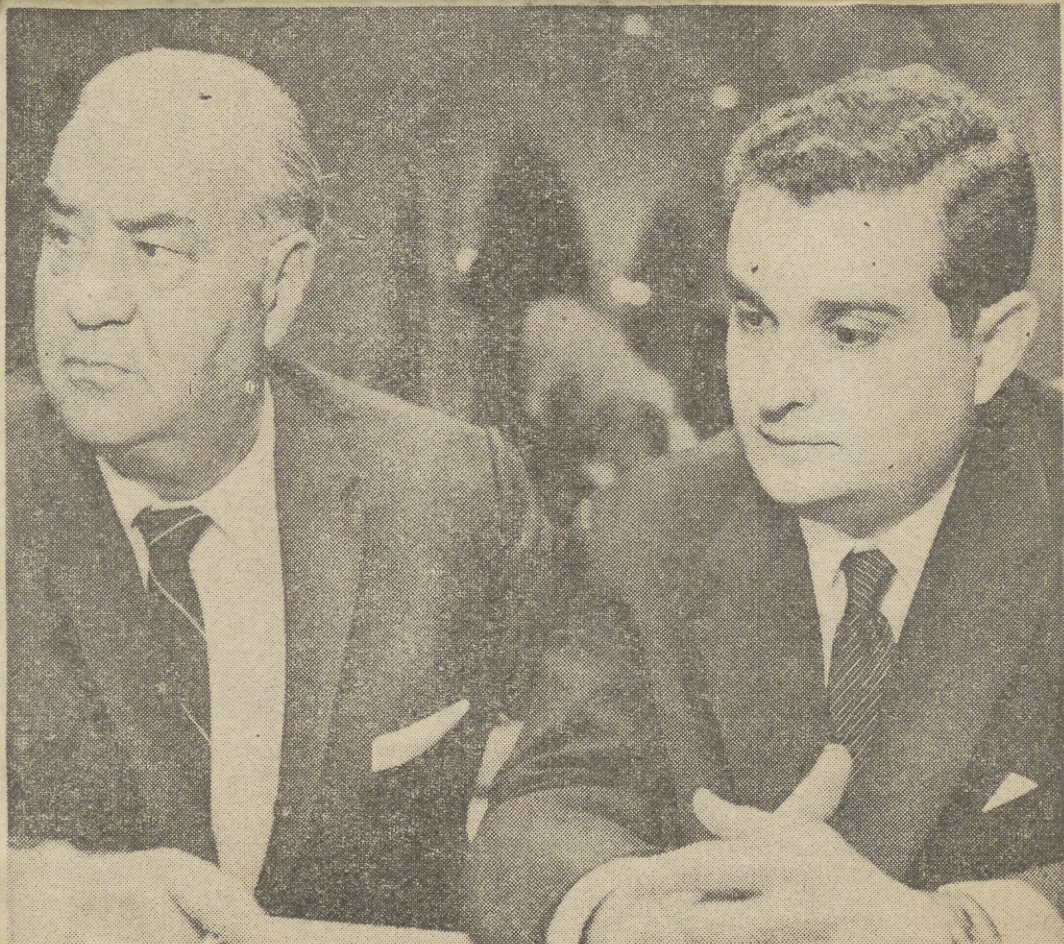


Now Is the Time for All Young Men . .



Post Photo by DeLucia

Manhattan Democratic leader Frank G. Rossetti (l) sits alongside Martin Begun, 34-year-old Reform Democrat, after naming the younger politico chairman of a party youth committee. The Democrats launched a campaign to get more young people active in the party.

Democrats Court Young People Here

By THOMAS P. RONAN

The New York County Democratic organization began yesterday a drive to involve more young men and women in party affairs.

As the opening move, Assemblyman Frank G. Rossetti, the county leader, named Martin Begun, a 34-year-old Reform district leader and associate dean of the New York University School of Medicine, as chairman of a youth committee.

Mr. Rossetti said it was the first such committee set up by the Manhattan organization. He appointed Mrs. Kay Davis, a Reform district leader, and George Miller, an independent leader, to assist Mr. Begun in developing a "formula" for conducting the drive. He said he would name other committee members later.

Mr. Rossetti announced his appointments at a Commodore Hotel meeting of the county executive committee, which consists of all the Manhattan district leaders. The session was

marked by an unusual show of harmony for an organization long torn by bitter wrangles between Reform Democrats and regulars.

Mrs. Charlotte Spiegel, a regular, was re-elected chairman of the executive committee and three other regulars and four Reformers were elected vice chairmen. All were nominated and elected without opposition.

Others Elected

The other regulars were P. Vincent Viggiano, Mrs. Lillian Upshur and Antonio Mendez. The Reformers were Charles M. Kinsolving, Mrs. Doris Clark, Miss Alice Sachs and Jerome Tarnoff. With Mr. Rossetti, a regular, the chairman and vice chairmen form the administrative committee of the executive committee.

