The Right Wing's Biggest Spender

By William Turner

All told, Frawley's firms subsidize far-right causes, through grants and sponsorships, to the tune of an estimated $1 million a year. Such is his influence that the Institute for American Democracy, a research and reporting organization which keeps tabs on extremist trends, has nominated him "Number One Man on the Right."

Frawley's rise to ideological prominence is relatively recent. Before 1960 he had only a faint interest in politics. But that year, Frawley's Schick Safety Razor Co. properties in Cuba were expropriated by the Castro government. Alarmed by what he read about the Communist menace, Frawley said recently, he began to fear that Communists might begin selling Schick plants in the United States.

Since the start of his political binge, Frawley has been something of a recluse, preferring to play the role of private angel to right-wing causes rather than public evangelist. His biography in Who's Who in America consists merely of the year of his birth, his corporate affiliations and Schick's plants in the United States. Frawley was born 47 years ago in Managua, Nicaragua, to an American mother and an Irish father who had prospered as a banker and dealer in heavy construction equipment. Completing high school in San Francisco, young Frawley disdained college. He was only 18 when he swung a $300,000 deal between the U.S. Rubber Co. and the Panamanian government.

See FRAWLEY, Page C2, Column 1
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Patrick J. Frawley: the

Eventually he sold out to the Gillette Co. for a reported $15 million. But the restless Frawley later tied up with Eversharp, then bought the Schick Safety Razor Co. Later he added Technicolor to his pyramidling empire, but was ousted from the company’s board of directors last June in a stockholders’ proxy fight.

Although the firms he heads are publicly held, Frawley has no compunctions about appointing corporate dilettantes who are political infidels to the boards of directors, such as Robert Morris, former chief counsel to the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee; Gen. Thomas S. Power, retired chief of the Strategic Air Command; and J. Fred Schlafly of the Defender of American Liberty.

Frawley’s companies back right-wing causes through such channels as tax-deductible “public service” grants, advertising support, and the sponsorship of programs written off as business expense. For example, the American Security Council receives $250,000 annually to defray production costs of the daily radio program, “Washington Report,” on which Walter Judd, former Minnesota congressman, is the principal commentator.

Among other sizable grants are $130,000 yearly to the “Up With People” singing troupe of God-and-country youths, and the $100,000 furnished to the Schick Business Citizenship awards contest (past contest winners include Frawley himself and Dr. James P. Luider of Sen. Strom Thurmond’s staff).

Frawley’s companies have also footed the bills for a number of anti-Red extravaganzas, the most memorable being the 1961 Hollywood Bowl rally staged by Fred Schwarz and billed as “Hollywood’s Answer to Communism.” Schick and Technicolor along with the Richfield Oil Co., sponsored a network videotape of the spectacle.

In 1966, Schick sponsored the television special “Hitler in Havana” which, although The New York Times panned it as “the crudest form of prope...
gists," viewed by millions on the NBC network.

And more recently, Pat Frowley
Reynolds was invited to a colloquium
on the 50th Anniversary of the
"Herman” series. She's been seen
around the country from Washington,
D.C. and San Francisco.

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Through his acclaimed telenovela,
"Herman," Frowley has brought the
Issues of the day to the forefront.

The story of the Great Depression in
California, the war in Korea, the
political unrest of the 1960s, and the
social upheaval of the 1970s are all
depicted in "Herman." The series
was broadcast on NBC for over 10
years and was syndicated to
network stations across the country.

In 1980, "Herman" was nominated for
an Emmy Award for Best Variety
Special. It was the first time a
telenovela had been nominated for
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The series was produced by
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was hosted by Frowley-Reynolds.

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Religious Base

FRAWLEY IS A staunchly orthodox Roman Catholic with nine children, and his anticommunism is infused with a strong strain of theology. Thus it is appropriate that Frawley set up the Twin Circle Publishing Co. for Father Daniel Lyons, a Jesuit on leave from ecclesiastical duties.

Until recently Father Lyons was a columnist for Our Sunday Visitor, the traditional Catholic weekly found in every church vestibule. As a sample of his own views, he signed the Birch Society’s “Treason Petition” which demands an end to trade with “our mortal enemy,” the Soviet Union.

The Twin Circle Co. formed in 1967 was until recently a subsidiary of the Schick Investment Co., jointly owned by Father Lyons. It is now owned by Pat Frawley Enterprises. The weekly magazine “Twin Circle” boasts a circulation of 60,000. Twin Circle also broadcasts a radio program over a 21-station hookup. Regular Schick commercials sponsor the programming.

