

'Hang in There, Mr. President'

PNK 11413
By Jeannette Smyth

Pat Nixon may have started it all months ago when she borrowed a poster from her social secretary and hung it in the President's bedroom. It showed a kitten doing chin-ups and said, "Hang in there, baby."

Now Mr. Nixon's "Operation Candor," somewhat scaled down recently, has a marching song named "Hang in There, Mr. President." Hollywood songwriter Henry Tobias composed the tune—to be sung "bright, with spirit"—as a counter-offensive against Mr. Nixon's Watergate critics.

Its sold only 70 records so far. But Tobias, who says he sent the President a copy of the sheet music, says he's gotten a thank-you note in return. "You may be sure the steadfast sup-

port represented by your special remembrance is particularly appreciated," the President reportedly wrote.

A sample of Tobias' lyrics:

*Hang in there, Mr. President;
Fight! Fight! Fight!
We are with you, Mr. President,
With all our might.
They may use you and abuse you,
Holler quit, quit, quit;
But you've heard that all before,
Just clench your fist and grit.*

Tobias wrote the song at the urging of Richard Mason, a former CIA analyst and Democrat for Nixon who is distributing the record in his company, Telemark Dance Records, in McLean.

Mason said yesterday he's gotten

about 70 orders for the \$1.50 single, including 10 orders from a man in Liberal, Kans., and one from the British Broadcasting Corp. Tobias did the vocal.

"This could turn out to be what we call a black matzoh in the trade," Mason said. "That's when you can't sell them so you have to eat them." He figures he has to sell about 500 copies to break even.

He personally went to Capitol Hill the day before Christmas recess and delivered copies to the 43 Republican senators. So far only Sen. Carl Curtis (R-Neb.) has written him a thank-you note. "No," said Mason, "he hadn't listened to it. It was just a thank you."

"They're crucifying this man," Tobias

said yesterday in a telephone interview from Cleveland, where he is rehearsing with Frank Yankovic, the "polka king," for a recording date next week. "There are more things in this country to do than just getting even with Nixon throughout the years."

He added, "Politics is a dirty business and if I can bring out this message to the silent majority, I will have done a service." Tobias plans to re-record "Hang in There" with Yankovic's band and a professional singer.

Tobias, who composed such oldies as "Miss You" and "If I had My Life to Live Over," considers himself a Democrat. But he wrote Nixon campaign songs in 1960 and 1972. When Mason called last fall and told him, "Henry, I

think it's time for you to write another song," he came up with "Hang In There."

Mason and Tobias plan a sheet music folio, scheduled to appear next week, called "Let's Sing for the President," which would include the three Nixon songs plus a special version of "Hail to the Chief."

The lyrics to "Hang In There" conclude:

*You've got courage, so just reach 'em
And Fight! Fight! Fight!
Let them holler 'Let's impeach 'im'
They're wrong, you're right.
Let them holler, let them cry.
You just keep your head up high.
So hang in there, Mr. President!
Fight! Fight! Fight!*