

GOLDWATER GETS H. L. HUNT BACKING

But Texas Rightist Won't
Criticize the President

Special to The New York Times

DALLAS, Oct. 31 — H. L. Hunt, the right-wing Texas oil millionaire, will cast his Presidential ballot for Senator Barry Goldwater.

Mr. Hunt disclosed this in a telephone interview yesterday. He said he had decided to vote for Republican candidates "so long as they have good character and are constructive."

He said Mr. Goldwater and Representative William E. Miller, his Vice-Presidential runningmate, fitted that description.

He is a registered Democrat with pronounced conservative views, and supported Mr. Johnson's Presidential aspirations in 1960. He later backed the Democratic ticket when Mr. Johnson took the Vice-Presidential nomination behind John F. Kennedy.

Mr. Hunt, who had supported Mr. Johnson largely because of his record of protecting the oil depletion allowance, was careful not to criticize the President yesterday. But he said he believed Mr. Johnson had grown more liberal since 1960, while his own philosophy has close parallels to that of Mr. Goldwater.

Mr. Hunt declined to explain his reasons for defecting from Mr. Johnson. But he said earlier this year that the President had "made terrible mistakes," including the selection of Chief Justice Earl Warren to head the investigation of President Kennedy's assassination.

Mr. Hunt, who believes Calvin



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FOR GOLDWATER: H. L. Hunt, the oil millionaire.

Coolidge had the "last successful Presidential Administration," has said Mr. Warren seems "more interested in some brand of Socialism than in the Constitution he is supposed to uphold."

"Should Goldwater win, he and his dedicated followers will have overcome the handicaps of the poorest managed campaign that has ever been made for any candidate to a major office," Mr. Hunt said yesterday. "Incredible as it may seem, Goldwater probably has a chance," he added. "He's certainly gaining very fast now."

Mr. Hunt indicated that he feared an overwhelming Johnson victory would endanger the two-party system. "If our country develops into a one-party nation, our people will soon get along no better than the people of any Communist country," he said.

Mr. Hunt declined to say

whether he had contributed money from his \$700 million or more family fortune to Mr. Goldwater's campaign, but sources here doubted he had.

Peter O'Donnell, Texas Goldwater chairman and an early Goldwater supporter, said yesterday that he was not aware of any contributions from Mr. Hunt.

But Mr. Hunt earlier this

year was quietly promoting such right-wing paperback books as "A Choice Not an Echo," by Phyllis Schlafly; "None Dare Call It Treason," by John A. Stormer, and "A Texan Looks at Lyndon," by J. Evetts Haley.

Sources said a son, Nelson Bunker Hunt, purchased large numbers of at least one of these and distributed them at cost.

Mr. Hunt also communicated with Mr. Goldwater shortly after the Senator's nomination. Mr. Goldwater responded within a couple of days that he was "grateful for your generous expression of support," and expressed confidence that "the cause we believe in will prevail at the polls."

Nevertheless, Mr. Hunt until yesterday was unwilling to say publicly that he would support Mr. Goldwater, and he on occasion bristled at the suggestion that he had made up his mind.

Friends said this was because he had been friendly with Mr. Johnson for several years, and was finding it hard to break away publicly because Mr. Johnson had been such a staunch friend of the oil industry.

Booth Mooney, the Hunt Oil Company's public relations man in Washington, was Mr. Johnson's executive assistant from 1953 to 1958. He wrote Mr. Johnson's authorized biography, "The Lyndon Johnson Story," in 1956 and updated it this year.

Mr. Mooney left Mr. Johnson for the Hunt job in 1958, when Mr. Hunt started Life Line Foundation, Inc., which sponsors right-wing radio programs.