

Congressman Paints Liberals Red

By Jack Anderson
and Les Whitten

First-term Rep. Lawrence P. McDonald (D-Ga.) a military-minded member of the John Birch Society's national council, is rapidly earning the title of Freshman Class Clown.

The arch-conservative urologist has tilted with dozens of windmills and resorted to tactics from the days of Sen. Joseph McCarthy (R-Wis.) to smear liberals as Communists.

He is even at war with his ex-wife, who accused him of refusing to make love to her while they were married because, he told her, "people do not make love in wartime."

During his first half-year in office, the Marietta madcap has bewildered his colleagues by inserting an astonishing 140 speeches in the Congressional Record. Not one of them was delivered on the House floor.

McDonald's ramblings include such classics as "Save our Santas from Government." So far, the taxpayers have been stuck with \$40,000 in printing charges despite the fact that McDonald was elected on a platform of combating government waste.

The Georgian's Record inserts would probably be grounds for court suits if he did not hide behind his congressional immunity. He often reprints long membership lists of political organizations and then claims the members are Communists.

One of his targets has been capable former Rep. Charles Porter (D-Ore.), who took umbrage at being smeared as a Communist and invited McDonald to come "out from behind the shield of immunity."

Porter wanted to sue McDonald so "the judicial system [can] determine which of us is a brazen liar." McDonald responded by reprinting Porter's challenge in the Record and re-

newing his scurrilous, but safe, attack on the former lawmaker.

McDonald's tactics may stem from his current court problems. He is appealing a 1974 contempt citation based on his 1971 divorce case.

His former wife charged McDonald with having extramarital affairs and refusing sexual relations with her. "We're at war," the former wife quoted her bellicose spouse as saying, "and people do not make love in wartime."

Conjugal battle alone, however, does not dominate McDonald's thinking. At a secret meeting of the House Armed Services Committee, some colleagues nervously snickered at his demand that tactical nuclear weapons be used to "liberate South Vietnam from the Communists."

But McDonald's zealous concerns do not extend to the management of his own affairs, as an examination of his campaign filings shows. We found numerous contributors were still improperly identified, although the House clerk told McDonald's campaign committee about the transgressions last December.

The financial portions of McDonald's campaign report also are suspect. Federal laws limit spending on media advertise-

ments to \$50,000 in the primary and \$50,000 in the general election.

But McDonald's campaign committee apparently slipped as much as \$2,000 worth of primary expenses into the general election accounting. This kept the primary total below the legal limit of \$50,000.

Footnote: Two of our reporters made repeated efforts to reach McDonald, even attempting to call him from the House floor. McDonald, so far, has refused comment.

Stamp Collection: The Agriculture Department is looking into charges that politicians in Puerto Rico have "ripped off" wholesale batches of food stamps while deserving families are virtually starving. We have learned the probe may end with criminal indictments.

The \$800 million food stamp project was created less than a year ago and 71 per cent of the island's population is eligible. However, pathetic letters reaching us say that "the staff in charge of the food stamps program are from the (Popular and Independent) parties . . . Only the rich of the party or those connected with it have access" to the stamps.

Another letter tells of a 79-year-old man crippled by arthri-

tis whose \$98.80 in Social Security goes mainly for a nurse-housekeeper and medicine, but who has been put off seven times by food stamp officials.

Other letters tell of well-to-do families who list as dependents their grown children. They, in turn, claim their own children as dependents to get still more food stamps. The stamps, of course, are valuable and in some instances have actually been used as "currency."

Footnote: An Agriculture spokesman confirmed a probe had been going on since March. "It takes time to get started," he said.

Oil Business: An oil lobbyist has used the stationery of the nonpolitical American Society for Testing and Materials to lobby against a bill requiring gasoline octanes to be posted at the pumps.

Ray Wright, refining director of the oil-sponsored American Petroleum Institute, is also secretary of the prestigious testing society and is supposed to wear only one of his hats at a time.

Instead, he urged members of the society, on its own letterhead, to lobby against the bill, which could save motorists \$3 million and keep tons of lead out of the atmosphere.

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