

# Southern crackers kick-in cash Ku Klux Klan, American Independents soliciting funds for Yorty TV

MICHAEL CHRISTIAN

Mayor Sam Yorty has borrowed \$2 million to finance his runoff campaign against Councilman Tom Bradley. The money was deposited last week in about 20 Los Angeles banks, being sent from Washington, D.C., where it was collected from such well-heeled patriotic organizations as the Ku Klux Klan, National States Rights Party, American Independence Party and Liberty Lobby.

As collateral Yorty promised four more years of conservative law and order in the nation's third largest city and guaranteed Bradley's defeat on May 27. Should he fail to win a third term, the mayor will be a long time paying back one of the biggest political debts ever incurred by a politician.

However, his southern underwriters are confident the loan will buy Bradley's defeat and save Los Angeles from the forces of the left—the American Civil Liberties Union, Negroes and Mexican-Americans, hippies, and other Communist fronts in the conservatives' paranoiac parlance.

Yorty and retiring Police Chief Tom Reddin earned the \$2 million loan by setting themselves up as champions of conservatism, most recently by blaming Communists for the disturbances at Carver Junior High and other predominately Negro Los Angeles schools.

The money was promised before Reddin announced he would quit the force to become a television newscaster but the chief's change of jobs only gave the southern conservatives more reason to bankroll Yorty.

"If he loses and that niggah gets in the Commies will undo Reddin's work in the Police De-

partment—we gotta get Sam re-elected so he can pick a good police chief." The voice came from Washington by telephone to a conservative Negro Republican who let me listen in on an extension.

"L.A.'s the Reds' first target now. We got \$2 million but with Reddin going we can get more—a good police chief is worth almost as much as the right kind of mayor."

My conservative Negro acquaintance shook his head after the long distance call was completed. "Man, that's a lot of cash for one election, but we can use it. This guy Bradley's got the niggahs so riled up, they'll let the Commies into City Hall, the police force and the schools if we don't do something to expose him. He's a left-winger, you know. He grew up with Jews and Commies and they put him on the city council so they could have a black front man."

I didn't ask him how Bradley got on the police force and lasted 21 years, retiring voluntarily, with all that Jew and Commie backing. Or how he had spent six years on the city council without his Jew and Commie backers being exposed until he became a serious challenger to Yorty.

But this conservative Negro had said the same thing about Thomas Kuchel a few years ago and vowed the senator would never be re-elected. Recalling that Max Rafferty also got a southern bankroll when he challenged Kuchel in the Republican primary last June, I began to wonder if the pattern wasn't repeating itself with Yorty.

Of course, Kuchel was white and Republican, while Bradley's

black and Democratic, but to the southern conservative their differences are invisible while their common political tenet—liberalism—is a billboard with "Communist Tool" in 30 foot high lettering.

If you buy the conservative rationale, that Bradley's a black man fronting for Jews and Commies just as Kuchel was a white man fronting for the same evil forces, you might be persuaded to invest heavily in Yorty's campaign. It's apparent enough that conservatives in Dixie believed the anti-Bradley propaganda. The \$2 million loan was confirmed last weekend by an official high up in the Yorty campaign who noted with relief, "Now we can get on television without debating," implying that the mayor prefers to pay for his own time on the tube rather than facing Bradley in free time encounters.

