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Eugene S. Cowen

Bdr -

F. Y. I.

Eugene





STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

CONCORD, N.H. 03301

MELDRIM THOMSON, JR.  
GOVERNOR

Dear Friend,

I am writing you today at the suggestion of my good friend, Howard Phillips.

~~Howard came up to my farm in Orford, New Hampshire~~ this past Thanksgiving Day, joining my wife, our children and grandchildren in celebrating the holiday. It wasn't easy to break away from the excitement, but we did manage to spend some time seriously discussing the economic and political crisis which now confronts our nation.

I was anxious to be brought up to date by Howard on an important new organization which he recently launched, with the encouragement of other conservative leaders. After reviewing his proposals to counteract the power of left-wing Washington politicians, who have caused inflation, produced higher taxes, and let criminals out of jail before their victims have left the hospitals, I asked Howard, "What can I do to help?"

As a result of our talk, I made Howard this personal pledge:

1. That I would serve as National Chairman of the Conservative Caucus.
- ~~2. That I would give up evenings and weekends with~~ my family to travel and speak on behalf of the conservative cause, from one end of this country to the other;
3. That I would make a personal financial contribution to The Conservative Caucus; and
4. That I would write to you and other concerned citizens, to convince you of the need for you to join The Conservative Caucus.

I hope you will forgive me if I seem too forward, but I would like to suggest some things for you to consider

(over, please)

doing. It would be most encouraging if you would do them all; please try to do at least two.

First. Join The Conservative Caucus.

Second. Recommend three people for membership.

Third. Answer the enclosed questionnaire.

Fourth. Send as generous a contribution today as you feel you can afford.

I think it is important to have your support for an important new movement to help average, law-abiding, taxpaying Americans regain control of their schools, their communities, and their government. For 42 years, we have been giving up power to "we know what's best for you" bureaucrats and social planners in Washington.

I'm sure you get lots of mail, as I do, asking for your help. But believe me, this letter is truly important. So let me take just a few more minutes to discuss the plans of The Conservative Caucus, and describe its value to you.

The cornerstone of The Conservative Caucus strategy is the recognition that conservatives have been focusing their principal energies and resources in the very place where we are weakest--bureaucratic Washington.

In Washington, the voice of the people is increasingly drowned out by powerful special interest lobbies--many of them subsidized by government grants from agencies like OEO and HEW.

If we limit ourselves to fighting fixed battles on liberalism's strongest terrain, we will keep losing. We must go on the offensive, engaging the liberal foe at times and places of our choosing.

We can best give strength to the conservative voices in Washington, by organizing our strength in the places where conservative influence is greatest--at the grass roots level, in the communities where we live and work, all over America.

The Conservative Caucus has a very simple goal: to develop enclaves of conservative strength at the grass roots level--in the districts and precincts where elections are held, where politicians can ignore the people, only at peril to their survival in office.

This is The Conservative Caucus pledge to you:

WE WILL designate State Coordinators in each of the fifty states.

WE WILL work with State Coordinators in forming steering committees and naming directors at the congressional district level.

WE WILL activate a Conservative Caucus in each of the nation's 435 congressional districts, as soon as one hundred persons living in the district have paid their dues.

WE WILL convene a national platform convention in 1976, calling together representatives from congressional district caucuses all over America. If it appears that neither major political party intends to offer a Presidential ticket committed to challenging left-wing control of the Executive Branch, the delegates may decide to propose, and endorse their own candidates for President and Vice President.

After you join The Conservative Caucus, you will receive regular membership reports, keeping you informed of our organizational progress and furnishing factual background on important national issues.

Once a caucus is organized in your area, there will be opportunities to learn more about election laws and political party rules, campaign techniques, and national issues. Prominent conservatives will be sought to address Caucus meetings.

In many cases, the existence of a Caucus may make it easier to elect conservatives to public and party office, and to keep them conservative after they're chosen.

I've told you about my personal commitment to the success of The Conservative Caucus and described the Caucus pledges to you. I've also suggested a few things I hope you will do to help.

Now, would you take a few minutes, if you have the time, to let me know which of the four types of help I've requested you might be able to provide.

Time is running out for our country. If the good people, like you, who understand the problem, won't do something to solve it, those who wish to completely socialize America will win by default.

Will you join with me in launching this great crusade

to gain control of our government from radical politico-bureaucrats, and restore it to its rightful possessors - the private citizens of the United States?

None of our plans, our hopes, our dreams can be fulfilled, unless our friends join with me in helping to finance this important project.

My first contribution was for \$50. As time goes on I intend to send additional contributions. Some people can afford much more than \$50. If you can, I urge you, please, to send it.

However, I am aware that many of the people whose help we need can only send \$5 or \$10 or \$20.

