

Campaign Tactic

A Report GOP Aided Radicals

Los Angeles

Members of the Peace and Freedom party, a left-wing political party in California, say they received secret funds from Republicans last year to finance some of their campaigns and drain votes from the Democrats.

Reliable Republican sources concede that the GOP also provided some aid to La Raza Unida, another left-leaning party made up of militant Mexican-Americans, though La Raza leaders deny the report.

The Peace and Freedom Party was organized in 1968, when the anti-war movement was at its height and many radicals felt there was no choice between the two major parties. A massive petition drive qualified the party for the ballot, and Eldridge Cleaver, the Black Panther leader, was its presidential candidate.

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The party has since run candidates in numerous elections and has occasionally contributed to the defeat of the Democrats. According to Peace and Freedom Party leaders, Republicans last year paid the radical party's filing fees in at least five Assembly districts and two congressional districts, a total of close to \$2000. Peace and Freedom organizers received about \$1500 additional to cover such expenses as travel, telephone bills and literature, the leaders added.

Much of this money was transferred by Frank DeLonge, a consultant to the Republican leadership in the state Assembly, according to Eric Garris, a young Peace and Freedom party activist who ran in the 61st assembly district.

The current Republican leader, Assemblyman Rob-

ert Beverly, refused to allow DeLonge to talk to a New York Times correspondent. But reliable Republican sources in Sacramento confirmed that party money had been used to help Peace and Freedom candidates.

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The first contact with DeLonge came in March 1972, Garris said. The Republican consultant reportedly agreed to fly the youth and another Peace and Freedom leader, John Haag, from Los Angeles to Sacramento to help recruit a splinter candidate in the 10th Assembly district in Contra Costa county.

DeLonge reportedly met them at the airport and gave them a car and some expense money.

After the two activists succeeded in qualifying a candidate in the Assembly race, DeLonge agreed to finance party-organizing efforts in three additional Assembly districts and the congressional district represented by Representative Ronald V. Dellums, Garris said. But no candidates were ever qualified in these districts.

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