Mr. Rossetti also named Stephen Jarema, a party regular, as chairman of the judiciary committee. He appointed to this committee Manhattan Borough President Percy E. Sutton, State Senator Joseph Zaretzki and David Friedland, all

regulars, and Howard Amron, Richard Lane and Victor Kovner, all members of the Reform movement.

The county leaders said after the meeting that the drive to enlist young people in the organization was needed because relatively few were active in it except during election campaigns.

Mr. Begun said this applied to both Reform and regular clubs and "to all parts of the Democratic organization in New York County."

"I think a lot of young men and women have been alienated from the traditional parties in the city for a long time," Mr. Begun said. "I think they have not found the party apparatus a welcome home for them."

Mr. Begun, a leader in the 64th Assembly District on the East Side, also said that young people were concerned about issues but they had not "looked to the Democratic party in the county as a reliable mechanism through which they could voice their opinions."

Feb. 28, 1963

Democratic Clubs Select Officers

Martin Begun, 411 East 57th Street, has been elected president of the Lenox Hill Democratic Club in the Eighth A.D. North, and Marian Haier, 440 East 79th Street, was reelected as president of the East Side Democratic Club, of the Tenth A.D. Middle, in recent club elections.

Other newly-elected officers of the Lenox Hill Democrats are the four vice-presidents: Burton Drucker, 400 East 59th Street; Vivian Howard, 311 East 72nd Street; James Mason, 204 East 76th Street; and Roy Weber, 328 East 52nd Street. William Spiro, 240 East 76th Street, was chosen treasurer; Jane Field, 315 East 68th Street, is recording secretary; and Susan Ginsberg, 40 East 83rd Street, is corresponding secretary.

In the East Side Democratic Club, Marvin Levey, 302 East 88th Street and June Mayper, 305 East 88th Street, were reelected as vice-presidents, and

John Bergman, 1391 Madison Avenue, was chosen to fill the third vice-presidential post.

The Murray Hill Citizens, Democratic organization in the First A.D. North, reelected Jerome T. Orans, 139 East 33rd Street, as president.

Other new officers are: Coral Eaton, 108 West 15th Street, and Karl G. Kolish, 139 East 33rd Street, vice-presidents; Charlotte Klein, 138 East 36th Street, recording secretary; Virginia J. Demmler, 309 East 87th Street, corresponding secretary; Christopher James, 125 East 30th Street, treasurer.

Members-at-large are: Mary Lincoln Bonnell, 178 Fifth Avenue; Seth Goldstein, 22 East 29th Street; Florence Horenstein, 301 East 21st Street; Charlotte Fox, 152 Lexington Avenue; Cecelia V. Orr, 22 East 29th Street; Eleanor Solovay, 55 Park Avenue; Patricia Untermeyer, 77 Park Avenue; and Joseph Zorn, 138 East 37th Street.

Politics

(Continued from Page 1)

paing be run on municipal issues not on McCarthy-McGovern policies.

* * *

Many politics are asking whether Louis Stulberg, the president of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union and the number one foe of the Liberal party, will come out publicly in support of Mario Procaccino or will funnel whatever power and funds the international union wants to invest in defeating Mayor Lindsay through Local 89, the Italian Dress and Waistmakers Union, and therefore protect himself against further resentment from the forces still loyal to former president David Dubinsky and from the increasing black and Puerto Rican membership of the union. In fact, Mr. Stulberg is expected to be challenged for the union presidency by Chick Chaiken of Boston at the next ILGWU convention.

* * *

Martin Begun, the male district leader of the Lenox Hill Democratic Club of the 64th A.D., will serve as acting dean of the New York University Medical School until a new dean is appointed to replace Dr. Lewis Thomas who will resign soon to accept the chairmanship of a greatly expanded Department of Pathology at Yale Medical School. Mr. Begun, now the associate dean, is the youngest man ever to hold this office in this country.

PARK EAST
THURSDAY, JULY 24, 69

...for his participation in the Harlem riots of 1964. He said he had been out of jail about a year.

Dialogue With Heckler

Another daytime visitor to East Harlem yesterday, Senator Jacob K. Javits, came under sharp heckling from a young Negro woman at Third Avenue and 116th Street.

Woman—What's your purpose being here today, walking around?

Javits—I want to see how serious the situation is.

Woman—But what is all this looking into things and observing going to do? What's about this poverty bill in Congress? Why don't some of you come and live in the slums?

Javits—My good young lady, I was a child of the slums. I was brought up in the slums.

Woman—Oh, come on. Slums have changed. The Negro has had a taste of luxury. He wants more.

Javits—The slums of yesterday were the same.

Woman—Are you kidding? Meanwhile, politicians ex-

pressed worry about "backlash." A Democratic canvass of a Yorkville area disclosed that residents there felt that "too much is being done for the Negro and not enough for the low-income white."