Please think about it carefully and make a special effort to send \$5 or \$10 more than you normally might.

I'm not asking you to do anything that I'm not going to do. You need only take a few minutes to sign up as a member of the Caucus, recommend three others for membership, answer our questionnaire, and send a contribution. I don't ask you to travel about the country, giving up family time, as I will, to spread the conservative message.

But, please do send an extra generous contribution today. It will help so very much.

We have asked the First National Bank of Washington to process all the contributions sent to finance The Conservative Caucus. When you mail your check in the enclosed envelope, it will be directly deposited to the Caucus bank account. The bank will contact Howard Phillips at our National Headquarters in Virginia as soon as they receive your check.

I hope you will have time to reply soon, as I'm eagerly looking forward to your answer.

Sincerely,

*Meldrim Thomson, Jr.*  
Meldrim Thomson, Jr.  
Governor

P.S. In order to save on mailing costs, we have enclosed your membership card for The Conservative Caucus. I am very anxious to have you as a member, and you will be listed as a member as soon as your contribution is received and recorded. If for any reason you can't accept my invitation, please return the card to me. Thank you very much.



1975

The Conservative Caucus  
**MEMBERSHIP CARD**

of

**Eugene S. Cowen**

*Meldrim Thomson, Jr.*  
NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

*Howard Phillips*  
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

Please keep  
your CARD and  
return this MEMO.

**FROM: Mr. Eugene S. Cowen**  
**9024 Willow Valley Drive**  
**Rockville, Maryland 20854**

2T

**TO : Governor Meldrim Thomson, Jr.**  
**c/o The Conservative Caucus, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 103**  
**Washington, D. C. 20044**

\_\_\_\_ YES, I want to be  
a member of The  
Conservative Caucus  
and I'm enclosing a  
contribution in the  
amount I've checked  
below.

\_\_\_\_ NO, I do not want to  
be a member of The  
Conservative Caucus  
but I'm enclosing a  
contribution in the  
amount I've checked  
below.

\_\_\_\_ \$ 10

\_\_\_\_ \$ 50

\_\_\_\_ \$ 500

\_\_\_\_ \$ 15

\_\_\_\_ \$ 75

\_\_\_\_ \$ 1,000

\_\_\_\_ \$ 20

\_\_\_\_ \$ 100

\_\_\_\_ \$ 25

\_\_\_\_ \$ 250

\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(any other amount)

(Please make your check payable to : **THE CONSERVATIVE CAUCUS, Inc.**)

I recommend you write to the following people and ask them to join The  
Conservative Caucus. When you write to them you may mention my name.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name Address City State Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name Address City State Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name Address City State Zip

If more space is needed please use another sheet of paper.

**The Conservative Caucus Inc.**

Conservatives must organize their majority in the electoral districts where they live, creating enclaves of strength from which to influence public policy.

**NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**

7777 LEESBURG PIKE • FALLS CHURCH, VIRGINIA 22043

*Please keep  
your CARD and  
return this POLL.*

## The Conservative Caucus OPINION POLL

1. In past elections, how have you usually voted?

\_\_\_\_\_ MOSTLY REPUBLICAN

\_\_\_\_\_ MOSTLY DEMOCRATIC

\_\_\_\_\_ OTHER (PLEASE DESCRIBE) \_\_\_\_\_

2. Which of the two major parties do you now consider most conservative?

\_\_\_\_\_ DEMOCRATIC

\_\_\_\_\_ REPUBLICAN

\_\_\_\_\_ NO IMPORTANT DIFFERENCE

3. Which, if any, of the following candidates do you prefer for President in the 1976 Election?

\_\_\_\_\_ JAMES BUCKLEY

\_\_\_\_\_ RONALD REAGAN

\_\_\_\_\_ JIMMY CARTER

\_\_\_\_\_ ELLIOT RICHARDSON

\_\_\_\_\_ JESSE HELMS

\_\_\_\_\_ NELSON ROCKEFELLER

\_\_\_\_\_ HUBERT HUMPHREY

\_\_\_\_\_ MORRIS UDALL

\_\_\_\_\_ HENRY JACKSON

\_\_\_\_\_ GEORGE WALLACE

OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

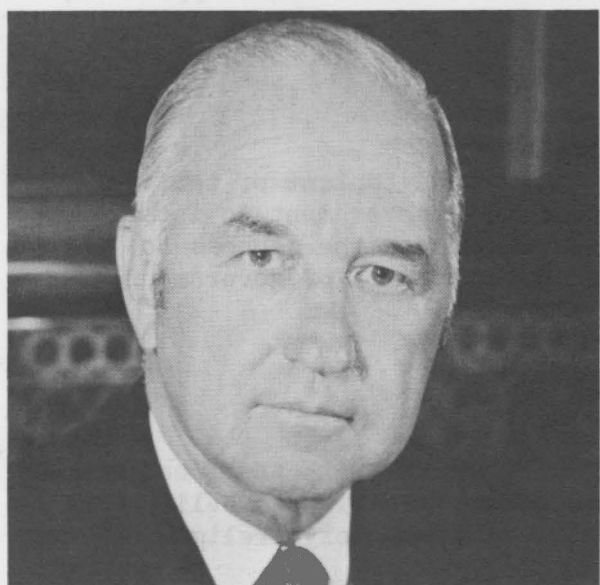
(If you have a preference other than one of the above)



# In 1976... Conservative Caucus

## Members may decide to reject the choices offered by the old political parties.

### NATIONAL CHAIRMAN



GOVERNOR MELDRIM THOMSON, JR.

Meldrim Thomson, Jr. the Governor of New Hampshire is a citizen-statesman in the great traditions of the American Republic.

A successful businessman, publisher, and attorney, Mel Thomson, running on a platform of "no new taxes", was elected Governor of New Hampshire in 1972. With strong support from the working, tax-paying citizens of his state, Governor Thomson was re-elected in 1974, surviving an anti-incumbent tide to become the only Republican chief executive on the East Coast, North of the Mason-Dixon line.

As Governor, Mel Thomson has reasserted the doctrine of state sovereignty against usurpations of power on the regional and federal level. Because of his wise and frugal leadership, Granite State citizens pay no general sales tax and no state income tax. He has worked to develop new energy resources for New England, curbed welfare abuses, supported a return to capital punishment, encouraged vocational education, initiated new educational policies to increase parental control over education -- without forced busing and without textbooks advancing values contrary to those taught at home.

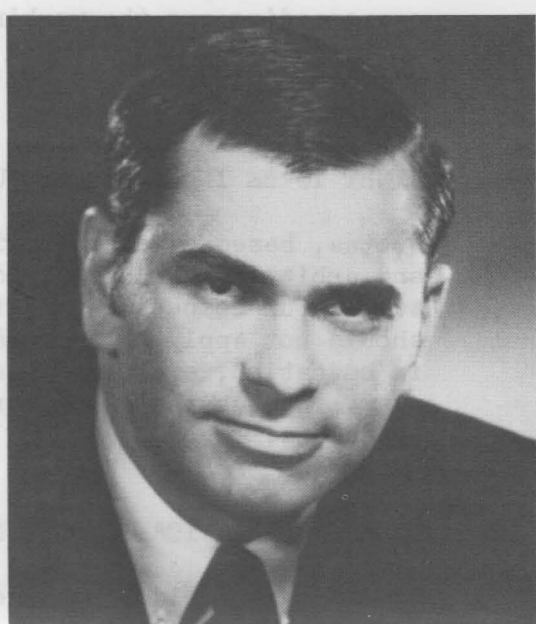
As the first citizen of a state whose motto is "Live Free or Die", Governor Thomson knows that "Freedom is a fragile thing. It is difficult to obtain, easy to lose ... More nations have fallen because of their inner moral and economic decay, than before the cadence of the marching feet of an adversary." As National Chairman of The Conservative Caucus, Meldrim Thomson will travel all over America carrying the Message of liberty.

### NATIONAL DIRECTOR

For more than 14 years, Howard Phillips has fought uncontrolled power in the hands of bureaucrats, special interest groups, and the liberal media.

In 1973, as acting Director of the U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity, he led a courageous fight to stop Federal funding for forced busing, "welfare rights", abortion on demand, quotas for jobs and schooling, and all the other liberal causes which the American taxpayer is required to subsidize.

Phillips continued that fight as a private citizen in 1973 and 1974 -- writing, speaking, lobbying, and organizing in behalf of conservative principles.



HOWARD PHILLIPS

Now, as National Director of The Conservative Caucus, he is helping conservatives organize at the grass-roots level, in the election districts where they live and work.

Howard Phillips is well-prepared for the task at hand: a 1962 graduate of Harvard College, where he was twice elected Student Council President, he helped found Young Americans for Freedom in 1960 and served on its first national board, Phillips was elected Chairman of the Boston Republican Party in 1964, at age 23, and served subsequently as an aide to GOP National Chairman Ray C. Bliss.

"The average citizen and his family will keep losing to the special interests, unless he has a way of making himself heard that politicians and bureaucrats can't afford to ignore," Phillips says. The Conservative Caucus will help give voice to the silent majority.

