PS1 for 7/28/88#THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY PLATFORM

Most news reports about the 1988 Democratic Party Platform say that it is a short, sugar-coated statement of platitudinous generalities. The (BF)Washington Post(end BF) editorialized that the platform ""doesn't contain the specific payoffs to all the caucuses and interest groups'' that were in the 1984 platform, and (BF)Time(end BF) commented that ""gone is the usual laundry list of narrow causes.''

The authors of such whitewashing must not have read it. The 1988 Democratic Party Platform does, indeed, contain specific payoffs to the most strident interest groups: the homosexuals and the radical feminists.

The platform says, ""we honor our multicultural heritage by assuring equal access to government services, employment, housing, business enterprise and education to every citizen regardless of race, sex, national origin, religion, age, handicapping condition or sexual orientation.''

Nobody's fooled by that language, which is a reprise of the 1984 platform and precisely what the gays and feminists demanded. It means that the Democratic Party proclaims that it accepts homosexuals just as nonjudgmentally and openly as people of different religions, races, colors, or gender.

The same paragraph demands that ""the lingering effects of past discrimination [be] eliminated by affirmative action, including goals, timetables, and procurement set-asides.'' That can be read to mean that the Democratic Party is calling for affirmative action for all those listed categories.

The demand for affirmative action appears in the same paragraph as the demand for ""sexual orientation'' rights, and in the same sentence as a call for combatting ""the recent surge in hate violence and

negative stereotyping.'' It is unlikely that the placement of these demands is accidental.

The platform also calls for ""protection of the civil rights of those suffering from AIDS or AIDS-Related Complex or testing positive for the HIV antibody.'' No mention is made of the civil rights of the noninfected to be protected from disease, or the right of workers to work in a safe and disease-free environment, or the right of spouses or sex partners to be notified, or the right of persons who have been infected with AIDS through blood transfusions to be compensated for the negligence of others.

The Democratic Party Platform likewise toadies to the radical feminists. The Democratic powers-that-be apparently didn't learn their lesson from the Geraldine Ferraro experience.

The number-one goal of the nagging feminists has always been abortion-on-demand financed by tax dollars. The Democratic platform dutifully promises that ""the fundamental right of reproductive choice should be guaranteed regardless of ability to pay.''

The feminists' number-two goal is to get the Federal Government to take over the responsibility and cost of child care because their ideology teaches that it is unfair and oppressive for society to expect mothers to care for their own children. Accordingly, the Democratic platform proposes ""major increases in assistance'' to day care (that means a big federal spending program), ""a strong child care infrastructure'' (that means a babysitting bureaucracy), ""setting standards'' (that means federal regulatory control), ""thereby enabling parents to work'' (that means the real motive is to provide tax-financed incentives to get mothers out of the home and into the labor force).

The number-three goal of the radical feminists is Comparable Worth, a system of government wage setting that would ""compare'' the

""worth'' of completely dissimilar jobs (such as a nurse and a plumber) and then raise women's wages while freezing men's wages. Because the feminists know that Comparable Worth is a negative label, they use the euphemism ""pay equity.''

The Democratic platform specifically calls for ""pay equity for working women'' but says nothing about pay equity for working men. As Lewis Carroll's Humpty Dumpty said, ""When I use a word, it means just what I choose it to mean -- neither more nor less.''

Likewise, there is nothing ""vague'' (to use (BF)Time's(end BF) word) about promises to the interest group headed by Jesse Jackson. The platform calls for statehood for the District of Columbia and ""comprehensive sanctions'' against South Africa, which is labeled ""a terrorist state.''

In the words of the old French proverb, the more things change, the more they remain the same. The 1988 Democratic Party Platform is more artfully expressed since the platform's author was Theodore Sorensen, President John F. Kennedy's most eloquent speechwriter, but the pitch is the same as the 1984 tune that bugled Mondale-Ferraro's defeat.