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Third Parties
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THE ROSCOE DRUMMOND COLUMN

RELEASE DATE: Sunday, March 23, 1975

WASHINGTON FOCUS: A LOOK AT POLITICS--LEFT AND RIGHT

by Roscoe Drummond

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TODAY'S THIRD-PARTY MOVEMENTS LACK EVERYTHING.

Dissident liberal Democrats and dissident Conservative Republicans are in the same plight: Neither group has a program it can agree on nor a presidential candidate that can attract.

The Democratic left lost Sen. Walter Mondale (D-Minn.) and can generate little support for Rep. Morris Udall (D-Ariz.) or Sen. Fred Harris (D-Okla.).

The Republican right is shunned by former California Gov. Ronald Reagan who is not ready to leave the GOP.

Both have lots of Indians but no chiefs.

FORD'S SECRET WEAPON. Pollster Louis Harris reports that 83% of the American public disapproves of the President's economic program. Shouldn't such high dissatisfaction with the Ford program cause the voters to flock to the Democratic presidential candidates? But it doesn't. In every one-on-one survey with a Democrat pitted against Ford, the President runs ahead.

(MORE)



Page Two...ROSCOE DRUMMOND...March 23...runs ahead.

Perhaps the voters in 1976 are heading to do exactly what they have done so often since 1952--put the Democrats in charge of Congress and the Republicans in charge of the White House.

WHY SEN. HENRY JACKSON IS OPTIMISTIC. He sees Alabama Gov. George Wallace as his most formidable opponent for the Democratic presidential nomination. He is well aware that Gov. Wallace has more support among Democrats than any other contender.

But Jackson points out that Wallace has the highest percentage of opposition among Democrats who view him as the most unacceptable. Jackson encounters very little negative opposition. One poll shows Wallace with 25% support and 29% rejection. Jackson had 14% support with only 5.9% rejection.

WILL IT BE EITHER WALLACE OR JACKSON? Many political pros think so and the left wing of the Democratic Party is worried sick at the prospect. They yearn for a Kennedy, but they see no Camelot. They do not expect a front-runner to emerge from the primaries and they see a "brokered convention" choosing between Wallace and Jackson.

THE RECORD OF THIRD PARTIES IN THE UNITED STATES.

It's a negative.

(Paragraph continues)



Page Three...ROSCOE DRUMMOND...March 23...negative.

They have influenced policy--as the Prohibition Party did for years--but have never elected a President.

The Bull Moose Party of 1912 kept William Howard Taft from winning but couldn't elect Theodore Roosevelt.

In 1924 Robert La Follette got nearly 5 million votes but couldn't even carry his home state of Wisconsin.

Henry Wallace and Strom Thurmond both tried the third-party route in 1948 and couldn't defeat Harry Truman.

George Wallace took votes away from both Hubert Humphrey and Richard Nixon in 1968 and made the outcome close-- Nixon won by only half a million votes.

✓ Third parties have a place in American politics but apparently not in the White House.

(c) 1975, Los Angeles Times

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Washington Post
Goldwater
3/2/75
Sees Danger
In 3d Party

Associated Press

Sen. Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.) said last night that formation of a conservative third party "would practically insure the destruction" of the GOP.

Goldwater exhorted conservatives to refrain from a "rule or ruin attitude" and instead "begin to work within both parties for the principles in which we believe."

He said GOP conservatives should push for a return to "traditional Republicanism" and also should seek to enlist the backing of conservative Democrats.

Goldwater's remarks were prepared for the closing banquet of the Young Republican Leadership Conference here.

The 650-member group yesterday adopted a resolution

President Ford to

which it said have led the nation to the "brink of economic disaster and raised the possibility of a third party."

The resolution said: "The liberal thrust of the Ford administration, particularly the proposed huge federal deficit, has alienated many conservative Republicans and has raised the possibility of a conservative third party."

But the GOP youth organization declared, "The Republican Party is the best vehicle to express the traditional conservative principles on which the party was formed and grew great."

Two weeks ago, conservatives set up a committee that could become the first step in a third party move, and Goldwater and other conservatives had been meeting this weekend in eastern Maryland to discuss ways to broaden their role in the GOP.

Goldwater said conservatives must remember, whether they approve or disapprove of President Ford, that "he is the President of the United States and he is a Republican, and I think any talk of a third party movement at this time is wrong."

Goldwater said it is highly doubtful that a conservative party would gain votes from supporters of Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace.

"A third party would only split the Republican ranks further, and we are in such a minority now that it would practically insure the destruction of the Republican party," he said.

"If conservative Republicans adopt the rule or ruin attitude, then they are taking exactly the attitude that the extreme liberal branch of the Republican Party took in 1964, which while they didn't cause my defeat, certainly added to it," he said.