"People in this area, largely of Czech and Irish origin, are very disturbed that no one is thinking of them," said Martin Begun, leader of the 64th Assembly District, Part B.

He said the canvass also showed "almost universal unhappiness with the war in Vietnam."

A Spanish-language newspaper, *El Diario-La Prensa*, carried an editorial yesterday urging the Puerto Rican community to cooperate with the police. "The police are on our side," the editorial concluded.

City Councilman Joseph Modugno, Queens Republican, filed a resolution with the City Council, calling on Mayor Lindsay to indemnify store owners who had suffered damages in the

disorders. He suggested that funds allocated by the city for antipoverty programs could be used "justifiably" to pay damages to store owners.

Germans in Australia Feel War Movies Distort Image

MELBOURNE, Australia — The Australian Good Neighbor Council is conducting an inquiry to find out whether motion pictures dealing with World War II are creating prejudice against German immigrants in Australia, the Australian Government Information Service reported.

The matter was raised by the council's Victorian branch, which reported complaints by some Germans about the way in which Germans were often depicted in popular films.

The Good Neighbor Movement coordinates voluntary organizations concerned with the integration of immigrants into the community.

Democrats Moving To Discipline Koch

By HOMER BIGART

A move is under way to oust from the New York County Democratic Executive Committee the Greenwich Village district leaders who endorsed John V. Lindsay, the successful Republican-Liberal candidate for Mayor.

Members of the committee said disciplinary moves against Edward I. Koch, the Village Reform Democrat who defeated the former Tammany chief, Carmine G. De Sapio for district leader in the primary, and Mrs. Koch's co-leader, Mrs. Carol Greitzer, would probably be attempted at the committee's next meeting, Nov. 18.

On the eve of Tuesday's elec-

Continued on Page 13, Column 4

KOCH IS ATTACKED ON AID TO LINDSAY

Continued From Page 1, Col. 1

tion, Mr. Koch and Mrs. Greitzer issued a statement supporting Mr. Lindsay against the Democratic candidate, Congressman Abraham D. Beame.

An executive committee rule provides the following:

"Any officer or member of the executive committee who supports for public office a nominee in opposition to a nominee of the party may be removed from such office or such membership by a majority rule of the executive committee."

Reformer Also Upset

Anger over the Koch-Greitzer defection has not been limited to Regular Democrats. Several Reform leaders expressed irritation last night and said that while they would not go so far as to move for the ouster of the Village leaders, the two ought to be "chastised."

They felt certain that a motion of censure against Mr. Koch and Mrs. Greitzer would be adopted.

Out of the general displeasure may emerge a strong effort to tighten the committee's rules.

George R. Osborne, Reform leader of the 69th Assembly District, Part B, said he would favor a change in the rules to provide for the automatic expulsion of any executive committee member who openly supported a nominee of an opposition party. Mr. Osborne is a professor of political science at Rutgers University.

Any rules change would have to be approved by the entire county committee of more than 3,000 members. The executive committee has 80 members.

Martin Begun, a Reformer who is leader of the 71st Assembly District, Part A, said he felt that the Village leaders "should be chastised, but I would be reluctant to go along with their removal or impeachment."

'General Consensus'

Charles M. Kinsolving Jr., Reform leader of the 70th Assembly District, Part D, said it was the "general consensus" of committee members with whom he had talked that "Koch should not have done what he did."

One member suggested that Mr. Koch might be offered a post in the Lindsay administration and resign his district leadership.

There is no precedent for the ouster move. In 1952, Representative Adam Clayton Powell, the Harlem Democrat, endorsed Republican Dwight D. Eisenhower for President. He was never brought up on committee charges.

Mr. Koch, apprised yesterday of the ouster rumors, said:

"Maybe there is one rule for Koch and another for Adam Clayton Powell. Mrs. Greitzer and I will face the problem when it is raised and meet it at that time."

The executive committee is composed of 40 men and 40 women who are elected district leaders in the party primary. They hold fractions of votes, depending on the size of their districts, with a total of 16 votes. Regulars control a fraction over eight votes.

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION, DELEGATE TO STATE CONVENTION

BOARD OF ELECTIONS IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

General Office, Room 900, 80 Varick Street, New York 13, N. Y.

We, the undersigned, the members of the Board of Elections in The City of New York having canvassed the whole number of votes cast at the Primary Election held by the **DEMOCRATIC PARTY** in said City, on the.....day of JUN 2 1964, 19....., according to the original statements of said votes filed with us in the manner directed by law, do hereby certify that

Martin S. Begun

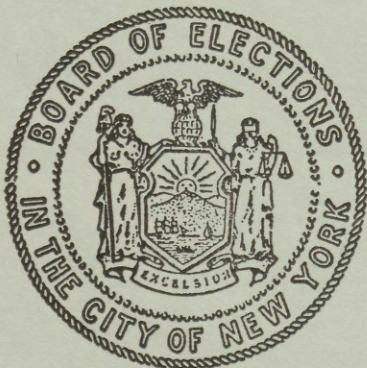
411 East 57th St., New York, N. Y.

was duly elected a DELEGATE to the STATE CONVENTION from the.....^{8th}.....Assembly District.

