their allies in the UK and Israel if they feel they're losing control in the USA. I'm afraid we' may have to weather some overtly fascist "martial law" and probably another plandemic (or other false flag attack which will drive more blame, division, and scapegoating) along the way. The "main core" round-up list includes about 8 million of us, at last count.

Rebuilding a civic culture of human dignity, respect, listening, and restorative justice is an important bulwark against the manipulative, hateful politics of division, dehumanization, name-calling, blame, scapegoating, segregation, collective punishment, and potentially ethnic cleansing and genocide.

Beginnings of this civic culture-building are in:

- [Speak Peace in a World of Conflict](#) by Marshall B. Rosenberg
- [The Quickening of America: Rebuilding Our Nation, Remaking Our Lives](#) by Frances Moore Lappé and Paul Martin Du Bois
- [Sidewalk Talk](#)
- [Living Room Conversations](#): Mediators Fdn.
- [ReEvaluation Counseling](#)
- [Hoe Avenue peace meeting](#), Bronx NYC 1971
- [Restorative Justice](#)
- [Better Angels Society](#)
- [The Watts Truce \(LA 1992\) – Blackpast & 62-page PDF free download](#)

There is a lot we already know about building peace. This constructive campaign is part of our bulwark against fascism. The nonviolent leadership of women in Belfast and Beirut in breaking through civil war; **Truth & Reconciliation** Commissions, Deep Listening that follows integrative insights from restorative justice dialogs into analysis and vision to change the political economy in support of the futures we want.

The fact that the Executive and Legislative Branches of "our" government are almost unanimous ("Washington imperial Consensus") in sponsoring a blatant campaign of genocide and ethnic cleansing in **Gaza** in spite of widespread and persistent popular protest is a clear message that the oligarchy and not any form of "democracy" is in control.

The enthusiastic participation of US political leaders and mainstream commercial media in uncritically repeating and promoting the Israeli propaganda (horrific claims later proven to have no basis in verifiable facts) about the events of **October 7** and refusing to put the situation into historical context of the illegal occupation and annexation of Palestine is an insult to our democratic process. The assumption of impunity by "our" supposed representatives is part of the propaganda of disempowerment.

Please add your own suggestions and desiderata. This may seem like "pie-in-the-sky" . . . that gulf is a measure of how corrupted our system of government has become. **I look forward to hearing from you!**

- **Fred** [FredCookLA at gmail]

P.S. See Fred's concluding thoughts on Page 7 below.

Fred's Recommended Election Resources:

First, it is critical organizations promote the acquisition and reading of the classic "[Votescam: The Stealing of America](#)"

by James M. Collier and Kenneth F. Collier.

Read Fred's analysis and reviews Pages 5-7 below.*

[How Deep Canvass Conversations Can Transform America](#) & [PeoplesAction.org](#) webinars and events.

[George Lakey & Bill Moyer](#) books & workshops.

[BlackBoxVoting.org 2.0](#): a curated nonpartisan reporting and public education site for elections, "to turn each black square into a transparent one, until the blackbox becomes an open book - the only clear path to the Consent of the Governed."

["What Happened in Ohio: A documentary record of theft and fraud in the 2004 election"](#) by Bob

Fittrakis, Steven Rosenfeld and Harvey Wasserman

(New Press, 2006). **Bob Fittrakis**, editor of the **[Free Press](#)**, has authored or co-authored 12 other books

including six on election integrity, most recently, **["A History of Hate in Ohio, Then and Now."](#)**



Greg Palast with Juanita Chavez, daughter of rights legends Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta at the New Media Film Festival. Palast told the audience the film is extraordinarily, funded by hundreds of tax-deductible donations by supporters of the nonprofit, nonpartisan Palast Investigations Fund.

