

Rose Denounces Reported G.O.P. Help To Liberal Slates as 'Certainly Immoral'

By FRED FERETTI

Alex Rose, vice chairman of the Liberal party, yesterday characterized as "perhaps not illegal but certainly immoral" reported Republican attempts to subsidize Liberal candidates in key Assembly districts last year in efforts to draw off votes from Democratic candidates.

In an interview in his office, Mr. Rose also denied any Liberal party involvement in "any such activities." He denied published charges that he personally knew about them and said neither the state Liberal party nor he "had any input in them."

The charges of concerted Republican-financed campaign efforts on behalf of Liberals in 11 districts in the state are being investigated by State Attorney General Louis J. Lefkowitz and by District Attorneys Frank S. Hogan of Manhattan and Arnold Proskin of Albany.

Mailings Investigated

Mr. Lefkowitz's investigation has focused on the office of Assembly Speaker Perry B. Duryea, Republican of Montauk, L.I., and on various campaign mailings sent out by Harold Relkin, chairman of the so-called Action Committee of the Liberal Party. The mailings urged votes for Liberals, often in districts where a low Liberal vote was regarded as significant to Democratic hopes.

Mr. Rose said: "I don't know who Relkin is. I see from reports that he enrolled in our party. Enrolled. He was not a member. He never voted. Then he left."

Mr. Rose said the "Action Committee doesn't exist; we don't have any such thing." He continued:

"Insofar as we're concerned, it was a cheap trick. He evidently enrolled for an ulterior motive, and he wasn't used until last year."

G.O.P. 'Tricks' Assailed

Asked who he thought had "used" Mr. Relkin, Mr. Rose said: "It is obvious that, from what I read, the Republicans."

"We categorically denounce this and all other political tricks aimed at misleading the voters," he added.

Asked if he referred to the Republican party, Mr. Rose said, "Unquestionably."

Mr. Rose disclaimed any knowledge of any Liberal-Republican arrangements in any of the 11 districts in question.

"We have a democratic party," he said. "Part of the penalty you pay for democracy is independence."

He said that county organizations of the Liberal party "are free to endorse or run candidates as they see fit" and that in last year's elections "we didn't bother with local elections; all of our efforts were for the national ticket."

Mr. Rose added that he felt

there was too much emphasis on Liberal-Republican relationships. "Most of the time we are identified with the Democrats," he said.

However, political observers have noted increasing Liberal involvement with Republicans. They point to Mr. Rose's backing of John V. Lindsay, then a Republican, for Mayor of New York and the unsuccessful plan he devised with Governor Rockefeller to get Republican-Liberal backing for former Mayor Robert F. Wagner earlier this year.

Involvement With G.O.P.

They point out that Mr. Rose was often supported by Republicans, such as State Senator Roy M. Goodman in Manhattan, and that there are indications that Governor Rockefeller and Senator Jacob K. Javits will receive his support for re-election next year.

Mr. Rose said: "The immediate victims of this latest political machination were, in several instances, Democrats that our party had supported in the past. However, we were denied the opportunity of supporting them again by the ban on cross-endorsements. The Democratic and Republican leaders who were parties to the cross-endorsement ban, in the end, turned on each other."

In Nassau County cross-endorsements are not permitted by either party. This is usually done on between county leaders a gentlemen's agreement basis.

Assault on Party Charged

Mr. Rose charged that such arrangements were "part of a campaign to put our party out of business; we have no option in such cases but to run our own candidates."

He said that in Nassau's 13th District, Stanley Harwood, "a Democrat we supported and wanted to support again," was "denied our endorsement." Frank DiPaola ran as a Liberal and got 917 votes. Mr. Harwood lost by 501 votes to Milton Jonas, a Republican.

Mr. DiPaola was quoted as saying that he intended, after the election, to go to Assemblyman Joseph M. Margiotta, the county Republican leader, and get into politics "on a more serious level."

Said Mr. Rose: "I don't know about that. We're spread so thin around the state. We do the best we can. He may have had another motivation. I don't know."

Of Irving Nach—a Westchester County Liberal who ran in the 87th Assembly District and, while a candidate, went to work as a consultant to the Republican majority in the Assembly Mr. Rose said:

"There is nothing dishonorable about him. He is known as a maverick. He was an anti-Democrat. His whole life was fighting the Democratic machine."

Of reports that in one upstate race the Liberal party candidate's daughter was given a job on a state legislative committee after last year's race, Mr. Rose commented: "I can't pass judgment. Does the daughter have the right to a job? I can't tell."

He repeatedly asserted that it was up to individual counties and organization within the Liberal party structure to decide their own political actions. "We once found," he recalled, "our Niagara organization backed Earl Brydges [former Majority leader of the State Senate]. We were appalled, but what could we do? Nothing."

Mr. Rose said that the charges of his complicity in Liberal-Republican Assembly vote arrangements — charges made by the Queens Liberal party chairman, Stanley Shaw — were "fraudulent, made by a



The New York Times
Alex Rose

man who's a fraud in politics; he is an irresponsible man whom our party repudiated." Mr. Shaw has repeatedly challenged Mr. Rose's leadership.