NEW YORK

COUNTY OF.....

WITNESS our names and official seal, at The City of New York, State of New York, on this 7th day of June 1964



Attest:

Angelo R. Monette

Chief Clerk.

J. M. Bovee,
J. M. Miller,
Maurice J. Bourke,
John R. Crews

Commissioners of Elections.

Criminal Court of the City of New York

100 Centre Street

New York, N. Y. 10013



CHAMBERS OF
JEROME VALE
JUDGE

December 1, 1969.

Dear Martin:

Before too many days vanish quickly into the past, I want to say thanks - - - - .

This single word humbly expresses my infinite gratitude for your boundless effort and devotion in obtaining my judgeship.

I shall be ever grateful. Moreover I cannot help but feel that I was blessed by our Creator

when he made you
pass my way.

With warm
personal regards, I am,

Sincerely,

Jerry

Carter Burden

5 Dec. 1969

Dear Martin (Chief, leader, etc.),

Your letter, as always, was too kind, too articulate, and too self-deprecating. Indeed, if there was any letter to be written, it was from me to you - for, as I've said many times, you are one of that tiny, select group of individuals who are really responsible for getting me into this. (as a matter of fact, you also warned me too. NOW, if they do raise the salaries....) And it was your sense of balance, humor, and wise advice which, at many points, kept it going. So the success - such as it is - belongs to you too - (if the outcome had been failure, all of it would have belonged to you)

In any case, I do hope I
will have the opportunity to return
a few of the many favors someday,
and that you will not be reticent
(which is occasionally your style) about
asking me. In the meantime,
I hope I can continue to count on
that advice — and friendship —
it has come to mean a lot to
Amanda and me. As for future
'prophetic Conversations' — I'm
all for them, but please not neglect
away — Among other reasons, I just
can't afford another one of those
Conversations for a while.

yours,

Carter Burden

15 Dec. 1969

Dear Martin,

I'm enclosing a
Contribution that I hope will
assist the Lenox Hill Democratic
Club from succumbing to NEW
York's rapacious land lords and
other heartless creditors.

IN the case of many
clubs (which I'm sure we could
both name) I'm inclined to feel that
quick extinction would be the most
desirable fate. Largely because
of you, however, I feel Lenox Hill
deserves better - and I'm glad to
be able to help. IN the context of all
you've done for me, it can only be
considered a modest reciprocal gesture.
Warmest regards, as always - Carter

MARTIN S. BEGUN

April 14, 1977

Mr. David Klein
President
Lenox Hill Democratic Club
1338 First Avenue
New York, New York

Dear David:

Please be advised that it is my intention to resign as the Democratic District Leader, Part A, 68th Assembly District.

My resignation is to take effect at the time the Divisional County Committee meets to choose a successor.

Please convey to all of the members of the Lenox Hill Democratic Club my appreciation for their generous support and confidence during the past 15 years. I will be ever grateful for the opportunity that was given to me to serve in this capacity.

Sincerely yours,

Martin S. Begun

MSB/joh

cc: Hon Frank Rossetti,
Democratic County Leader
Hon. Robert Rosenthal
Chairman, Divisional County Committee,
68th Assembly District, Part A
Hon. Lolly Gershuny

MARTIN S. BEGUN

October 18, 1977

Dear Club Member:

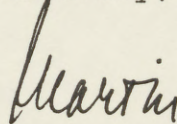
On Monday, October 24th, the membership will be asked to make a serious judgement as to whether or not to endorse Robert F. Wagner, Jr. This means a temporary suspension of our tradition of accepting without challenge the nominee of our Party.

The Democratic Party is a strong and vigorous institution and can sustain a temporary dislocation by taking this extraordinary measure and support the candidacy of Robert F. Wagner, Jr. I have known Bob for many years and have taken pride in his accomplishments, his strong sense of duty, his compassion and innate sensitivity.

