

Coast Leftist Group Says It Got G.O.P.

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Special to The New York Times

LOS ANGELES, July 1—Members of the Peace and Freedom party, a left-wing splinter group 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 G.O.P. 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 California situation is similar to a controversy in New York, although it does not appear to be so extensive. In New York, high Republican leaders in the State Legislature have been accused of helping to finance the Liberal party in an attempt to undercut Democratic candidates.

The Committee for the Re-election of the President reportedly funneled \$10,000 into California in 1971 in a futile effort to eliminate Gov. George C. Wallace's American Independent party from the ballot, a result that would also have benefited Republicans. Any aid received by the two leftist parties, however, seems to have come from local, rather than national sources.

The Peace and Freedom party was organized in 1968, when the antiwar 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.

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 \$2,000. Peace and Freedom organizers received about \$1,500 additionally to cover such expenses as travel, telephone bills and literature, the leaders added.

Much of this money was transferred by Frank Delong, a consultant to the Republican leadership in the State Assembly, according to Eric Garris, a young Peace and Freedom activist who ran in the 61st Assembly District.

The current Republican leader, Assemblyman Robert Beverly, refused to allow Mr. Delong, to talk to The New York Times. But reliable Republican sources in Sacramento confirmed that party money had been used to help Peace

and Freedom candidates.

The first contact with Mr. Delong came in March of 1972, Mr. Garris said in an interview. 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.

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

Mr. Garris added: "He had a real nice car. We're used to low-budget operations, you know, hitch-hiking everywhere, and now we had this red carpet treatment. It was great."

After the two activists succeeded in qualifying a candidate in the Assembly race, Mr. Delong agreed to finance party-organizing efforts in three additional Assembly Districts and the Congressional District of Representative Ronald V. Dellums, Mr. Garris said. But no candidates were ever qualified in these districts.

"We were given goods," Mr. Garris said. "Like the telephone was paid for, and buttons, leaflets, bumper stickers and transportation money was given."

Another Peace and Freedom leader, who did not want his name used, said that Bill Brophy, the Republican candidate for Congress last year against Representative Edward Roybal in east Los Angeles, paid the \$425 filing fee for the leader to run in the same district. As part of the deal, Mr. Brophy also paid the fee for a Peace and Freedom candidate in the district represented by Representative George Danielson, he said. Both Democrats won re-election handily.

"There was nothing wrong with what we did," Mr. Garris said. "It was something we wanted to do anyhow. We never changed any of our political positions. Some of the things we did would not have ordinarily happened because of the lack of money."

La Raza Unida has never qualified for a permanent spot on the California ballot and has run candidates only in a few selected races, but it is credited with causing the defeat of the Democrats in a special Assembly election in 1971.

A well-informed source at Republican headquarters here said it was "taken for granted" that La Raza received G.O.P. help in its petition drives to qualify independent candidates.

Republican officials would "try to give a little advice on how to get signatures," the

source said. Another G.O.P. activist said that Republican volunteers helped La Raza collect the signatures, and that filing fees might have been paid.

However, Raul Ruiz, a La Raza leader who ran in several races, said that the party had never received Republican help.

Last year Alex Armendariz, an official of the Committee for the re-election of the President specializing in Chicano affairs, wrote a strategy memorandum advising that any Democratic candidate "could be hurt by a strong third party effort" and urging Republican help to La Raza groups in such states as Texas and Illinois, as well as California.

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