

National Coalition Of Independents On Issues



Chairman

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(This report on the recent Conference of Independent Conservatives was written by Colonel McCrary for national distribution among the whole array of Whig forces — including “political leaders of all makes,” conservative and liberal Congressmen and officials, and a wide range of publications. — Ed.)

A Vital Message To All American Independents

Aug. 10, 1977

A milestone in American History was reached and passed on Aug. 5-7, 1977, at Memphis, Tenn. Thanks to the determined efforts and financial sacrifices of lawyer Bill Dyke, former Republican mayor of Madison, Wisc. and a close contender for the governorship of the state in 1974, an all-encompassing Conference of Independent Conservatives and just plain independents was held at Memphis. In his organizing for the conference, Dyke was ably assisted by various conservative and independent-party leaders through the U.S.

The conference included representatives from the American Independent Party, the American Independence Party (a split-off from the old American Party), the American Party, the Independent Party of Georgia (and other states), the Conservative Party of New York and Alabama, the Constitutional Party of Pennsylvania, the Independent Americans of Utah, other state parties, and the U.S. Labor Party, along with individual independents, some from the Democratic and Republican Parties. Lectures were given by Bill Dyke, Otis Carey (AIP), Paul Helm (American Party), Howard Phillips (Conservative Caucus), Hon. John Rarick (former Congressman from Louisiana), Hon. Larry McDonald (Democratic U.S. Representative from Georgia), Charles Wolf (president of the American Economics Foundation), Dr. John Grady (GOP candidate for U.S. Senate from Florida), Mike Triggs (of the California legislature), Don Rosenberg (national chairman of the National Traditionalist Caucus), Janine Hanson (candidate for Congress, Nevada), Edward Thompson (executive director, Premium Basin Petroleum Association), Dr. Edward Popp, DDS (author of the Money Game), Dr. Herold Ross (professor, DePaul University, Indiana), Hon. Hanna Carlson (Arizona House of Representatives), Hon. Frank Dunkle (Montana State Senate), Jerry Russell (president, Campaign Consultants), Ty Ragland (Message Factors Inc.), Vincent Drosik III (press secretary, congressional campaign, Virginia), Hon. Donna Carlson, John Armour (general counsel to Sen. Eugene McCarthy and chairman, Committee for Fair Ballot Access), John Couture (national committeeman, AIP), Leon Griffith (member of Congress, GOP gubernatorial candidate in Arkansas, 1976), Howard Ruff (economist), and Dr. David Noebel (president, American Christian College, Tulsa, Okla.). There was also a performance by Jack Connors, nationally known concert performer and outstanding American patriot.

The Purpose of the Conference

“The future of our Republic demands that our people be given a genuine choice in determining the policies and programs as well as the leadership for our nation. This meeting is convened in a spirit of unity for the purpose of bringing about cooperation and unification of purpose among conservatives.” As Count Alexis de Toqueville, the great French historian, stated after a visit to America in the 1830s, “America’s greatness is due to its goodness, and if America ever loses its goodness it will lose its greatness.”

At the conference’s committee meetings, held on Aug. 4, the following topics were considered:

“How do we bring conservatives and independents together?”

“What are the key issues for conservatives?”

“How do we become financially strong enough to win?”

“What shall be the form of organization?”

“Developing candidates and issues for 1978 and laying the groundwork for 1988.”

“What statements of issue and purpose do we support?”

Resolutions presented to the floor at the end of the session and accepted by majority vote included the following:

(1) That an Ad Hoc Committee be appointed and approved to establish an umbrella political party to encompass all conservatives and independents, regardless of present party affiliation, into one unified group. The recommended party constitution and bylaws, along with resolutions on issues to which all current independent and conservative parties agree, will be forwarded to the various state independent parties for acceptance or recommended changes. Final ratification is to be accomplished by Nov. 30, 1977. Suggested names, such as “American Conservative Party,” “Independent Majority Party,” etc., will be considered and determined by a consensus of the states. Party names formerly or presently in use will not be considered.

(2) The National Coalition of Independents on Issues, organized and directed by Colonel Thomas A. McCrary of Gainesville, Ga., will continue as a movement with the blessing, support, and participation of all members of the newly formed umbrella party.

(3) Other resolutions recommended by the various committees will be considered by the Ad Hoc Committee and submitted to the various party leaders and state party leaders for consideration.

The conference ended with a most favorable climate for the achievement of the purpose enunciated at the beginning of this report.

Colonel McCrary is very active in carrying on the purposes and goals of the Coalition Movement. His primary theme and motto is, “Majority Rule vs. Special Interest Domination.” Inasmuch as almost all national polls indicate that the majority’s wishes on a large number of important national issues are ignored and-or circumvented by Congress, the federal Administration, and the courts, there is a need for all independents to close ranks on these issues, set up representative committees, and fight for the majority position.

A National Committee for Honest and Fair Elections was established early in May 1977. Colonel McCrary, as its chairman, appeared before the Senate Rules Committee together with a representative of the U.S. Labor Party who had factual, documentary evidence of massive fraud in the last general election in New York state, Ohio, and Wisconsin, to protest instant registration, taxpayer-financed support of congressional candidates, and other undesirable features of the Carter Administration’s so-called Election Reform Bill. A tightening up of voting laws was suggested, such as voter identification requirements including name, place of abode and the name under which the abode is rented or owned, place of work (or name on welfare check), driver’s license, social security number and a signature, as well as a thumb print. Election officials should be selected from jury lists and be paid like jurors. Punishment for violation of election laws should be severe, particularly for perpetrators of election fraud. A person’s vote should be held sacred and must be protected.

