

NYT 6/18/73

Nixon Leaflets Tied to Alleged Vote Plot

By RALPH BLUMENTHAL

The people who ordered the State Assembly campaign literature now being investigated by Attorney General Louis J. Lefkowitz, also ordered leaflets urging the re-election of President Nixon, the printer said yesterday.

The printer said he would not disclose their names before checking with Mr. Lefkowitz.

A Republican Assemblyman whose name appeared on the Presidential campaign leaflets said he had "nothing to do" with the printing and believed it had been sponsored by the Committee for the Re-election of the President. No former committee officials were immediately reachable for comment.

The disclosures associating the printing for the first time with the national race last November, came as Mr. Lefkowitz was reportedly preparing to present the case for possible criminal prosecution by area District Attorneys. Mr. Lefkowitz, who has privately called the case the most important in his 15-year tenure, declined all comment. No confirmation was available from the prosecutors.

Democrats Complained

The investigation began as a result of complaints last year by Democratic and Liberal Assembly candidates that campaign letters from a so-called Action Committee for the Liberal Party—listed at a non-existent address in Manhattan—appeared aimed at drawing off votes from the Democratic candidates for the benefit of Republicans.

The suspect letters were signed by Harold J. Relkin, later identified as a \$3,796-a-

Printer Says They Were Ordered Along With Assembly Material

year "special project" aide in the office of Assembly Speaker Perry B. Duryea Jr., the Montauk, L. I., Republican. Mr. Duryea has since denied knowing Mr. Relkin.

State investigators were reported by sources close to the case to have uncovered evidence of an intricate chain of printing subcontracts—rather like a series of "drops," it was said—apparently designed to conceal a connection between Republican Assembly-campaign funds and contributions to Liberals to draw off Democratic votes.

Leaflets Favored Nixon

In the latest disclosure, the printer, Allen M. Spiro, proprietor of the Park Printing Company of Queens, said in an interview yesterday that two men he had not dealt with before and did not know came to him last fall with an order for Republican campaign literature favorably contrasting Mr. Nixon's record with that of his Democratic opponent, Senator George McGovern.

Included on the back flap, Mr. Spiro said, was the name of a local candidate he did not further identify.

Mr. Spiro said that the men had a mock-up of the material prepared and that he had only to reproduce it. The cost for the undisclosed number of 8½-by-14-inch pieces, he said, was around \$4,000.

"While I was doing that one," Mr. Spiro recalled, "they asked, 'Hey, can you do this?'"

which, he said, turned out to be the Belkin letter. He agreed, and the extra job ran the final cost to about \$6,000.

Investigation sources said the men picked up the material, afterward, paying with a check from the Republican Assembly Campaign Fund.

Dellibovi Was Displeased

In an interview yesterday, Assemblyman Alfred A. Dellibovi, Queens Republican-Conservative who is a friend of Mr. Spiro's, acknowledged that his name had appeared on the Nixon literature.

"I did not order that piece," he said. "It just arrived. I thought it came from the Nixon committee." Mr. Dellibovi said he had been unhappy that the leaflets were devoted almost exclusively to the Presidential race with only a mention of his name. So, he said, the 5,000 or so pieces were hardly distributed.

Asked whether the material might have been ordered by the Assembly Republican committee, he replied that, if so, "I hope they got the money back from Nixon."

"There's so much money in that CREEP [Committee for the Re-election of the President] Committee, nothing would surprise me," he said.

Mr. Dellibovi said he had no idea whether the material might have been ordered by Mr. Relkin, whom he acknowledged meeting "on a couple of occasions."

Assembly Speaker Duryea, Assembly Majority Leader John E. Kingston of Westbury, L. I., Mr. Relkin and Assistant Attorney General Allan Smiley were all unreachable yesterday for comment.