[Greg Palast](#) is the investigative reporter for BBC and *The Guardian* who busted then Florida Secretary of State [Katherine Harris' fake felon purge](#) that stole the 2000 election for Bush, and subsequent voter suppression in Georgia and many other states. Palast's work has been called "courageous reporting" (Michael Moore), funny, heartbreaking, and loaded with "facts like hand grenades" (John Pilger). Find his many [films, books, articles, downloads](#) and more at [GREGPALAST.COM](#). They include:

**Billionaires and Ballot Bandits:
How to steal an election in 9 easy steps.**

The Best Democracy Money Can Buy:

Follow gonzo investigative reporter Greg Palast (BBC, Rolling Stone) as he busts the New Klux Klan – the billionaire bandits that purged one million voters of color that stole the White House. With the help of Willie Nelson, Rosario Dawson, and detectives Ice-T and Richard Belzer, Palast tracks down the secret **billionaires behind Donald Trump**. His investigation goes from the Arctic where Palast is clued in to the heist by a foul-mouthed Inuit, then on to a speed boat to a high class event in the Hamptons, and finally a jump on the ballot rustler known as "**The Vulture**."

With Palast's inimitable style and cartoons by the man who drew "*Who Framed Roger Rabbit*," it is not just a documentary, but a non-fiction, real life, high stakes detective mission. Jim Hightower calls Palast a

“cross between Sam Spade and Sherlock Holmes,” and this investigation shows just how true that is. Joined by his sidekick **Ms. Badpenny**, Palast names the ballot bandits and shines a light on the shadowy tactics used by GOP officials who do their bidding.



Vigilante: Georgia's Vote Suppression Hitman

The original version of this film, directed by David Ambrose, was previewed in Hollywood in October 2022 at an [event hosted by Jamie Foxx](#) and sponsored by the ACLU. The film was also screened in Georgia ahead of the 2022 midterm elections at a series of special voter impact events sponsored by Black Voters Matter Fund, NAACP Georgia, RainbowPUSH, and other rights groups in a highly successful campaign to protect the rights of nearly a quarter million voters of color who were challenged by Republican officials, and self-proclaimed election “vigilantes.”

Activists were able to use the evidence uncovered by Palast and his team to challenge these mass vote challenges and save the rights of nearly all those voters at risk. This prompted Atlanta's WRFG radio station to say **Sen. Raphael Warnock's victory** in the pivotal battleground 2022 Georgia Senate race **“would not have happened without the work of Greg Palast.”** The film's writer, investigative reporter Palast said, “We work to let the voters, not voter suppression trickery, choose the winners.”

The new, nationwide version of Vigilante, to be released ahead of the 2024 presidential election, will explore how the vote suppression tactics first used in Georgia have spread across the United States.

Indeed, Palast and his crew are currently filming in Texas, where the prison-bound Attorney General, Ken Paxton, gloated on Steve Bannon's War Room podcast (first broadcast in Friday, May 26, 2023) that Trump would have lost the state in 2020 but for the fact he [blocked 2.5 million mail-in ballots](#). **Vigilante 2024** produced by Academy Award winner Maria Florio and directed by David Ambrose. The film is narrated by Rosario Dawson, and introduced by Martin Sheen, who also served as an executive producer alongside George DiCaprio and Stephen Nemeth.

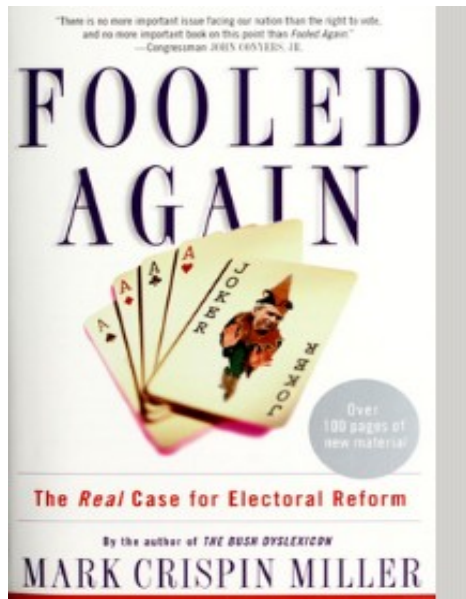
The larger context is explained in “[Manufacturing Consent](#)” by Edward S. Herman and Noam Chomsky ([excerpts](#)) and “[Science of Coercion: Communication Research and Psychological Warfare, 1945–1960](#)” by Christopher Simpson, a provocative and eye-opening study of the essential role the US military and the CIA played in advancing communication studies during the Cold War era, now with a new introduction by McChesney and a new preface by the author.