# Statement of Principles for The Conservative Caucus

## I. RIGHT TO ENJOY THE INCOME FROM ONE'S OWN LABOR

There should be a ceiling on the proportion of income which government may take away, in taxes, from any citizen. Graduated taxation, combined with inflation, places an especially unfair burden on working Americans, whose tax rates increase automatically, as inflation pushes them into higher tax brackets.

## II. RIGHT TO PERSONAL SECURITY

Citizens have a right to the security of their persons, their homes, and their property. It is the first task of government to protect the law-abiding from those who break the law. Concern for the rights of crime's victims must be emphasized over the privileges of those who commit crimes. The goal of law enforcement should be to apprehend, punish, and isolate those who criminally violate the rights of others.

## III. RIGHT TO EDUCATIONAL FREEDOM

The right of parents to define the conditions and content of their children's education must outweigh the power of government to interfere in the selection of textbooks or teachers, or to use the schools to advance the political, cultural and social objectives of government officials. There must be no forced busing.

## IV. RIGHT TO RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

The government should not be permitted to interfere with the freedom of individuals to pray to God, in accordance with their own beliefs; nor should there be any officially established orthodoxy, religious or secular.

## V. RIGHT TO LIFE

No government resources should be used to encourage, sanction, or assist the taking of innocent human life.

## VI. RIGHT TO NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY

The defense policy of the United States should be based on a goal of strategic and tactical supremacy on land, in the sea, in the air, and in space. Our foreign policy should have as its sole and overriding purpose safeguarding the national interest.

## VII. RIGHT TO ECONOMIC JUSTICE

The government should be required to hold the level of its expenditures to the level of its income and not print or coin new money to meet governmental obligations, thus inflating the currency and deflating the value of money already in circulation. The principal victims of government overspending are the working men and women of America whose income is reduced in value and whose jobs are threatened by the inflation and unemployment which results from a public sector grown too large.

## VIII. RIGHT TO BE INDIVIDUALLY JUDGED

Quotas, based on characteristics inherited at birth, are both discriminatory and arbitrary, wrongfully disregarding individual merit, achievement and successful competition in favor of collective classifications. The government should not apply or encourage the use of quotas as a basis of selection in education, employment, or conferring of benefits. Individual rights must, in such instances, transcend bureaucratic determination of group interests.

## IX. RIGHT TO POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC LIBERTY

No citizen should be obliged, either by taxation, by regulation, or as a condition of employment, to support candidates, organizations or causes with which he disagrees. Government resources ought not underwrite policy advocacy or political activity.

## X. RIGHT TO SELF-GOVERNMENT

Grants of power from the people to their government should be so limited and carefully prescribed as to assure that such power will be exercised in behalf of those from whom it is derived, rather than to serve those in whom it is concentrated. The vast power of the Federal bureaucracy should be dismantled, with control over public policy and government spending returned to elected officials at the local level. Local self-government, in small communities where property ownership is widespread, encourages the existence of an independent, self-determining citizenry whose diverse control over their own affairs is itself a check on the arbitrary power of distant bureaucrats.

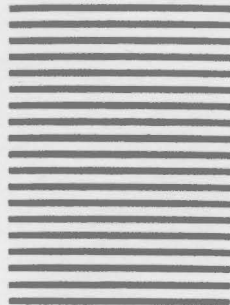
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Falls Church, Va.

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**POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY**

**The Conservative Caucus  
c/o First National Bank of Washington  
P.O. Box 103  
Washington, D. C. 20044**





STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

CONCORD, N.H. 03301

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Caucus*

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The Conservative Caucus Inc.

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NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS  
7777 LEESBURG PIKE • FALLS CHURCH, VIRGINIA 22043

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*Gov. Melvin Thompson, Chairman*  
The Conservative Caucus  
**OPINION POLL**

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\_\_\_\_\_ MOSTLY REPUBLICAN

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\_\_\_\_\_ MORRIS UDALL

\_\_\_\_\_ HENRY JACKSON

\_\_\_\_\_ GEORGE WALLACE

OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

(If you have a preference other than one of the above)

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Feb. 3

Mr. Hartmann:

Gwen would like for you to take the Memo she brought up on Friday night re. American Conservative Caucus with you to Atlanta with the hope you will get to read it.

Neta





THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 31, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT T. HARTMANN

FROM: GWEN ANDERSON *ga*

SUBJECT: FYI -- THE CONSERVATIVE CAUCUS *ga*

This is the package being used as a mail out to approximately 300,000 persons, using a mailing list furnished by Viguerie.

The 1st 65,000 letters yielded \$35,000. Mailings will be done on a continuing basis. Governor Meldrim Thompson of New Hampshire is National Chairman and Howie Phillips is National Director.