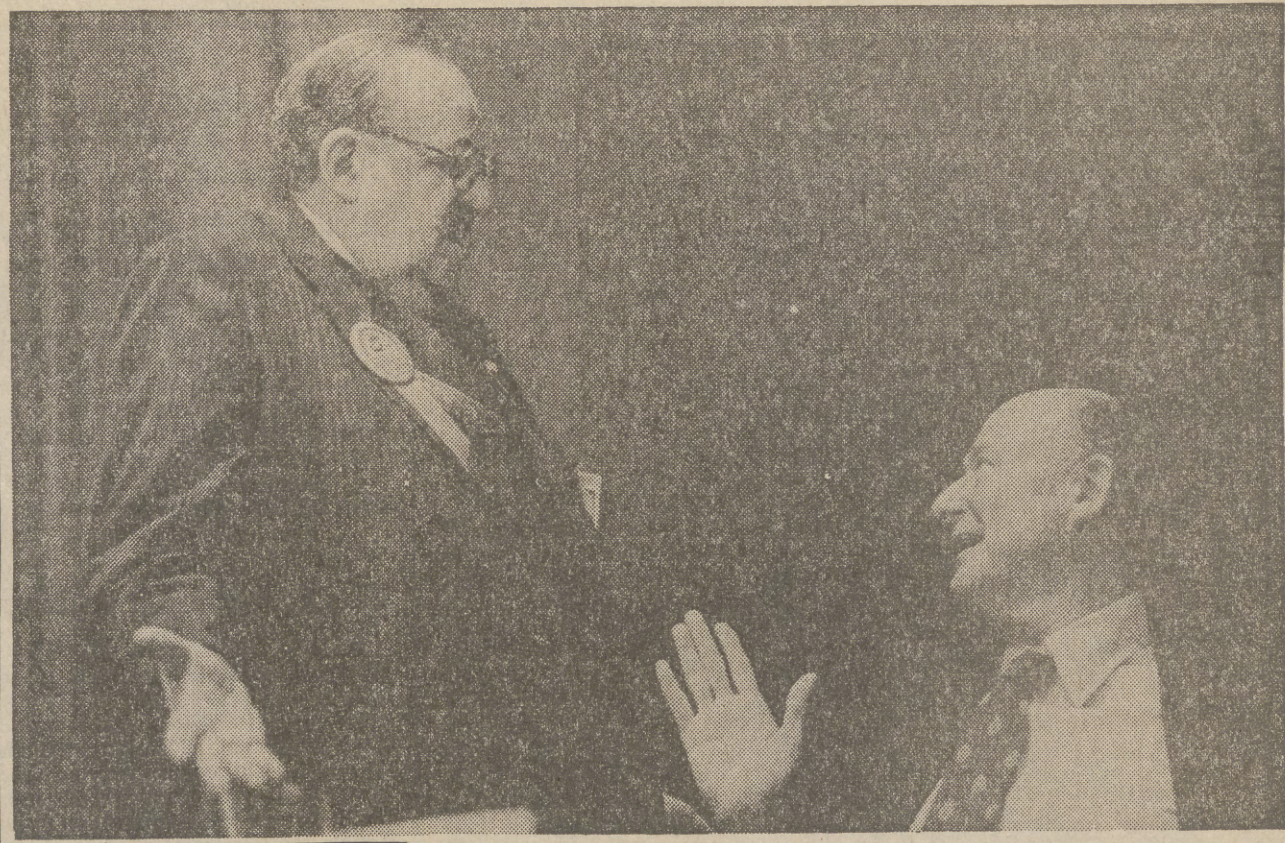
During my years of active involvement in the political process, I have rarely met one individual so highly qualified for a career in public service. His education, intellectual attainments and capacity for understanding the practical realities of complex issues is a resource we cannot afford to lose at this time in the city's history.

I urge you to support and vote for Bob Wagner - who is not a veneer, but the promise of substance.

Sincerely,



Martin S. Begun



Regular Bronx Democrats Surprise Manhattan Faction on Court Slate

By MAURICE CARROLL

With quiet help from representatives of Mayor Koch, the regular Democrats from the Bronx captured two State Supreme Court nominations last night that the Manhattan organization thought it had sufficient votes to win.

The Mayor's reported role in support of Stanley M. Friedman, the Bronx leader, was puzzling. It undercut Miriam Bockman, who had been the Mayor's personal choice for Manhattan leader.

But the result at the Bronx-Manhattan judicial nominating convention was a four-judge slate that included two candidates favored by Mr. Friedman and a politician's dream of a balanced ticket.

'Right Ticket in Right Year'

The winners were George Bundy Smith, a black; Anthony Mercorella, an Italian-American; Edwin Torres, a Puerto Rican, and Betty W. Ellerin, who is Jewish.

"It's the right ticket, in the right year, in the right borough," Mr. Friedman said as he stood in the aisle after the key vote.

That vote was 89 to 86, one more than the minimum needed to nominate, for Mr. Mercorella over Judge David Levy.

In nominating Judge Mercorella, Representative Mario Biaggi called for "equitable representation" of all ethnic groups.

The Manhattan group had gone into the convention with a four-judge ticket and, its leaders thought, the votes.

That ticket included Judges Ellerin and Smith and also Judges Eve Preminger and Levy.

Afternoon of Phone Calls

But, after what some politicians said was an afternoon of telephone calling by representatives of the Mayor — they mentioned his friend Martin Begun and his political adviser, John LoCicero — Mr. Friedman was able to put in his two choices instead.