Since the mid-twentieth century, the great advances in our knowledge about the most effective methods of mass communication and persuasion have been visible in a wide range of professional fields, including journalism, marketing, public relations, interrogation, and public opinion studies. However, the birth of the modern science of mass communication had surprising and troubling midwives: the military and covert intelligence arms of the US government.

In this fascinating study, **Christopher Simpson** uses long-classified documents from the Pentagon, the CIA, and other national security agencies to demonstrate how this seemingly benign social science grew directly out of secret government-funded research into psychological warfare. It reveals that many of the most respected pioneers in the field of communication science were knowingly complicit in America's Cold War efforts, regardless of their personal politics or individual moralities, and that their findings on mass communication were eventually employed for the purposes of propaganda, subversion, intimidation, and counterinsurgency.

An important, thought-provoking work, “Science of Coercion” shines a blazing light into a hitherto remote and shadowy corner of Cold War history.

“Fooled Again: The Real Case for Electoral Reform,” and “Loser Take All: Election Fraud and The Subversion of Democracy 2000 – 2008” by Mark Crispin Miller (Editor)



Mark Crispin Miller graduated from Northwestern University with a BA in 1971, Johns Hopkins University with an MA in 1973, and a PhD in 1977. He is currently Professor of Media, Culture, and Communication at New York University. He is known for his writing on American media and for his activism on behalf of democratic media reform.

Miller, who created the **Forbidden Bookshelf** project to keep hidden history accessible, has also written a couple of books exposing significant election fraud with recommendations about what we can do to correct the situation.

"Heading into another presidential race, We the People have to face the fact that our election system is a shambles, run by private corporations with a partisan agenda, and largely based on a technology that anyone can rig. This great book will tell you all about it—and, even more important, help us overcome it." — Thom Hartmann

"Before Americans get too excited about the next election, they'd do well to remember the stolen elections of 2000 and thereafter. For all the talk of “change,” the corrupt system by which we vote remains broken. Thank heaven for Mark Crispin Miller and his contributors who call not just for awareness, but action” — Laura Flanders

“The essays in this great collection make it clear that our democracy is in trouble. We can begin to repair our nation by restoring electoral integrity. This book points to the challenges and the possibilities of regaining our full power as voters and citizens in a democratic society.” — Dennis Kucinich

“**Loser Take All** presents cutting edge essays that diagnose a problem still ignored by much of the political establishment and the news media. The book provides a roadmap to a truly open and fair voting system.” — Robert W. McChesney

“**Loser Take All** is an indispensable anthology of writings covering the vast election fraud that has been perpetrated by the GOP—with the Democratic Party’s acquiescence—since 2000. Among the subjects treated here are: the myth of George Bush’s victory in Florida in 2000, and FOX News’s key role in propagating it; Senator Max Cleland’s dubious defeat in Georgia in 2002; Bush’s “re-election” in 2004, including evidence of systematic fraud outside of Ohio; startling evidence of fraud committed in the 2006 midterm elections, which the Democrats appear to have won by a far larger margin than officially reported; and, crucially, evidence on the Republicans attempt to steal the presidential election in 2008.

Edited by **Mark Crispin Miller**, author of seminal **Fooled Again: The Real Case for Electoral Reform**, this explosive collection includes works by election activists, including Robert F. Kennedy Jr., David Moore, Bob Fittrakis, Larissa Alexandrova, Michael Collins, Lance deHaven-Smith, Brad Friedman, David Griscom, James Gundlach, Jean Kaczmarek, Paul Lehto, Bruce O'Dell, Michael Richardson, Steven Rosenfeld, Jonathan Simon and Nancy Tobi.