The recent success of conservative and independent Senators in thwarting federal financing of congressional candidates, and Carter’s temporary withdrawal of his instant registration legislation by Carter indicate a little of what a unified effort by independents can do.

An Energy Research and Development Committee has also been established under the chairmanship of Hal Short in Washington, D.C., with the assistance of industrial leaders, experts, and scientists in all of the various fields of energy. A Balanced Energy Program has been developed and is now ready for final completion and issue. It is planned to mobilize support from leaders in industry, science, power and utilities, labor, and finance for this project and, later, to generate backing from state governors and legislatures. Only in this way can we influence our national political leaders to adopt a reasonable, viable, balanced energy program which will result in progress, and the reestablishment of America as the forerunner in production, financial stability, and world leadership. This program will ensure jobs for all.

Other Committees

Other committees on issue which we will establish soon will be as follows:

(1) **On the Problem of the Monetary Crisis:** U.S. Labor Party chairman Lyndon LaRouche’s solution for the prevention or containment of a complete national financial collapse lies in the establishment of a National Bank to gradually replace the Federal Reserve System, in order to ensure hard currency and dependable hard commodity credits with proper control of money supply — all based upon the immediate gearing up of our industrial-agricultural production machinery to “full speed ahead.” This will guarantee full employment and

the optimum individual production achievement by all the citizens of this country. LaRouche's idea of an International Development Bank, where credits are extended only where it counts, in increased production by other nations, will ensure consistent prosperity in all nations. The Committee will be constituted by dedicated conservative financial experts who will address themselves to LaRouche's solution along with other ideas for fiscal, monetary, and financial reform.

(2) On the Problem of Political Harassment, pressures, and in some instances of terrorism by political leaders in power against all political opposition. A Committee will be established to find means to thwart these un-American, unfair, and extralegal measures. Also, tie-ins with monetarist-controlled institutions, foundations, political bodies, and terrorist or mafia-like organizations will be exposed. Demands will be made on Congress to make proper investigations, such as those carried out on the "Watergate operations" of the last Administration.

(3) On the Problem of Bureaucratic Despotism: This Committee will examine the overindulgence of the environmentalists, the unnecessary harassment of OSHA, the criminal anti-freedom-of-choice actions of the federal Food and Drug Administration, the vicious attacks by the Internal Revenue Service and in some instances by the Justice Department, the failure and arbitrary actions of the Immigration Department, the interference of the Agriculture Department and others in the constitutional right of freedom of choice in the free enterprise system, plus many other infringements of individual rights governed by the Constitution. The truth will be exposed to Congress and the public. Our liberty is at stake here.

(4) On the Problem of Crime and Drugs: Committee will determine the causes of the out-of-hand situation on crime and drugs and expose the culprits who foster it and why. Recommended remedial action will be thrust upon Congress and the courts, and universal demands for reform will be made.

(5) On Foreign Affairs: A study will be made on the manner in which the United States can be guided back to our original successful policy of staying out of other people's business, keeping other people's noses out of ours, and insuring the safety and well-being of all American citizens, throughout the world. In negotiations, we must take a new approach in all our dealings. Instead of the State Department and such policy makers accepting deals to compromise American interests, or actually to give away American property, products, taxpayers' money, and U.S. influence in return for nothing but animosity, we shall hereafter negotiate all foreign deals to the advantage of the U.S., with due consideration for the welfare of all of mankind.

(6) On National Security: A committee representing the military, the intelligence community, industry, labor, financial interests, technological and political science, the diplomatic community, and national security civilian institutions will be established to examine our current and future military posture vis-a-vis that of other countries. Mistakes in past security matters, solutions to future security problems, and recommended overall policy and action in the security field will come within the purview of this committee.

(7) On Labor and Industry: Representatives from the rank and file of labor (or local, properly elected representatives), leaders of small business, representatives of larger corporations, acceptable labor-relations lawyers, professors in labor relations and industrial management, and experts in free enterprise and the profit motive will comprise this committee. The framework for this discussion will be a labor-industry alliance for productive investment and technological development — the exact opposite of the make-work programs put forward by the Humphrey-Hawkins bill and the Initiatives Committee for National Economic Planning (ICNEP). Their projects will include the examination and analysis of the trade-union movement, the efficacy of labor-management relations, a common sense approach to the spiral effect of the ever-increasing rise in wages and prices, the need for labor to recognize the need for reasonable profit, how to promote small business enterprise through tax relief where the business is expanded or upgraded for more production and jobs, programs to motivate all workers to achieve higher skills and achieve more qualitative as well as quantitative production, measures to be taken against those who obstruct such progress — in short, to return to the work ethic that made America great.

These additional programs will be instituted on issues generally agreed upon by the majority. Let it be remembered that the self-described independents constitute a majority of Americans — somewhere between 65 and 80 percent of the voting populace, according to most polls.

As the instigator and current director of this Coalition Movement, I welcome all Americans who are disillusioned, disgusted, or at odds with the dominance of the various special interest groups — from the financial money-manipulating monetarists to the rip-off welfare groups whose greedy and shortsighted interests are

killing the goose to get the golden egg. While we are concerned for our own immediate means of livelihood and influence as a group in the body politic, we must not overlook the ultimate program which is designed for the common good. America itself is on the skids to rapid decline. Let independents close rank and return America to the traditional American system of moral goodness, technological development and progress, and full production — and force the diabolical, greedy backers of special interests and decay to die on the vine.

We must put up a fight for ourselves and our children.

**From Colonel Thomas A. McCrary
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