

G.O.P. Aide Gave Data To Democratic Rivals

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WASHINGTON, Oct. 23—The editor of the Republican National Committee newsletter said today that he had sent various Democratic Presidential aspirants information about other contenders during the New Hampshire primary campaign because he had "wanted to do what I could to help" them attack each other.

John D. Lofton Jr., the editor of Monday, responded in a telephone interview to an article by The Associated Press about his having provided information to be used against Senator Edmund S. Muskie of Maine in the campaign of Mayor Sam Yorty of Los Angeles. The article was basically accurate, Mr. Lofton said, but he added that he was "an equal-opportunity supplier."

Mr. Lofton said that he had supplied information on several candidates to the campaigns of several others, including that of Senator George McGovern.

"And they appreciated it, I know," he said. The editor added that persons within the McGovern 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, Mr. Lofton said. Much of it was the sort of thing that Monday of ten 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 had been mailed in plain envelopes or with intent to conceal its source.

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

He said he had not bothered to send information about Mr. Yorty to any other candidate because "Yorty was not seriously considered to be a potential party nominee."

Just Doing His Job

Mr. Lofton said he felt he would have been "derelict in my duty if I passed up an opportunity to assist a Democrat in attacking another because the more the Democrats attack each other, the more it rebounds to our benefit.

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

Mr. Lofton said that the material he had sent out about Mr. Muskie had not nearly been as "rough" as that sent out by "the Muskie accountability project," which described itself as "a public service to the nation's voters by the Sixtus Corporation, Stewart Mott, president." Mr. Mott was an early and ardent supporter of Mr. McGovern.

The table of contents of a 22-page compilation of Muskie data released by the "project" included "Muskie the pious polluter" and "Muskie lies about his Vietnam voting record."