In Fooled Again, renowned media critic Mark Crispin Miller argues that it wasn't moral values” that swung the 2004 presidential race, it was theft.

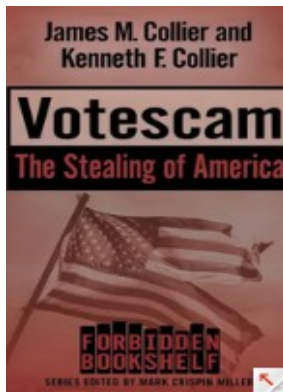
A huge array of anomalies, improper practices, and blatant violations of the law in state after state all happened to swing in the Bush ticket's favor. Fooled Again not only gives abundant evidence of theft, but also describes the mind-set among both the major parties and the media that could easily allow it to happen again.

See “Votescam” review and analysis next page.

[Votescam: The Stealing of America](#)

by James M. Collier, Kenneth F. Collier.
<https://openroadmedia.com/forbidden-bookshelf>

It is critical that organizations promote the acquisition and reading of the classic "Votescam: The Stealing of America," to fully understand the depth and scope of US election fraud and rigging going back generations (*Begun before the move to black box electronic voting, it's a "time capsule".*)



Brian Kemp, who when he was Secretary of State, arranged for the voting machines distributed to precincts known to contain majorities of People of Color and/or Democratic strong-holds to be delivered without the electric power cords necessary to function. Many believe this contributed to his win over Stacy Abrams for Governor of Georgia. The dynamic of "[gerrymandering](#)" goes back two centuries.

Now, even the electronic "scanning" to convert paper ballots into digitized information can be a stage at which the raw count can be assessed and calculations made as to which results need to be shaved, which padded, and by how much to achieve the desired outcome without the appearance of irregularity.

Most people involved in electoral politics are essentially unaware of how easy it has been for the powerful to rig elections. This book, **VoteScam**, is essentially now only available in ebook form from [Forbidden Bookshelf](#) or [BarnesandNoble.com](#).

There are other very significant but still widely unknown examples of election rigging which our society and political establishments have never acknowledged, let alone ameliorated. I'm including references and links to some of these above. Most voters and volunteer activists are truly ignorant of the mechanism of the two-party system running "designated loser" candidates for electoral races which are essentially fixed by many different methods, such as **deception** as to likely **vote spreads** per jurisdiction.

This part of the **science of election manipulation** involves controlling the **reported** polling data and media coverage, precinct by precinct, county by county, state by state **in the decisive areas** to create and maintain the illusion that the electoral outcome matches the **perceived** public sentiment.

Each major political party hires preferred specialists to run the campaigns. PAC's pour in their money, for example, AIPAC (part of the Israel Lobby) has promised to spend \$100 Million to try to prevent "[the Squad](#)", especially Ilhan Omar and Rashida Tlaib in particular, from returning to Congress.

Partisan politicians in various jurisdictions pull their dirty tricks. One glaring example is Georgia Governor

Beneath this multi-faceted trickery is a deeper threat, a tiny, exclusive cabal of decisionmakers representing the oligarchy chooses the winners and losers for key national races and coordinates the activities necessary to ensure the oligarchy stays in control of the USA.

This ongoing covert operation is one of the many functions of the secret national security state, often referred to as the "deep state" because, like a submarine, it maintains a continuity of policy and practice beneath the waves of conflict and change that the public is allowed to see. (This is a different meaning than the "deep state" of federal civil service that the Republicans want to replace with their politicized operatives in [Project 2025](#).)

One of the most important examples of political party collusion in the "designated loser" dynamic (analogous to prize boxing matches being "thrown") was the 2000 presidential election in Duval County, Florida (Jacksonville area) in which an illegal ballot configuration not matching the sample ballot led to over 20,000 overvotes in the Presidential section of the ballot, thereby cancelling out those votes for Gore.