Last night's session at Christopher Columbus High School, 925 Astor Avenue, the Bronx, was the last of the New York City judicial conventions.

The Brooklyn-Staten Island district and the Queens district met last week and, without any fuss, confirmed the choices of party leaders.

But things are never that simple in the Bronx-Manhattan district.

The \$56,098-a-year Supreme Court

posts are the highest awarded by election in the New York court system. They are, in effect, lifetime jobs.

The Democratic nominations are customarily ratified by the voters in November, and, with conflicts between the boroughs exacerbated by regular-reformer conflicts within the boroughs, the nominations usually generate controversy.



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10007

November 13, 1987

Mr. Martin Begun
200 East 56th Street
New York, New York 10022

Dear Mr. Begun:

Pursuant to the authority vested in me as Mayor, I hereby reappoint you to a two year term as a member of the Council on the Environment of New York City.

This reappointment shall take effect immediately and will expire on July 31, 1989.

Thank you for working with CENYC to improve the quality of life in New York City.

Sincerely,

Edward I. Koch
M A Y O R



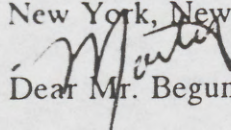
THE COUNCIL
OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK
CITY HALL
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10007

PETER F. VALLONE
SPEAKER

TELEPHONE
212-788-7210

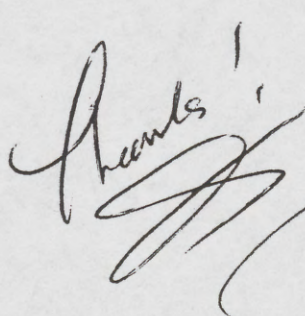
June 4, 1996

Mr. Martin Begun
Associate Dean
NYU Medical School
550 First Avenue
New York, New York 10016


Dear Mr. Begun:

Pursuant to Section 3-708 of Local Law 8 of 1988, I hereby appoint you as a member of the New York City Campaign Finance Board for a term of five years, which commenced on March 31, 1996, and expires on March 30, 2001.

Cordially,



Peter F. Vallone
Speaker/Majority Leader

PFV:ig

cc: The Honorable Rudolph W. Giuliani
Father Joseph O'Hare, Chairman, Campaign Finance Board
Nichole A. Gordon, Exec. Director, Campaign Finance Board

Championing Liberalism Under New Name

By DAVID FIRESTONE

WHEN Martin S. Begun, for years one of New York's most prominent Jewish leaders, told his friends recently that he had decided to convert, some feared he had lost his mind.

There were those who were angry, convinced he was betraying his heritage. One friend accused him of outright treason. Others, once they put their jaws back into place, smiled one of those "that's Marty" smiles and told him to go for it. Even his wife, the prominent real estate executive Louise Sunshine, was surprised at his choice.

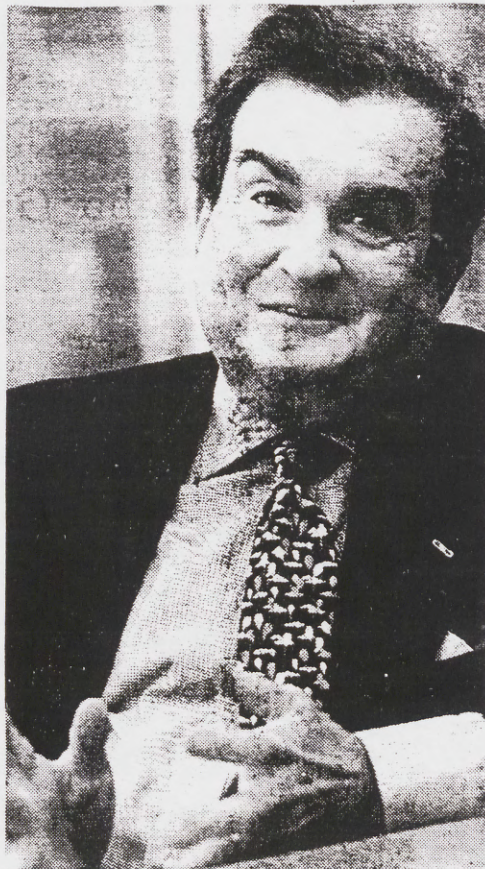
But Mr. Begun is a thoughtful, deliberative man and did not arrive at apostasy easily. After realizing over several months that he felt disconnected from his roots, he went all the way: the lifelong Democrat switched his registration to the tiny Liberal Party, an artifact of the anti-Communist era that has occasionally been influential in city politics. And as if that were not enough, he will also become a close adviser to the Liberal Party's famously canny leader, Raymond B. Harding, writing a platform of ideas for a party that has long had little use for ideology.

