

Scott Bartlett

Hatfield sheds liberal image

Republican U.S. Senator Mark Hatfield's steady downplaying of an anti-war image to one of Nixon supporter, underscores the key role traditional GOP funding and conservative Oregon business executives are playing in his campaign against Democrat Wayne Morse's comeback drive.

Hatfield's expressed support for Richard Nixon's reelection falls within a consistent pattern in his career as an Oregon Republican. This is the fifth Nixon White House bid that has gained Hatfield backing against democrats; the first two as vice-Presidential Eisenhower running mate (1952-1956 against Adlai Stevenson); then Nixon's 1960 race against John F. Kennedy, Nixon's 1968 race against Hubert Humphrey, and Nixon's probable 1972 race against liberal Democrat George McGovern.

Ever since Spring 1970 when he co-sponsored the deemphasizing foreign policy publicly in order to mend conservative fences in Oregon. Unlike the maverick Morse, who is sharply critical of Nixon's economic and Vietnam air war policies, Hatfield is attempting to remove his prime vulnerability, mainly a public image of low Senate attendance, too much jet setting and banquet speaking, and not enough Oregon homework.

The Hatfield campaign which, according to GOP colleague Robert Packwood's estimate, may soar to a \$750,000 cost, is attempting to reshape the Senator's image with the theme "We Can't Afford To Lose Him." The advertising effort is being run by the national ad agency McCann-Erickson from within Portland's Georgia Pacific building. Vietnam is omitted entirely from the Hatfield campaign brochure.

Faced with the prospect of strongly anti-war Wayne Morse returning to the Senate, Republican conservatives at the Oregon and national level are rallying to finance the Hatfield effort.

Powerful segments of Oregon Republican business are providing the backbone for the Hatfield campaign. Two of the Republican senator's four finance chairmen, men with excellent connections in Republican money circles, were key figures in California's Ronald Reagan's 1968 Oregon Presidential Primary campaign.

Bob Hazen, the hawkish Portland savings and loan chain president (Ben Franklin), is Hatfield's Portland metropolitan area finance chairman, a man with vital links to powerful Republican financiers. His past political efforts include acting as Reagan's 1968 Oregon chairman. Peter C. Murphy, a Eugene lumberman (The Murphy Co.) is in charge of fund raising throughout eight southwest Oregon counties. He was Reagan's 1968 Lane County chairman.

The Nixon forces, also alarmed at Morse's return drive to the Senate, are lending strong support to Hatfield's campaign. Stories in the Oregon press have reported the recent Hatfield fund raising party hosted by

arch-conservative Martha Mitchell, wife of 1972 Nixon reelection chairman, John Mitchell. The \$100 per ticket Capitol Hill Club affair was attended by former Attorney General Mitchell, current Attorney General Richard Kleindienst, recently the focus of the ITT controversy. Such Senate Republicans as Nebraskans, Curtis and Hruska and Coloradans Allott and Dominick, politicians from the party's right wing, flocked to the occasion.

Hatfield has been a ready ally of the Nixon-Mitchell "law and order" campaign. A recent campaign position paper entitled, "Memorandum: President Nixon and Senator Hatfield," proclaims credit for "voting for the D.C. Crime Bill (which contained such controversial measures as "no-knock" and preventive detention)." The same paper cites Hatfield's votes for Nixon Supreme Court members Burger, Blackmun, Powell, and Renquist, described as "crucial Supreme Court nominations."

Kleindienst, director of field campaign operations for Goldwater in 1964 and Nixon in 1968, has been credited by Goldwater for urging his fellow Arizonan to "make law and order my principal issue." Together with Mitchell, the chief architect of the Nixon conservative strategy with its emphasis on wiretaps, conservatives on the Supreme Court, no-knock house entry powers, preventive detention, and mass arrests, Kleindienst and William Renquist, another Arizonan recently seated on the Supreme Court, have attempted to reverse policies of past liberal Democrat administrations.

Renquist, while under Mitchell's employ at the Justice Department, testified for the unrestricted use of wiretaps—without a court order. Hatfield justified his pro-Renquist vote before a UO Law School audience by citing a long-standing personal friendship dating back to college days, and what he feels is Renquist's "brilliance." "Besides," responded Hatfield to an audience questioner, "I don't agree with my wife on every issue."

Hatfield's long standing political alliance with Richard Nixon seems to discount some feeling within the press that the recent switch from anti-war to pro-Nixon image is only an attempt to keep Oregon Republican Gov. Tom McCall from entering the Morse-Hatfield race as an independent candidate.

Hatfield, during the 1960 Chicago Republican Convention, put Nixon's name in nomination, praising him as "a fighter for freedom and a pilgrim for peace." Although Hatfield has attained an anti-war image, his Vietnam stand has undergone periodic fluctuations. In 1966, one year after having dissented at a governor's conference against Pres. Johnson's Vietnam policies, Hatfield called at a Salem Marion Hotel speech, for the blockading of Haiphong Harbor. This was seemingly reversed in 1970 with the Hatfield-McGovern Amend-

ment setting a troop withdrawal date. Yet, in light of Hatfield's lack of any steady attack on Nixon's bombing step-up, Haiphong mining, and most recent aerial assault within 40 seconds flying time of the Chinese border, his traditional Republican connections are taking priority in what promises to be an all-time Oregon classic with liberal, pro-labor Morse.

In sharp contrast to Hatfield's political kinship with Nixon, was Morse's 1965 Salem prediction that "Lyndon Johnson will leave the White House as the most discredited President in American History." Morse, who bolted the Republican Party in the early fifties and then became a Democrat, was the first Congressional opponent of the Vietnam War. In 1954 he warned in a Senate floor speech that, "tens of thousands of our boys would be sacrificed if we are catapulted in a war with Indo-China." He went on to predict that "history will prove it an unjustifiable and unnecessary war."

At the root of Morse's Vietnam position is the charge that only Congress, as specified in the U.S. Constitution (Article I, section 8) has power to declare war. Nixon, then, like his White House predecessors, is violating the Constitution every day, according to the Constitutionalist Morse, who was Dean of the UO Law School at age 31.

Nixon's record, Morse asserts, "is the major issue in all campaigns across the country." The Hatfield-Nixon relationship may be a key factor in the up-coming Morse-Hatfield election.

Hatfield's strategy seems to be two-fold: first, discard the liberal anti-war image throughout the summer to stress an allegiance with Nixon and homestate concerns, and then revive a mildly anti-establishment image after Labor Day in order to attract a liberal Democratic cross-over. Democrats outnumber Republicans in Oregon 656,572 to 464,797.

Whether the professional McCann Erickson advertising effort, with its emphasis on graphics and media can aid Hatfield, is uncertain.

What is more certain is that the Conservative-liberal nature of the Hatfield-Morse race will take on an increasing dimension to the contest. While Hatfield will stress committee appointments and his 71st (out of 100) seniority rank, Morse will stress his 4 terms experience and contacts with Senate Majority Leader Mansfield and other Democratic Senate leaders.

Clearly, Hatfield's muffled Vietnam position is demonstrating a tactical decision to conservatize the Republican senator's image in Oregon. The 1972 Morse-Hatfield race will be in the national limelight, perhaps as much because of the contrast in political forces backing the two candidates, as in the particular images of the men themselves.

Right now, it is anyone's guess as to who shall emerge the winner.

