

Conservative Groups, Set Back in 1964,

Pursue Their Fight in Shadow of the Capitol

RIGHTIST GROUPS DOT CAPITOL AREA

NYT 6/6/65
6-Block Section Is a Center
for Conservative Forces

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 5—A six-block area around the Capitol has become a major power center for conservative and right-wing forces who are attacking with seemingly undiminished vigor the political ramparts they failed to scale in 1964.

The neighborhood of old residences, row houses and small store fronts, just east and south of the Capitol, has long been favored by minor lobbyists and "cause" groups both for its proximity to Congress and its prevailing low rents.

But a stroll along its quiet, tree-shaded streets today reveals a high incidence of brass nameplates and window signs that evoke memories of the passionate crusaders for Goldwater and the "conservative revolution" of only a year ago.

The dozen or so headquarters that can be spotted represent both the hardy survivors of the Goldwater debacle and some hopeful newcomers to the field, a few possessing at present no more than desk space and a supply of letterheads.

Common Dedication

Barry Goldwater's portrait still adorns many of their walls, but the memory of him is mixed with disappointment and occasional bitterness. The Republican Presidential candidate either "goofed" or let them down, depending upon how far from the right the opinion comes.

They all have a common dedication—conservative evangelism—and a common purpose—to pick up the pieces left over from 1964 and to prepare for new battles in 1966 and 1968. And in many cases they seem to have a dual target, the Great Society legislative program and the Republican National Committee. They want to defeat the one and "reform" the other.

From their Capitol Hill re-

doubts they pepper Congress with resolutions, outpourings of letters and testimony before committees in opposition to foreign aid, medicare, aid to education, immigration reform and a host of other measures that they deem to be "socialistic" and worse.

Counting their mailings of newspapers, newsletters and pamphlets, their total effort must in the aggregate, represent the most voluminous output of political propaganda from any like area in the country.

Human Events

The most influential of the group is the weekly newspaper Human Events, which lifted its title from the first sentence of the Declaration of Independence and declares itself to be "biased in favor of limited constitutional government, local self-government, private enterprise and individual freedom."

The paper, established in 1944, is a 16-page tabloid, well produced and edited by a predominantly young staff headed by Thomas S. Winter, executive editor. Its nationwide circulation is said to be approximately 120,000, at \$12.50 a year. Its staff-written columns are supplemented by such syndicated commentators as Victor Riesel, Holmes Alexander, Ralph De Toledano, Fulton Lewis Jr., Russell Kirk and Barry Goldwater.

True to its masthead, Human Events looks at the political news of the week with a rightward myopia but with an emotional restraint not found in many publications that share its viewpoint.

Labor and Voting Rights

The lead story in its June 5th issue, for example, concentrates on the methods of conservative attack on the Administration's bill to repeal section 14 (B) of

the Taft-Hartley Act. This and a two-page inside spread are designed to give the paper's readers a variety of arguments in favor of the so-called "right to work" laws banning union shops, but virtually none in favor of repeal.

It finds that the Senate-passed voting rights bill "strikes yet another blow at the belief that voters in a democracy should be both responsible and literate." And it reports with approval that 32 homo-

sexuals in the Department of State have been forced to resign.

Human Events has never reconciled itself to the loss of the Goldwater influence in the Republican National Committee, and takes frequent digs at Republican moderates and liberals. It finds, for example, that "the same team of cherubim and mischief makers which threw last year's Republican convention into disorder" is now preparing Gov. William V. Scranton of Pennsylvania for the nomination in 1968.

Liberty Lobby

Two blocks away from the rather professional quarters of Human Events, the more strident voice of the Liberty Lobby is heard. This is a direct-action organization that describes itself as "a pressure group for patriotism." It occupies part of the second floor of a converted row house back of the Library of Congress and is presided over by an intense, dark-eyed young Texan named W. B. Hicks Jr.

Liberty Lobby appears to be well to the right of Human Events and has no doubts about what it is for and what it is against. It is for, among other things, free enterprise, a pro-American foreign policy, states' rights, abolition of the income tax and withdrawal from the United Nations. It is against, among other things, foreign

aid, aid to education, government in business and subversives in government.

Mr. Hicks and his colleagues lobby personally and indefatigably in the fields of their legislative interest. But their major effort is achieved through a monthly four-page newspaper, Liberty Letter, with a claimed circulation of 140,000 copies.

'Design for Appeasement'

Recent issues have carried such headlines as the following: "Disarm [ament] Plotters Unveil Grand Design for Appeasement"; "LBJ's Vote Hap-

py Immigration Scheme" and "State Department Hides Proof of Its Corruption."

In each issue Liberty Letter urges its readers to write Congressmen about whatever topic it has featured currently. "Your influence counts—use it!", they are told. And apparently they do—by the hundreds, according to various Congressional sources; but with what ultimate effect on legislation it is impossible to say.

The major opus of Liberty Lobby this year was the publication in January of a 24-page treatise called "Conservative Victory Plan." Well written and organized, it lays the blame for the conservatives' defeat at Barry Goldwater's door; it urges conservatives to accept "realistically" the validity of "white rights" as a political slogan and to recapture control of the Republican party and its national committee.

Conservative Union

A newcomer to the field, and to the Capitol neighborhood, is the American Conservative Union. Its founder and chairman is Donald Bruce, an engaging and articulate former Representative from Indiana who, as an enthusiastic Goldwater supporter last year, was defeated in the Democratic landslide in his state.

At present, according to Mr. Bruce, the American Conservative Union is concentrating on "in depth" studies that will establish, as he puts it, "a positive conservative alternative" on national issues.

The composition of the or-

ganization's 50-man "advisory assembly" shows a heavy preponderance of conservative and right-wing leaders and intellectuals who fought for Mr. Goldwater last year, and its intent appears to be to rekindle the right-wing dynamic in the command levels of the Republican party.

These are only the more conspicuous of the Capitol Hill pressure groups intent on keeping the conservative revolution alive. There are a number of others in the neighborhood with smaller and more specialized constituencies, such as Americans for Constitutional Action and the Young Americans for Freedom, to mention a few.

A few others are scattered in other parts of the city, some, like the John Birch Society, in modern office suites with "prestige" addresses. But the dowdy old walkups lying in the shadow of the Capitol dome provide a congenial togetherness—the groups swap mailing lists and sponsors like good neighbors—as well as a special atmosphere of earnestness and frugality that seems to befit these unreconstructed rebels of the right. **END**