Mr. Begun, never a casual Democrat, is used to the astonishment by now. He was, after all, a Democratic district leader from the East Side for 14 years in the 1960's and 70's, a Democratic candidate for Congress and a close friend and adviser to Mayors Edward I. Koch and David N. Dinkins. He is now a Democratic appointee to the city's Campaign Finance Board, named by City Council Speaker Peter F. Vallone, whose rival for the Democratic nomination for governor is the Liberal Party's candidate, Betsy McCaughey Ross.

But he says he has drifted from his party, at least at the state level. To his mind, New York politics has become a pastime of personality, not an arena of ideas, and the Democrats have done little to expand political thought to fit the next century.

"I want to help create a liberalism without illusions," he said, "the kind of thing that Tony Blair has done for the Labor Party in Great Britain. It should move away from its left-of-center orientation, and come up with common-sense recommendations that are pro-business, pro-economic development, pro-labor. It would redefine a constructive liberalism for a new era."

That he should want to create an intellectual base for the modern-day Liberal Party, however, is a confounding notion for those who have watched the party become a doctrine-free vehicle for the advancement of a small group of people at its core. The party almost never runs its own candidates for elective office; instead, it simply cross-endorses candidates of widely varying political thought from the two major parties, like Ms.



Librado Romero/The New York Times

Martin S. Begun, a lifelong Democrat, astonished some friends with his recent conversion.

McCaughey Ross and Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani, and counts on patronage jobs if those candidates win. Two of Mr. Harding's sons have high-ranking positions in the Giuliani administration.

"The Liberal Party is for sale," Mr. Koch said. "Maybe Ray Harding realizes that a person of conscience, like Marty Begun, will help bring it some integrity."

Mr. Harding rejected the notion that he is importing respectability from another party. Rather, he said, Mr. Begun's decision was a coup for his party, a recognition that the Liberals are a pragmatic alternative for those who believe that the Democrats have moved so far to the left that they have lost their way.

"There's a new century, a new millennium, and we are coming to the inexorable end of the Giuliani epoch," he said. "So I thought it would be worthwhile, to make sure the party continues to be relevant, to do some think-tanking and examine the position of the Liberal Party."

He first broached the idea with Mr. Begun a few months ago, at a party at Gracie Mansion. Mr. Begun had left his position as associate dean of the New York University

School of Medicine last September, giving up a job he had held for 35 years after opposing the proposed merger with Mount Sinai Medical Center. (He has since been running a small consulting group, MSB Strategies, with several health-related clients.) His three-year tenure as president of the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York was also about to expire, and friends said he was itching to remain a player on the political scene.

One disappointed longtime friend, Mr. Dinkins, an archenemy of the Liberals, said he wished that Mr. Begun would instead expend his energy on improving the Democratic Party. But at age 66, Mr. Begun has decided that he can exercise much more influence in a smaller pond, even if he won't necessarily support each candidate endorsed by his new party.

"Third parties in America have an important function in nudging the major parties to take stands on important issues," he said. "There's more to a political party than running a candidate in your own name."

And it may give him a chance to have some fun tweaking his more orthodox friends. Since marrying for the first time last year and leaving his job, friends say, he has become even more playful than usual, more open to change. He is also enjoying some of the perquisites of a prominent marriage, including an apartment at 71st Street and Park Avenue, a long way from his birthplace in Washington Heights. As he well knows, he may need a sense of humor in the coming months.

"I know some people will give me gift certificates to a psychiatrist," he said. "But maybe some people will give me some credit."

PUBLIC LIVES

Championing Liberalism Under New Name

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"Third parties in America have an important function in nudging the major parties to take stands on important issues," he said. "There's more to a political party than running a candidate in your own name."

And it may give him a chance to have some fun tweaking his more orthodox friends. Since marrying for the first time last year and leaving his job, friends say, he has become even more playful than usual, more open to change. He is also enjoying some of the perquisites of a prominent marriage, including an apartment at 71st Street and Park Avenue, a long way from his birthplace in Washington Heights. As he well knows, he may need a sense of humor in the coming months.

"I know some people will give me gift certificates to a psychiatrist," he said. "But maybe some people will give me some credit."

Dear Marty,

I give you credit! And, what's more, I feel you will be able to do great things for the Liberal Party. Particularly after this week's events the Democrats have an even more difficult row to hoe. I am so happy you switched - they are lucky to have

you. I'm not "astounded"
either — you are way
too intelligent for the
Democrats.

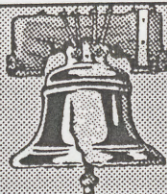
Big hugs to you
& Louise. Miss you.

Love,

Na —

The

Liberal



Agenda

Volume 1, Issue 2

The Official Newsletter of the New York County Liberal Party

Fall 1999

Opportunity....with equality and freedom for all.....

ELECTION ISSUE



Reba's the One!

Liberal Party Nominates Reba White Williams for City Council

By Jackle Wolf

Before Reba White Williams even dreamed she'd be running for City Council, she had made a real impact in our community. She is Vice Chairman of the NY State Council on the Arts, former President of the New York City Art Commission and an active member of Community Board 8.