Their plan, as Phillips related it to me in Chicago at the State Chairman's meeting, is to get an organization in every Congressional District in the United States. They will put Congressional District organizations together as soon as they get 100 responses from a District. They will appoint a state director in all 50 states.

In addition they intend to purchase weekly newspapers in as many counties as possible "to get their story out" to the public.

They plan to have a platform convention in the spring of 1976.



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

CONCORD, N.H. 03301

MELDRIM THOMSON, JR.  
GOVERNOR

Dear Friend,

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\_\_\_\_\_ DEMOCRATIC

\_\_\_\_\_ REPUBLICAN

\_\_\_\_\_ NO IMPORTANT DIFFERENCE

3. Whom do you prefer for President in the 1976 Election if President Ford doesn't run?

\_\_\_\_\_ JAMES F. BUCKLEY

\_\_\_\_\_ RONALD REAGAN

\_\_\_\_\_ JIMMY CARTER

\_\_\_\_\_ ELLIOT RICHARDSON

\_\_\_\_\_ JESSE HELMS

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\_\_\_\_\_ HENRY JACKSON

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OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

Conservative Caucus  
**MEMBERSHIP CARD**

of

*Harold Phillips*  
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

Please keep  
your CARD and  
return this MEMO.

TO : Governor Meldrim Thomson, Jr.  
c/o The Conservative Caucus, Inc.  
P.O. Box 103  
Washington, D. C. 20044

\_\_\_\_ YES, I want to be  
a member of The  
Conservative Caucus  
and I'm enclosing a  
contribution in the  
amount I've checked  
below.

\_\_\_\_ NO, I do not want to  
be a member of The  
Conservative Caucus  
but I'm enclosing a  
contribution in the  
amount I've checked  
below.

\_\_\_\_ \$ 10

\_\_\_\_ \$ 50

\_\_\_\_ \$ 500

\_\_\_\_ \$ 15

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Name	Address	City	State	Zip
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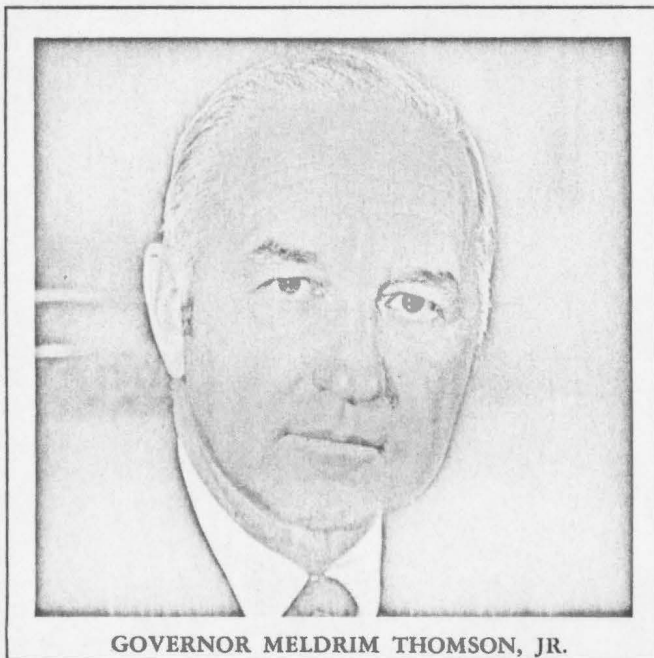
Name	Address	City	State	Zip
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(Please make your check payable to : THE CONSERVATIVE CAUCUS, Inc.)

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GOVERNOR MELDRIM THOMSON, JR.

## NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

Meldrim Thomson, Jr. the Governor of New Hampshire is a citizen-statesman in the great traditions of the American Republic.

A successful businessman, publisher, and attorney, Mel Thomson, running on a platform of "no new taxes", was elected Governor of New Hampshire in 1972. With strong support from the working, tax-paying citizens of his state, Governor Thomson was re-elected in 1974, surviving an anti-incumbent tide to become the only Republican chief executive on the East Coast, North of the Mason-Dixon line.

As Governor, Mel Thomson has reasserted the doctrine of state sovereignty against usurpations of power on the regional and federal level. Because of his wide and frugal leadership, Granite State citizens pay no general sales tax and no state income tax. He has worked to develop new energy resources for New England, curbed welfare abuses, supported a return to capital punishment, encourages vocational education, initiated new educational policies to increase parental control over education -- without forced busing and without textbooks advancing values contrary to those taught at home.

As the first citizen of a state whose motto is "Live Free or Die", Governor Thomson knows that "Freedom is a fragile thing. It is difficult to obtain, easy to lose ... More nations have fallen because of their inner moral and economic decay, than before the cadence of the marching feet of an adversary." As National Chairman of The Conservative Caucus, Meldrim Thomson will travel all over America carrying the Message of liberty.



