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Mr Man Hoppe

# Speaking for the President--Arf!



Arthur Hoppe

**T**HE White House announced today that King Timahoe will campaign extensively in behalf of the President next week.

The big, friendly Irish setter brings the number of Cabinet officers high administration officials and members of the White House family out soliciting votes for the President to 73.

"Frankly, we thought we had all bases covered," explained a well-informed source. "Pat was winning the mature ladies' vote; Trish and Julie the young people's vote. Mel Laird was appealing to the defense lovers; Spiro to the oratory lovers; and the White House chef to the cat-soup lovers. We even had two of his dishwashers with Spanish surnames who were doing fine in the Southwest.

"But then it occurred to us we had overlooked millions of American dog lovers. King Timahoe is the answer."

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**T**HE crowd-pleasing American dog of Irish descent is expected to do extremely well in nominally Democratic districts in Boston and Chicago.

"He's our answer to Mayor Daley," said one Republican official happily.

Carefully groomed for his role, as are all Presidential surrogates this year, Timahoe has been trained to leap to a rostrum, stand on his hind legs and wave both forepaws over his head while wagging his tail briskly.

Wearing what one press release described as "a God-given Republican fur coat," the energetic young campaigner should prove particularly effective in recent years in supermarkets and at factory gates.

He is blessed, by all accounts, with a warm and sincere handshake, flashing

white teeth and an infectious personality."

There is no question of his ability to speak for the President. At the very mention of "four more years," the shaggy-haired enthusiast barks four times and nimbly executes a backward somersault — a move guaranteed to bring any crowd to its feet, roaring approval.

Nor can there be any doubt of his skill in handling himself at a press conference. During a trial run, he responded correctly to the very toughest questions reporters could put.

At the mention of McGovern, radicalism, welfare, tax increases or defense cuts, he growled angrily. Words such as work, peace, prosperity and America caused him to thump his tail vigorously.

On key phrases like I T T, Watergate and wheat, he immediately played dead. And when busing was referred to, he quickly rolled over.

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**T**HE late entry of this charismatic canidog is expected to have a dramatic impact on the outcome.

After more than a month of intensive electioneering, the latest Trotter Poll asked voters which of the candidates they now preferred for President.

The results were: Pat, 32; Trish, 27; Spiro, 17; the White House chef, 4; other surrogates, 12; and 8 per cent "don't know" — they being those who wanted to vote for the incumbent, but couldn't remember his name.

But given the overwhelming crowd appeal of Timahoe, many experts now believe we may well wind up with a dog in the White House these next four years.

They are about evenly divided as to whether this would or would not be a good thing.