

Conservatives Vote Yes On Whig Coalition

MEMPHIS, TENN., Aug. 7 — A national conference of Independent Conservatives here this weekend voted unanimously to form "A new united umbrella party for conservatives of all parties," and in order to accomplish this "to support and participate in a National Coalition of Independents on Issues headed by Col. Thomas McCrary," chairman of the American Independent Party of Georgia whose call for a new Whig coalition in the USA was printed recently in *New Solidarity*. With its vote this weekend, the conference thus succeeded in preparing the independent movement for the task of forming a political counterpole to the Carter Administration's policy of nuclear war and fascism at home.

Participation in Col. McCrary's Coalition of Independents on Issues was the only resolution to be voted up in the two-day meeting. Attended by 150-200 nationally known conservative activists, the conference drew strong representation from the American Independent Party in Wisconsin, Indiana, and across the country: the John Birch Society, the American Party; the Independent Americans of the U.S. (a delegation of Mormons from Utah and Montana); and other independent conservatives from 30 states.

Prior to the floor vote today, McCrary and two U.S. Labor Party representatives at the conference proposed ten task forces on issues in workshops and informal meetings. These include task forces on: 1) Fair Elections 2) A Balanced Energy Program for the U.S., including nuclear fusion and fission development; in the words of Col. McCrary, "to stop the fossil fuel conservation that will throw us back into the coal age," 3) A Committee on the monetary breakdown, which will consider the U.S. Labor Party's proposal for a Third National Bank, 4) A task force on the Extralegal Acts of the Carter Administration against its opposition, including terrorism 5) Bureaucratic Despotism, typified by the Federal Elections Commission's attempts to harass and tie up the Carter Administration's opponents, 6) A Committee on Drugs and Crime, 7) A Committee on Foreign Policy, to keep the U.S. out of conflicts not in this nation's self-interest.

Prefacing his discussion of the ten task forces, McCrary referenced the political conjuncture in which these would function: "The bankruptcy of the major financial institutions headquartered in New York City, is forcing the breakdown of the International Monetary system. It is urgent that the following issues be under the leadership of the Coalition of Independents on issues for the good of the country. The Carter Administration is prepared to oversee the annihilation of the U.S., and the enforced bankruptcy of our European allies rather than break with the Manhattan banks."

Each committee will now release a more detailed statement of its aim and activities and continue to organize individuals into working groups on these

issues.

From their two days of intensive one-on-one and small group meetings, Col. McCrary and the Labor Party delegation at the conference report that conservatives are open to making alliances with the labor movement, and the Coalition for Independents on Issues will seek trade-union participation on the Coalition. The Coalition is seen by McCrary as the vehicle for the collaboration of Democrats, Republicans and the Labor Party, as well as all independent conservatives, the labor movement, and industrialists.

LaRouche Proposal The Keystone

The most significant step taken in Memphis was the establishment of a committee to consider a replacement for the current bankrupt dollar monetary system. Without a strong counterpole to Jimmy Carter on this question, the United States will be left in Rockefeller's grip as Europe moves towards a new gold-backed monetary system. The proposal initiated by U.S. Labor Party chairman LaRouche for an International Development Bank and a Third National Bank for the U.S. in the tradition of Alexander Hamilton calls for specific measures to return the U.S. and the world monetary system to the American System, which emphasizes the development of industrial production and technology as the basis of financial credit.

Among the conservatives in attendance, reaction to LaRouche and the Labor Party was near 100 percent acceptance of LaRouche as a bona fide Whig spokesman and a towering intellectual force in the conservative movement. Many delegates were particularly anxious to discuss the meaning of the delinking of the dollar and the British pound, for example. Many delegates too had already read and discussed U.S. Labor Party literature, particularly the *Political Economy of the American Revolution* and the proposal for a Third National Bank of the U.S. Indicative of the level of discussion, one leading Midwest AIP delegate called for labor-industry alliances, while a Southern delegate argued along with McCrary that a counterpole to Carter is exactly what is needed in the U.S. Another Midwest delegate urged the delegates to name a new president of the U.S. until Carter could be politically removed.

In contrast to the intensive back room discussions which the U.S. Labor Party and McCrary participated in continuously, the convention itself was organized as a parade of speakers — with 40 speakers in two days including Rep. Larry McDonald (D-Ga) — with no scheduled floor debates on policy. At the final session this morning, the body demanded open political reports of workshops. McCrary's proposal that the conference participate in and support the Coalition of Independents on Issues was passed as the last item on the agenda.