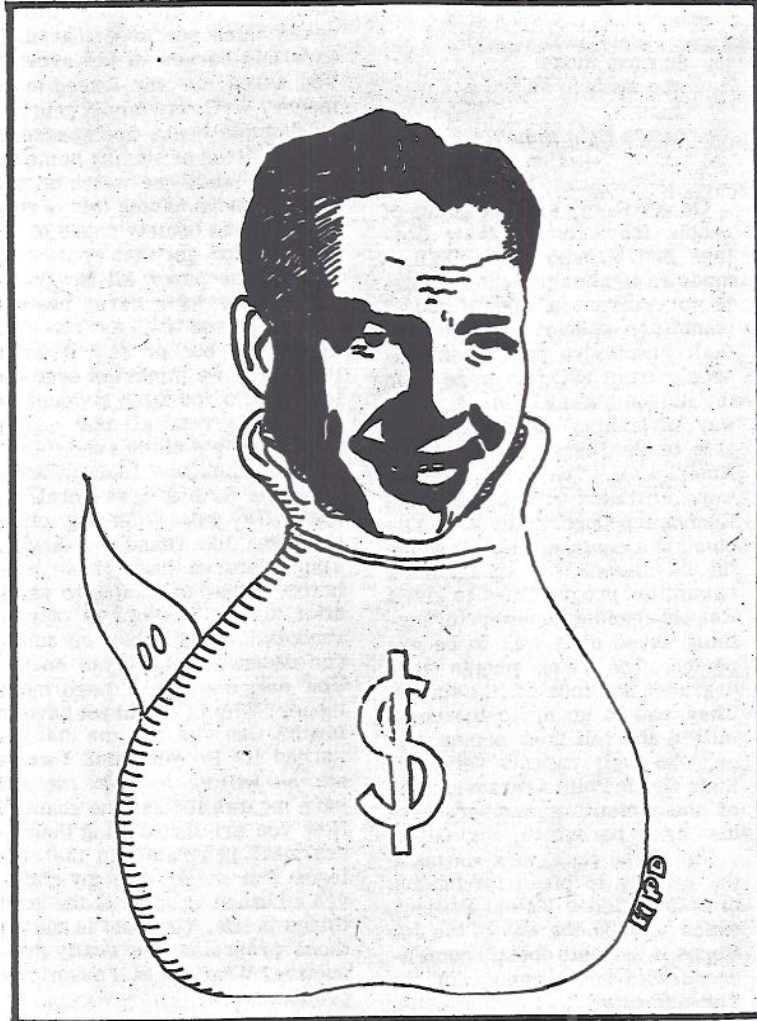
There's still the conviction among the mayor's strategists that the election can be won with a television prime time barrage of anti-Bradley exposes and the scripts already are being prepared.

Yorty's generals also are relying on Reddin to wage a TV war against Bradley once the chief moves to Channel 5 on May 6 for a twice-an-evening news show with commentary. A lot of old George Putnam "I am an American" scripts are being dug up from KTLA's archives and reworked for Reddin, according to a Negro janitor at the station.

With Putnam on Channel 11, Reddin on Channel 5 and Yorty's political ads on all seven commercial channels, conservatives soon will dominate local television, leaving liberals to fend for votes in other ways—the



## for Yorty's coffers



Los Angeles Times, radio stations KGFJ, KRLA, and KHJ, and possibly Channel 9. If the election could be won through the mass media alone, Yorty would be a shoo-in.

But, as Bradley's primary victory (achieved with no television or radio ads until the last two weeks of the campaign and only spotty newspaper advertising) proved, there are a lot of votes to be won without using the media. Walking precincts and handing out printed material will remain

the backbone of Bradley's public relations effort, according to Victor Ludwig, the candidate's top community organizer.

"We don't have Bradley's volunteer army but we have three times his money and we can buy this election with the right kind of television campaign," said Al Atchison, Yorty's general in the harbor area.

The contest will be between people and money, liberals and conservatives, precinct walking  
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## Klan kicks-in cash

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and mass media advertising. And between a white racist and a black liberal. If this last contrast appears too extreme, examine the kind of campaign being mounted by Yorty and Bradley.

### YORTY

The mayor's eight-year record and law and order are the priority issues of his campaign, if one believes the incumbent's public statements since the primary. The record, clearly, is one of repression of minority groups—blacks and chicanos of course but also American Indians, Orientals, Samoans, Filipinos and anyone else who doesn't look white. (I recall being hassled by the fuzz last summer in Venice when I muttered "Gringo" loud enough for a Metro Squad officer to hear; the Spanish word for white man plus my rather deep tan, black hair and beard labeled me erroneously as a chicano and got me a route frisk.) The repression also extends to whites who aren't cleancut, i.e. short hair and clean shaves for men, shoulder-length hair for women, as those who attended the Freep's

Venice beach party learned last weekend.

### BRADLEY

The councilman's campaign will continue to be waged on the issues, law and order with justice being the priority issue at the moment because Yorty interjected police into politics. Actually Bradley got into the campaign to debate other issues—conservation, smog, urban planning, schools, property taxes, traffic and freeways, recreation, poverty and good government were the topics of his pre-primary position papers. The challenger has consistently taken a liberal position on all the issues except law and order, his stand on police practices being somewhere right of the new left.

### YORTY WILL WIN

The contrasts add up to an unmistakable indication that Yorty will win on May 27, getting anywhere from 51 to 71% of the vote. While I've been accused, as have many other journalists (including some working for establishment newspapers, radio and tv stations) of slanting election stories to favor Bradley, the facts add up to a third term for Mayor Sam even when presented in an anti-Yorty context. History—Proposition 13, Reagan, Nixon and Rafferty—shows Los Angeles can mount a 65% conservative vote anytime an election is between a conservative and a liberal. Since a Negro

has never been involved in a citywide contest, it's difficult to predict what Bradley's color will mean in the way of votes, but it seems more likely to add conservative than liberal ballots.