The Gore campaign was aware of this phenomenon but 'mistakenly' chose only to contest the elections in Dade and Broward Counties (for only handfuls of miscast votes), not Duval County and thereby (in my opinion) guaranteed the election to Bush.

Assuming the [definition of "canvassing"](#) includes

- "To go through (a region) or go to (persons) to solicit votes or orders.
- To conduct a survey of (public opinion); poll"

... **the democratic results and/or attributes will not manifest at a scale necessary for profound change without the following 4 critical or key requisites:**

1. Informed, decent & articulate political candidates who are not in the pocket of big money whether corporate (including military), government or private....which would obviously require campaign contributions be limited and regulated by statute.
2. Electoral processes (balloting, voting, vote counting and verifying) which are transparent, unriggable and verifiable. This would flatly require **eliminating all computerized voting**, vote scanning and vote tabulation systems in every jurisdiction (county). Also very helpful would be strictly supervised “chain-of-custody” of ballots and other key items; serialized paper ballots, marked by voters with ink by hand, with trackable paper receipts, then hand-counted **with witnesses**, three different times by different teams of people, with no electronic systems intervening; and video documentation of the whole process.
3. Equal access, scale funding for individual candidates and candidate slates to produce and place campaign ads in mainstream, alternative and social media throughout each jurisdiction.
4. Based upon the recent rise of vilification, abuse, threats and violence against poll workers and administrators of the electoral process, additional protection for electoral staff and volunteers needs to be developed, including pro-active surveillance and prosecution of RICO and terrorist activities.

More from Fred: This “provocative and profoundly disturbing” history of US election rigging “details political corruption reaching to the highest levels of government” (Skeptic Files). The culmination of a twenty-five-year investigation into computerized vote fraud in the United States, journalists James and Kenneth Collier ask, “Why can’t we vote the bastards out?” Their answer: “Because we didn’t even vote the bastards in.” Votescam fills in the blanks for anyone who senses that their ballot is worthless, but does not know why. It tracks down, confronts, and calls the names of Establishment thieves who silently steal votes for their own profit. It comes face-to-face with the Supreme Court justice who buried key vote fraud evidence; the most powerful female publisher in the US, who refused to permit her papers and TV stations to expose vote rigging; the Attorney General who jailed Jim Collier to avoid an investigation into vote fraud; and a cast of weak-kneed, corrupt politicians,

lawyers, and members of the media entangled in a massive crime, but have yet to be held accountable.

First published in 1992, this groundbreaking exposé has been updated to reflect modern threats to US democracy, by journalist Victoria Collier, their daughter and niece respectively, and then editor of Votescam.org (since taken over so it is no longer relevant). As computers grow ever more powerful, reading Votescam the book is increasingly urgent.

[Here is Terry Frank's GoodReads review:](#)

“The Collier Brothers started a 25-year quest on the voting scam issue after one of them ran for Congress and noted a glitch in the TV reports. They had 31% of the vote around 9 p.m. and then there was a shut down (the same thing happened in the 2020 election in 5 key swing states all at the same time around 3 a.m.).

“When the allegedly damaged computers were allegedly “fixed” about 2 hours later, their vote dropped to 16% and stayed there consistently throughout the night. They thought it strange and investigated why. This book is about what happened, how they found out, and similar voterscams.

“An interesting read I thought because they kept getting shut down and stifled at every turn even when they accumulated video evidence of vote fraud being conducted by the League of Woman Voter workers in Florida. (Remember those hanging chads in the 2000 Bush-Gore election? Well, the video the Collier brothers made was in the '90s and yes, was about hanging chads, so to speak.)

“What I gathered from reading this book is that vote fraud has been going on ever since automated counting began, including mechanical vote-counting machines back in the '60s. The Colliers found out they could cover over the numbers on the rollers with decals and hide the 9's or any amount to add to the initial vote count for a candidate or issue. Another method was to shave the plastic counter rolls to make them jump ahead 100, 200, 300 votes because the wheels slipped during the count.