# NATIONAL DIRECTOR

For more than 14 years, Howard Phillips has fought uncontrolled power in the hands of bureaucrats, special interest groups, and the liberal media.

In 1973, as acting Director of the U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity, he led a courageous fight to stop Federal funding for forced busing, "welfare rights", abortion on demand, quotas for jobs and schooling, and all the other liberal causes which the American taxpayer is required to subsidize.

Aided by the American Conservative Union, Phillips continued that fight as a private citizen in 1973 and 1974 -- writing, speaking, lobbying, and organizing in behalf of conservative principals.

Now, as National Director of The Conservative Caucus, he is helping conservatives organize at the grass-roots level, in the election districts where they live and work.

Howard Phillips is well-prepared for the task at hand: a 1962 graduate of Harvard College, where he was twice elected Student Council President, he helped found Young Americans for Freedom in 1960 and served on its first national board, Phillips was elected Chairman of the Boston Republican Party in 1964, at age 23, and served subsequently as an aide to GOP National Chairman Ray C. Bliss.

"The average citizen and his family will keep losing to the special interests, unless he has a way of making himself heard that politicians and bureaucrats can't afford to ignore," Phillips says. The Conservative Caucus will help give voice to the silent majority.



HOWARD PHILLIPS

# Statement of Principles for The Conservative Caucus

## I. RIGHT TO ENJOY THE INCOME FROM ONE'S OWN LABOR

There should be a ceiling on the proportion of income which government may take away, in taxes, from any citizen. Graduated taxation, combined with inflation, places an especially unfair burden on working Americans, whose tax rates increase automatically, as inflation pushes them into higher tax brackets.

## II. RIGHT TO PERSONAL SECURITY

Citizens have a right to the security of their persons, their homes, and their property. It is the first task of government to protect the law-abiding from those who break the law. Concern for the rights of crime's victims must be emphasized over the privileges of those who commit crimes. The goal of law enforcement should be to apprehend, punish, and isolate those who criminally violate the rights of others.

## III. RIGHT TO EDUCATIONAL FREEDOM

The right of parents to define the conditions and content of their children's education must outweigh the power of government to interfere in the selection of textbooks or teachers, or to use the schools to advance the political, cultural and social objectives of government officials. There must be no forced busing.

## IV. RIGHT TO RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

The government should not be permitted to interfere with the freedom of individuals to pray to God, in accordance with their own beliefs; nor should there be any officially established orthodoxy, religious or secular.

## V. RIGHT TO LIFE

No government resources should be used to encourage, sanction, or assist the taking of innocent human life.

## VI. RIGHT TO NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY

The defense policy of the United States should be based on a goal of strategic and tactical supremacy on land, in the sea, in the air, and in space. Our foreign policy should have as its sole and overriding purpose safeguarding the national interest.



## VII. RIGHT TO ECONOMIC JUSTICE

The government should be required to hold the level of its expenditures to the level of its income and not print or coin new money to meet governmental obligations, thus inflating the currency and deflating the value of money already in circulation. The principal victims of government overspending are the working men and women of America whose income is reduced in value and whose jobs are threatened by the inflation and unemployment which results from a public sector grown too large.

## VIII. RIGHT TO BE INDIVIDUALLY JUDGED

Quotas, based on characteristics inherited at birth, are both discriminatory and arbitrary, wrongfully disregarding individual merit, achievement and successful competition in favor of collective classifications. The government should not apply or encourage the use of quotas as a basis of selection in education, employment, or conferring of benefits. Individual rights must, in such instances, transcend bureaucratic determination of group interests.

## IX. RIGHT TO POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC LIBERTY

No citizen should be obliged, either by taxation, by regulation, or as a condition of employment, to support candidates, organizations or causes with which he disagrees. Government resources ought not underwrite policy advocacy or political activity.

## X. RIGHT TO SELF-GOVERNMENT

Grants of power from the people to their government should be so limited and carefully prescribed as to assure that such power will be exercised in behalf of those from whom it is derived, rather than to serve those in whom it is concentrated. The vast power of the Federal bureaucracy should be dismantled, with control over public policy and government spending returned to elected officials at the local level. Local self-government, in small communities where property ownership is widespread, encourages the existence of an independent, self-determining citizenry whose diverse control over their own affairs is itself a check on the arbitrary power of distant bureaucrats.

LA Times

BY ROBERT SIOGAN  
Times Political Writer

1/19/75 m

WASHINGTON—A new political organization has begun a nationwide mail campaign to muster grassroots support for conservatives in both parties and, possibly, for an independent presidential candidacy.

