

'72 Candidates**McCloskey and
A Third Choice***By Michael Harris*

Congressman Paul N. McCloskey Jr. declared yesterday he may back a third party candidate for president next year if he disapproves of the Republican and Democratic nominees.

It was the first time since the San Mateo county Congressman's entry into the race for the Republican nomination for president that he discussed the possibility of supporting an independent candidate if he loses.

"I don't want to face the third party question until I've exhausted the remedies where I am today," McCloskey told 165 members of the Barristers Club and the Junior Chamber of Commerce at the Sun Hung Heung restaurant in Chinatown.

SUPPORT

"If it happens — if we're faced with another Chicago and Miami Beach and a Humphrey versus Nixon — if any able candidate came forward who was presenting honesty and good will in government that I could support in a third party, I think probably I'd support him."

Following the luncheon, McCloskey was asked whether his statement opened up the possibility that he might support an anti-war Democratic candidate against President Nixon.

"I really don't know," he replied. "Then I'd have to face the test I've never faced

— the obligation to back the guy from the opposing party or just stay quiet."

McCloskey told his youthful audience he hopes he can accomplish his goal of changing national policy by campaigning within the Republican party and winning an upset victory over President Nixon in the New Hampshire primary next March.

TOWNS

"What we're seeking to do is go to the 220 small towns in New Hampshire with less than 1000 population and have seven or eight coffees and teas a day whenever I can get there," McCloskey said.

"I find that a lot of the people I meet want to help, but I don't know if I can cover enough of them. I will do this thing through to the finish if I have to reduce my campaign to a staff of myself alone."

McCloskey reported he was running \$40,000 in debt, but he said he had already received a freshet of new contributions as a result of Thursday's attack on him by Vice President Spiro T. Agnew. The Vice President told the Republican Governors Conference that McCloskey's favorite painting was "Benedict Arnold Crossing the Delaware."

"It might be the best fund-raiser I've had yet," the Congressman added.

McCloskey told members

of the Barristers Club — whose directors voted to oppose the nomination of William Rehnquist to the Supreme Court — that he supported the conservative lawyer.

"I've known Bill for 20 years . . . He was the object of some derision at Stanford Law School for his conservative views," McCloskey said.

"I'm absolutely certain he will bend over backwards not to let his political views interfere with his decisions."