“The Colliers obtained a shaved roller from the warehouse where the machines, now unused, were being stored. They put a picture of it up in their newspaper. The next time they went to the warehouse to get some documents to use, they were told there was a court order to prevent them from visiting and were chased away (but not until after they pushed past the warehouse manager who ran to make a call, ran up to the loft, grabbed counting punch cards and whatever they could stuff under their shirts. They beat

it out of there as the Cavalry arrived which included the County Voting Supervisor. That plunder later became tangible evidence.)

“So, if you suspect there is vote fraud (and there most certainly is -- anyone claiming otherwise is either willfully ignorant or incredibly naive) this book is a good place to start. Fun to read, these guys were definitely characters, outside of the box. They were rock promoters who knew rockers of their time. There are some side stories that mention names that you will probably be familiar with like Janet Reno (AG for Florida at the time). Bill Barr (AG for Daddy Bush) and Robert Mueller (Barr's Assistant AG -- an interesting connection, huh?)

“I learned some interesting facts and enjoyed the read as well. If this is an issue that is of interest to you, I don't think you will be disappointed. Not always a smooth ride but an interesting one that tells us that where there is potential for corruption in the political sphere, there will be corruption.

“And we need to go back to paper ballots asap or it will continue. (My conclusion, not theirs.) You can also download Black Box Voting by Beverly Harris for free from her website of the same name with a dot org after it. A more up to date follow up bringing it into the current computerized voting era. A good follow up to this book.” ####

Fred's Concluding Message on Elections

Finally, I want to remind you of the **Facebook-Cambridge Analytica scandal** in which personal data from 87 million Americans was used to design and deliver personalized "information bubbles" to manipulate people's emotions and opinions and influence electoral campaigns in 2016.

This continues to be relevant because the "divide and rule" strategies of the elite include fomenting conflict between groups they do not want uniting against them and feeding them "alternative realities." Mutual mistrust information goes back centuries... it has just gotten a lot easier and more sophisticated with digital communication. We need to keep these divisive tactics in mind in coalition-building.

The two corporate-controlled parties of war and empire have proven unwilling and incapable of offering what we need. The road out of oligarchy and fascism may be long and brutal, but there are proven

methods. This "deep canvassing" is one of them; logically followed up with long-term organizing of all sorts to manifest "people's power" strategies as surveyed by [George Lakey and Bill Moyer](#) in their books and workshops.

I am not saying that we shouldn't vote, or otherwise participate in the electoral process. I think we need to keep a balance in our "budget" of all resources devoted to social change and building inclusive democracy. Participating in electoral processes **can** help people wake up to the failure of established institutions and the need to undertake campaigns that can outflank entrenched corruption.

Building popular movements for **structural** change and improving public knowledge and participation helps open up the playing field favorably for **all** political parties and electoral processes. My deeper question is "How, with the relatively limited resources of the poor and working classes, can we sustain societal learning, empowerment, including some healing, through the storms of censorship, propaganda, overt repression by state and non-state entities, scapegoating, and 'false flag' attacks?"

Clarity, community, and communication seem like important watchwords to me. Inclusive and accountable forms of organization are required. We might look at the history of non-capitalist parties and revolutionary movements in the USA ([See Eugene Debs](#)) as well as overseas, such as Lavalas in Haiti, for example. How to keep our collective "eyes on the prize" when our leaders get jailed, assassinated, and possibly "turned" to mislead us?

In my view, the "two party system" is theater that distracts the majority from the actual operation of the banker/imperial system that has been secretly running the show, while doing its own learning and evolving, for more than a century now.

In addition to the excellent resources created by people associated with MNS, we must find ways to share the hidden history of the "deep state" (how the oligarchy stays in control despite elections) and our clever, sociopathic, authoritarian opponents. Understanding the history will help us identify trouble and formulate goals and campaigns more effectively.

- Best wishes, **Fred** [*FredCookLA at gmail*]