"If the run-off turnout is higher than the primary, this could lower Bradley's percentage of the votes to 39%," Ludwig estimates. "The areas with the best turnout in the primary (South Central Los Angeles was the best with 75% of the registered voters going to the polls) were Bradley's strongest areas. The biggest increases in the run-off will be in areas where Yorty's strong—the San Fernando Valley and San Pedro-Wilmington."

Yorty agrees with Ludwig that most of the 35% of registered voters who stayed home on primary election day were his supporters. If a third of the primary stay-at-homes vote for Sam in the run-off and he and Bradley split the 225,000 primary votes for Baxter Ward, Alphonzo Bell and the minor candidates, Yorty could overcome his challenger's 112,000 vote primary lead.

Bradley, on the other hand, has to rely on a low turnout among those who didn't vote in the primary to win the run-off. His campaign managers say the non-vote is the key to the run-off. They are discouraging workers from walking obviously pro-Yorty precincts such as Mar Vista, the community picked as the prototype of blue collar, anti-Negro, anti-liberal areas where the conservatives hope to demonstrate their strength on May 27.

The weekend after the primary, looking at the results (42% for Bradley, 27% for Yorty) through rose colored glasses, the challenger's campaign managers—Don Rothenberg, Maury Weiner, Robert Farrel and Ludwig—fig-



ured their man merely had to hold onto his primary vote and pick up about 56,000 votes from Bell and Ward and the minor candidates to nip Yorty in the run-off.

"Hell, with 10,000 volunteers we got it made," one of the managers remarked. "That's less than six votes per volunteer."

But further reflection, the arrival of the Registrar of Voters' precinct breakdown, Yorty's \$2 million bankroll from Dixie, Reddin's resignation and, perhaps most shattering of all, defection of about 3,000 volunteers turned the early illusion of victory in the bag into a pessimistic admission that Sam would be impossible to beat.

What finally made Ludwig a pessimist was the volunteer defection which began about three days after the primary and had grown to epidemic proportions by last weekend. Almost a third of the under-30 campaign workers have walked off the job, mainly to protest the Democratic Party professional's takeover of the campaign, but also in disgust with the importation of Republican professionals led by William King, a pseudo-moderate GOP attorney who spearheaded Reagan and Nixon's Southern California campaigns and was Bell's campaign manager in the primary.

"How the hell can you ask us to live with Democrats and Republicans?" one Chicano youth leader asked Ludwig last week in Wilmington. "And where is Bradley? You keep telling us he'll come to East Wilmington (East L.A. by the sea) but we never get to see him."

All Ludwig could do was explain, "We're not asking you to live with anyone, just to work for Bradley. He's worn out from the primary, he was on the run 18 and 20 hours a day. As soon as he recovers, he'll come down for an appearance."

The Chicano stormed out of Bradley's Wilmington headquarters, followed by half a dozen young men who had walked East Wilmington's precincts when

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## Klan supports Yorty effort

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Mexican-American campaign workers refused because they said the precincts were too dangerous.

Ludwig and other main headquarters emissaries had similar disastrous confrontations at almost all the branch headquarters last week, with youthful workers in effect striking for a real voice in campaign strategy and a guaranteed role in a Bradley administration.

The youth defection parallels the revolt of Democratic Party liberal-radicals last year which led to formation of the Peace and Freedom Party and the presidential candidacy of Eldridge Cleaver. Los Angeles' Peace and Freedom Clubs aren't buying Bradley, although a few former Kennedy and McCarthy workers who claim P and F ties have set up offices in Bradley's posh main headquarters on Wilshire Blvd.

Comparing the new headquarters (donated by Bell who used the building for his campaign) to the old one on Pico Blvd. is like comparing the primary and run-off campaigns. The new headquarters looks like a big insurance office with all sorts of glass partitioned cages and carpeting in the mezzanine executive suites. The old one was a big barn with cracked linoleum on the floors of campaign managers' offices. The primary was

a people's show, thousands of really poor people flocking to headquarters religiously to work, sleep and eat. The run-off is a professional's show, a few dozen coat and tie types reporting in at 9 a.m. with briefcases, working late into the night at big desks, dictating their words of wisdom (?) to efficient secretaries who type everything in quadruplicate on IBM electrics with type that looks like neat handwriting.

Looking out one of the headquarters big front windows at the Ambassador Hotel three blocks away, I could only wonder whether Bradley was more at home in the palace Bell gave him or in the vest pocket parks of Watts, the only place in the city where he seems able to unwind in public.

Win or lose on May 27, Bradley has to go down as an ex-cop who copped out to the system when the chips were down. Damn shame, too, because a year or so ago he had the makings of a black politician.