The Conservative Caucus is headed by New Hampshire Republican Gov. Meldrim Thomson Jr. as national chairman and former Nixon administration official Howard J. Phillips, national director.

Through massive mailings, Phillips hopes by year's end to enlist 100,000 members across the country and raise funds to finance lobbying and training of "political activists."

Creation of the caucus is the latest reflection of conservative estrangement from the leadership of the Republican Party.

In the wake of Watergate disclosures, a number of disillusioned conservative leaders urged former President Richard M. Nixon to resign. And since President Ford succeeded Mr. Nixon, many conservatives have

criticized his actions, particularly his choice of Nelson A. Rockefeller as Vice President and his handling of the economy.

Some conservatives have urged former California Gov. Ronald Reagan to challenge Mr. Ford for the Presidency in 1976. Reagan has so far declined to commit himself, and Phillips said Thursday in a telephone interview: "There is nothing more irrelevant for conservatives to do than sit around waiting for Ronald

*Continued from First Page*

Reagan to make up his mind."

The Conservative Caucus is designed to give conservatives a chance to build up their resources for the day when Reagan, or some other politician with like views, might emerge as a candidate for the White House.

What will distinguish the Conservative Caucus from existing conservative organizations, according to Phillips, is the stress on organizing at the local level, where he believes conservatives are strongest.

The liberals are organized in enclaves in the government, in the media, in the foundations and in the academic world," Phillips said. "I believe there is a conservative majority in the country, but it is based in places where people live."

Rather than rallying behind any individual politician, the caucus groups would be oriented, at least at first, toward issues.

Phillips believes that the new group could draw strength from antibusing, antiabortion and

conservatives themselves about such issues.

He hopes to have caucus coordinators in all 50 states by summer, and eventually to have organizations in each of the country's 435 congressional districts.

It is planned that the local caucuses will lobby congressional candidates on behalf of conservative positions and also conduct seminars in campaign organization, financing and other political tactics.

"The caucus would not officially endorse candidates. But we hope to pull together and train conservatives who could serve as an organizational nucleus for candidates," Phillips said.

"Our members would support conservative candidates for Congress and could support an independent candidacy for the Presidency in 1976. The organization could also serve as a transition movement for a new political party."

The caucus intends to rely for financial support on its mail campaign, which is being handled by Richard A. Viguerie Co., a direct-mail firm in Virginia. Viguerie has done work for a number of conservative organiza-

tions and politicians, including Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace.

So far the caucus has sent out about 275,000 letters. 200,000 of them last week, using mail lists furnished by Viguerie. The first 65,000 letters yielded \$35,000, which was mainly used to finance further mailings. Most future revenues will be used the same way, Phillips said. By late spring the caucus hopes to send out 1 million letters a month, said Phillips, who served as acting director of the Office of Economic Opportunity under Mr. Nixon and was a target of liberal criticism for "dismantling" the OEO.

In the latest letter seeking members and contributions, Gov. Thomson said: "...Conservatives have been focusing their principal energies and resources in the very place where we are weakest—bureaucratic Washington. . . If we limit ourselves to fighting fixed battles on liberalism's strongest terrain, we will keep losing.

"We must go on the offensive, engaging the liberal foe at times and places of our choosing," he said.

File

(THIRD PARTY)

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- A GROUP OF CONSERVATIVE REPUBLICAN LEADERS AGREED FRIDAY TO BEGIN RESEARCHING STATE ELECTION LAWS IN PREPARATION FOR A POSSIBLE THIRD PARTY.

THE COMMITTEE ON CONSERVATIVE ALTERNATIVES, A GROUP OF HOUSE AND SENATE MEMBERS AND OTHER POLITICAL ACTIVISTS, VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ESTABLISH A THREE-MEMBER SUBCOMMITTEE TO STUDY BALLOT LAWS IN EACH OF THE 50 STATES.

THE COMMITTEE, HEADED BY SEN. JESSE HELMS, R-N.C., WAS CREATED LAST MONTH AT THE CONSERVATIVE POLITICAL ACTION CONFERENCE HELD HERE TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING ANOTHER PARTY.

THE SUBCOMMITTEE IS TO BE HEADED BY WILLIAM RUSHER, PUBLISHER OF THE CONSERVATIVE MAGAZINE NATIONAL REVIEW.

"WHAT WE ARE STUDYING," HELMS SAID AFTER A CLOSED MEETING IN THE CAPITOL, "IS SOME MECHANISM THAT WILL BRING TOGETHER A MAJORITY OF AMERICANS ... IN A COALITION THAT WILL INFLUENCE OUR PRESENT NATIONAL LEADERS AND BRING NEW LEADERS TO THE FORE.

