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EDITORIAL

Circling the wagons. To the right!

by Jay Brown

Is the 1984 Republican National Convention a vision of the future? In the hearts and minds of the New Right's minions, it is. And if we have any doubts, Barry Goldwater came back to remind us, when he said (quoting his own campaign slogan of 1964), "In your heart, you know he's right."

Reagan's acceptance speech included one statement which shows just exactly the way the wind is blowing: "We don't lump people by groups or special interests, and let me add, in the party of Lincoln, there is no room for intolerance, and, not even a small corner for anti-Semitism or bigotry of any kind. Many people are welcome in our house, but not the bigots."

Reagan made this statement on Thursday. Jerry Falwell delivered the benediction which concluded Wednesday's session.

Earlier in the week, Falwell made the following statement while commenting on the

Republican platform: "If they'd allowed us to write it, we'd have had difficulty improving on the content."

There were a few dissident voices in the wilderness of Dallas, however. Maureen Reagan, the president's daughter, voted against the platform because the party conservatives had refused to compromise on women's issues. Ms. Reagan blamed the Republican party's refusal to support ERA on "Neanderthal men" in the party. Somehow she forgot that some women, Phyllis Schlafly among them, also had a hand in writing the document.

Mary Alice Ford, a moderate Republican state representative from Beaverton, described the platform as "devastating" on women's rights and other issues. Ford voted against it.

John Buchanan, a former Congressman from Alabama commented, "What was once a lunatic fringe has become a driving force in the Republican Party."

What happened in Dallas brings to mind the old joke of nailing one shoe to the floor. The Republican Party seems to be walking around in a circle to the right. Getting nowhere.

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