After the Hollywood Bowl telecast of 1961, a surge in Schick sales was claimed.

Frawley termed the “Hitler in Havana” special one of two programming highlights in 1968 that “won the company inestimable customer loyalty.” In 1968, on the other hand, Schick complained that the sharp drop in its net profits was due in part to a boycott of its products “in retaliation for our support of political programs.”

But what is indisputable is that the use of corporate power has given Frawley considerable personal clout.

A recent flexing of the Frawley muscle involved the nomination of a Republican, Samuel Potter III, for U.S. Senate in the Los Angeles area. The Nixon administration had submitted Potter’s name to the Senate for confirmation, and the customary FBI check had turned up nothing derogatory. Suddenly the nomination was withdrawn. Frawley and his allies had objected to Potter in the strongest possible terms.

The reason for the objection is imbedded in the deep antipathy of the ultra right in California to former U.S. Sen. Thomas H. Kuchel, whom Potter had supported. A moderate Republican, Kuchel had been under unremitting attack by the right wing extremists. In 1966, the feud took a sordid turn when the senator discovered an affidavit was circulating among members of Congress and the press which falsely accused him of being involved in a homosexual incident.

Following an investigation, a Los Angeles grand jury indicted four men for conspiracy to commit criminal libel; all subsequently pleaded no contest. One was John F. Fergus, an Eversharp public relations man. Under oath, Frawley disclaimed any knowledge of the smear attempt, explaining that Fergus had been hired only “to make speeches on free enterprise and against communism at local groups.”

In the end, however, Kuchel was dumped, with Frawley’s help. In the 1968 Republican senatorial primary Frawley threw heavy support behind Max Rafferty, the state’s reactionary Superintendent of Public Instruction, who upset Kuchel, only to lose in the general election to Democrat Alan Cranston.

In 1964 Frawley served as a chairman of American Businessmen for Barry Goldwater and TV for Goldwater-Miller. The television fundraising was notably successful, ending the campaign with a hefty surplus. This was due mainly to a pitch entitled “A Time for Choosing” delivered by Ronald Reagan.

And with that one speech, Reagan had achieved instant political recognition. Frawley perceived this and moved to capitalize on it. Along with three of Southern California’s craggiest conservatives — oilman Henry Salvatori, the late A. C. Rubel and auto dealer Holmes Tuttle—he set the stage for the actor’s entry into the 1966 gubernatorial race.

that the real Nixon was conservative enough and Frawley started writing checks.

Through his open-handed subsidies to the American Security Council, Frawley has spread his influence to the Pentagon and the military-industrial complex. The ASC roster of officers and advisers includes employees of J. Edgar Hoover. Among the member firms are such blue chip corporations as U.S. Steel, Motorola, Illinois-Central Railroad, General Electric and the Honeywell Manufacturing Co.

The Council’s avowed mission is to ferret out “communism and other statist activities.” The ASC also provides a kind of private loyalty review services. As the Council puts it, member firms “use the Council’s files as a source of information on their personnel screening programs.”

Although the ASC is not registered as a lobby, it maintains a “Congressional Pentagon liaison office” that is a de facto lobby.

This year the ASC has trained its sights on seven senators up for re-election, among them Edward M. Kennedy and Charles E. Goodell, who have taken positions which the ASC says “weaken America in its fight against communism.”

The Young Zealot

FRAWLEY’S current political pro- tege is the boyish-looking Edward Butler. Butler began his career before the Bay of Pigs by latching onto a reputable New Orleans anti-Castro group called the Free Voice of Latin America, but he was eventually ousted.

A former officer of the group explained why: “This young man’s ultra-right wing views were not only embarrassing but in my opinion dangerous. He could think of nothing but the danger of some globe-encircling Communist conspiracy . . .”

Butler formed his own propaganda outfit, the Information Council of the Americas (INCA) and began cranking out “documentaries” called Fact Films, Eyewitness Albums and Truth Tapes. The tapes were beamed over INCA’s 130 Latin America radio affiliates to “help deprive the Communist minority of vital mass support.”

It was as the producer of “Hitler in Havana,” one of the Fact Film series, that Butler came under Frawley’s purview. Soon the industrialist’s name appeared on the INCA Advisory Committee alongside those of such anti-Communists as Herbert Philbrick, who spied on Boston Communists for the FBI in the 1940s.

In 1966, Butler left New Orleans for a Beverly Hills bachelor pad close to his patron Frawley. Shedding the con