"WE DO NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH A COALITION ORGANIZING ITSELF WITHIN THE PARTY SYSTEM AS A MAJOR NEW PARTY IF THE PRESENT POLITICAL SYSTEM FAILS TO RESPOND TO THE NEED FOR PHILOSOPHICAL REALIGNMENT."

AMONG THOSE WHO ATTENDED THE MEETING WERE REPS. PHILIP CRANE, R-ILL.; STEVEN SYMMS, R-IDAHO; M. STANTON EVANS, EDITOR OF THE INDIANAPOLIS NEWS; ELI HOWELL, A POLITICAL CONSULTANT TO GOV. GEORGE WALLACE OF ALABAMA; AND ROBERT WALKER, A POLITICAL AIDE TO RONALD REAGAN DURING HIS TEURE AS CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR.

RTA  
Mr. Hartmann:

For Your Information

Dick Obenshain



# Republican National Committee.

May 2, 1975

Richard D. Obenshain  
Co-Chairman

Mr. James Preskitt  
Associate Publisher  
Conservative Digest,  
7777 Leesburg Pike  
Falls Church, Virginia 22043

Dear Jim:

In February I responded to the request of my friend, Buz Lukens, to supply a testimonial for the Conservative Digest.

On Buz' statement that the Digest would be a regular condensation of "timely articles from a conservative, free enterprise, anti-Communist viewpoint," I was pleased to respond.

I now understand that you have sent my endorsement, along with my picture, with a letter which states, in part "The Conservative Digest will be one of the few places you will read about President Ford's secret efforts to appoint mostly liberals to high offices."

With all respect, I feel that your use of my picture and endorsement together with this letter is a breach of the spirit of my endorsement of the Conservative Digest. My testimonial supported the Digest as a vehicle for providing Conservatives "with the essential ideas we need to present" the philosophy of individual freedom, limited government and the free market system.

I did not - and do not - consent to the use of my name or picture in connection with any attack upon President Ford. Neither Buz Lukens' request to me nor my response indicated that support for a Digest condensing Conservative articles, would authorize my association with attacks upon the President.

Therefore, I must object to this manner and ask you to cease using that testimonial in any future promotion of the Conservative Digest.

Sincerely,

Richard D. Obenshain

cc: Donald E. Lukens

Lee Edwards

bcc: Hon. Robert T. Hartmann ✓

Hon. John O. Marsh

February 5, 1975

Mr. Donald E. Lukens  
Conservative Digest  
7777 Leesburg Pike  
Falls Church, Virginia 22043

Dear Buz:

Thanks for your good letter of January 15. The Conservative Digest sounds like an outstanding idea, and under the active leadership of Lee Edwards and Richard Viguerie, it is bound to be an excellent venture.

I would be pleased to have you use the following testimonial:

"We are in a continuing battle of ideas. Those of us who believe in individual freedom, in limited government and the free market system must understand the great ideas which undergird our beliefs. Few of us have the time to follow all of the current writing of Conservative thinkers. The Conservative Digest will provide us with the essential ideas we need to present our philosophy."

With very warm regards.

Sincerely,

Richard D. Obenshain

# Conservative Digest

7777 Leesburg Pike  
Falls Church, Virginia 22043

January 15, 1975

Mr. Richard D. Obenshain  
310 First Street, SE  
Washington, DC 20003

Dear Dick:

I am writing to ask you to help me promote a new and urgently needed publication, the Conservative Digest.

In my opinion this new digest will perform a unique service. And it will do a great deal to counter the distorted viewpoint we are all exposed to by a news media dominated by liberals.

A testimonial from a respected conservative leader like you would certainly help attract conservative readers.

The first issue of the Conservative Digest will be published on March 20, 1975 and it will be mailed out to subscribers about the 20th of each month thereafter.

The staff of the Conservative Digest will read over 300 magazines and newspapers each month and condense, in easily readable form for Americans everywhere, the best and most timely articles from a conservative, free enterprise, anti-Communist viewpoint. This service is not available elsewhere.

The Managing Editor will be Lee Edwards. Lee, as you probably know, has a long and distinguished record in political and conservative affairs. Two years ago Lee was featured in the New York Times as the "Voice of the Silent Majority." The Editor and Publisher will be Richard A. Viguerie.

I thought you might like to see the enclosed letter I am sending to potential subscribers to the Conservative Digest all over the country.

I would greatly appreciate it if you would take a minute and write me a few lines encouraging Americans to subscribe to the Conservative Digest. I am also asking about one hundred other conservative leaders to do the same. The purpose of the testimonials will be to include them in various promotions (such as mailings) we will be making seeking subscriptions for the Conservative Digest.

Regards,

  
Donald E. "Buz" Lukens

Enclosure