American Independent Party

The old American Independent Party, founded in 1967 as a vehicle for George Wallace, split up in 1973 over the issue of control by the John Birch Society. William K. Shearer, one time disciple of Gerald L. K. Smith, and Roy V. Harris, president of the (White) Citizens Councils of America, remain as spearheads of what they regard as the “true” party of their segment of the Right.

Their objective is to have a Third Party mechanism available for Wallace. The AIP looks particularly strong in California. It has a tabloid newspaper, The American Independent, a platform and expects to have a slate of electors in place in key states.

American Party

In 1972 the American Party fielded the All Birch Society ticket of John Schmitz and Tom Anderson after Wallace was shot. While bitter internal conflicts remain, the party is essentially in the control of Tom Anderson, long time member of the Birch Council.

It will have a meeting in June. Anderson’s goal is to force Wallace’s hand; have a caretaker slate headed by Gov. Meldrim Thompson in place before the Democratic convention. Governor Thompson, however, is not seen as likely to go along.

Ex-Cong. John Schmitz, the ’72 standard bearer, has reregistered as a Republican, and is expected to campaign for his old seat, now held by Andrew Hinshaw, the man the Nixon Administration ran against him successfully in the ’72 GOP primary. Hinshaw has legal problems, facing a possible bribery charge.

The American Party is much further along than was the AIP at this time in 1968 when, to the amazement of the major news media, it placed Wallace on the ballot in every state. It, too, has a tabloid, The American Voice, and offices in all but a half-dozen states.

Both the AP and AIP view themselves as the legitimate continuation of the party formed in 1967. Their differences are more of personality than ideology, and they may get together.

U.S. Labor Party

Nearly 600 members of the U.S. Labor Party, the National Caucus of Labor Committee, supporters and the curious attended the NCLC’s National conference in New York City last month.

The Elsie’s presidential candidate, Lyndon LaRouche, addressed his remarks to this question: “How can the Labor Committees, the only organization with the competence to put the world back together, establish its epistemological dictatorship over the world?”

Even some present who were uncertain what an “epistemological dictatorship” involves seems optimistic over changes of pulling it off. The Elsies are expected to get louder. While unlikely to attract many votes, let alone dictate the methodology of national problem solving, they will be an annoyance to the Left especially.

The Communist Party-USA, rejecting NCLC efforts at rapprochement, is in the midst of a campaign to sell the belief that the Elsies are financed in part by the CIA.

Four years ago the CP ran Gus Hall for president, and showed no electoral following worthy of the name. It may sit this election out.

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Under that circumstance, as the Eisenhower Commission warned six years ago, America just might become ungovernable as a free society.

Rhetorical style aside, the differences between the Buckleyites and Birchites aren’t all that great. To my knowledge, the Buckleyites never have set forth a list of the issues where their goals are at variance with the Birch right.

They are together on such big matters at detente and support for the UN, and on such side issues as the ERA, sex education and abortion on demand, and removal of federal bans against prescribing a vitamin to cure cancer.

If fascism comes to America it will descend by degrees. It will come with men of professed good will who believe their views must prevail because of the urgencies of the times. They will see their critics as unpatriotic and hence dangerous. Watergate showed the taint.

In forcing us to rethink what is ideologically “respectable,” Buckley may be doing us all a favor.

WHILE OUR GREAT, good friend Franklin Littell has been put to a great deal of annoyance by the Buckley suit, some good may come of it.

In effect, Buckley is asking the Federal Court to certify that he represents ideological “respectability.”

I, for one, take the segment of the Right for which Buckley speaks at its word. I think the Buckleyites do have the potential for expanding their very considerable clout into actual control of the Executive Branch of government.

In power, I think they really would try to face down the Russians by escalating the arms race; really would do away with the graduated income tax; really would make social security “voluntary;” really would do away with federal welfare standards; really would give business its head in doing whatever it choose to do with the economy.

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