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Why GOP Editor Aided Demos

Washington

John D. Lofton Jr., editor of the official Republican National Committee newsletter, said yesterday that he sent various Democratic presidential aspirants information about other contenders during the New Hampshire primary campaign because he "wanted to do what I could to help" them attack each other.

Lofton, the editor of Monday, responded to published newspaper stories about his having provided information for the campaign of Los Angeles Mayor Sam Yorty to be used against Senator Edmund Muskie of Maine. The stories were basically accurate, he said, but he was "an equal - opportunity supplier."

DATA

Lofton said that he supplied information on several candidates to tre campaigns of several others, including that of Senator George McGovern. "And they appreciate it, I know," he said. He added that persons within the Senator's campaign organization, whom he refused to identify, had returned the favor and supplied him with tips that he was able to use in Monday.

None of the information was particularly private or at all scandalous, Lofton said. Much of it was the sort of thing that Monday often uses — comparisons of politicians' statements on various issues over a period of time. "But I think it was perfectly above - board," he said, adding that none of it was mailed in plain envelopes or with intent to conceal its source.

BATTLE

"If I thought I had something to contribute to the battle, 'I'd do it," Lofton said. "Whenever they (the Democrats) wanted to attack each other, I wanted to do what I could to help."

Muskie won the New Hampshire primary, but his margin of victory over McGovern was narrower than had been foreseen.

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