A Harvard MBA with a Ph.D. in Art History, Reba was the first woman executive of the Wall Street securities firm, Mitchell Hutchins. She helped pave the way for women on Wall Street and is a strong pro-choice advocate. In addition, as a business executive, Reba created public private partnerships to revitalize two New York City public schools and contributed to her city and community in countless other ways.

Since deciding to run for the City Council seat vacated by Andrew Eristoff when he was appointed City Finance Commissioner, Reba White Williams has garnered enormous support from people who recognize her talent and commitment to issues. To date, she has been endorsed by Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, Senator Roy M. Goodman, Assemblyman John Ravitz, former Council Member Andrew Eristoff, the United Federation of Teachers, the gay and lesbian Log Cabin Republicans and others. In addition, she was just awarded the coveted "Preferred" status by Citizen's Union.

Reba has big plans for her community, and because I am privileged to be working closely with her, I'll share just a few of them with you.

Making Our Schools As Good As Our Children

JHW: I know you're concerned with

the state of public education and have tried to make it better. Tell me about that experience.

Reba White Williams: As an executive with Alliance Capital Management, I encouraged partnerships between Alliance Capital and both Manhattan's Bayard Rustin High School for the Humanities and the High School for Art and Business. At Bayard Rustin High School, we at Alliance Capital donated computers to the high school and raised money for a state-of-the-art scoreboard in the gym, and initiated major renovations to the library, the principal's office and the teacher's lounge.

JHW: I'm told the impact of your initiatives has gone beyond improvements to the school building.

RWW: Through Alliance we enabled students to meet with business leaders in an effort to foster their growth, learning and career aspirations.

We have received awards from the Bayard Rustin High School and P.S. 164 and have been honored by School Chancellor Rudy Crew for our work to improve schools.

JHW: You've gone beyond that, though? As vice chairman of the New York State Council on the Arts, you've worked to bring art education funding into our public schools.

RWW: Yes. I worked with Mayor Rudy Giuliani and the Center for Arts Education to do that. As an art historian, I'm acutely aware that art enhances education, both as an academic discipline and as a means of developing creativity and encouraging positive self-image.

JHW: When you are successful in this special election November 2, what

will your experience in the school system mean to the East Side in District 4?

RWW: I firmly believe that public/private education partnerships are an answer to improving our schools for our children, and I am committed to them. I plan to find a corporate partner for every school in the district. If I'm elected to the City Council, I can concentrate my efforts here on the East Side in the fourth district. While there are some good special art education projects in our East Side schools, my goal is to bring one into every school in our community.

JHW: Last year, Mr. Eristoff secured funding to establish a "Beacon School" at P.S. 198, located at Third Avenue and 96th Street. Can you explain what a beacon school is?

RWW: Beacon schools act as safe havens where, six days a week, young people receive services including drug and alcohol education as well as homework assistance, reading laboratories and recreational programs. The Beacon School Andrew funded is operated by the Stanley M. Isaacs Neighborhood Center and it has been a tremendous success.

Hundreds of young people, many of whom are considered 'at risk' of drug and alcohol use, now have a positive and safe after school alternative.

I will work with parents, teachers and community groups to expand the Beacon School model to other East Side Schools.

JHW: What about additional high schools on the East Side?

RWW: Parents and children on the East Side have faced a dilemma. We lack a quality high school for hundreds of good students who do not gain admis-

sion to such specialized high schools as Stuyvesant or the Hunter College Campus High School. The new Baruch College Campus High School on the East Side is small and has far more applicants than seats.

I plan to work with business leaders, parents, the UFT, the community boards, and the chancellor's office to address this acute shortage by working to create a new, academically rigorous community high school for the East Side.

A Commitment to Restoring THE ARMORY

JHW: The condition of the Seventh Regiment Armory has greatly deteriorated. I know you're concerned.

RWW: I most certainly am. Built between 1877 and 1880, the Seventh Regiment Armory occupies an entire City block between Park and Lexington Avenues, 66th and 67th Streets. This is an historic landmark and it is crumbling. It is underutilized because it is not air conditioned and cannot be used for several months of the year. Priceless rooms have suffered water damage.

Its interior rooms are considered the single most important collection of nineteenth century interiors to survive intact in one building. The Drill Shed, with its soaring, column-free space, is significant in the history of American engineering.

I have a long track record in preservation, and I'm working with Governor Pataki, Senator Goodman, Assembly member Ravitz and the Empire State Development Corporation to help ensure the Armory's restoration and that its future uses are appropriate for the neighborhood.

As a member of the City Council, I will continue to work with our leaders to select appropriate uses for the building and will seek public and private funds to restore the Armory to its past glory.

Trump and Overdevelopment

JHW: You have a reputation as a leader in the struggle to protect the East Side from overdevelopment.

RWW: I made the recent motion which put Community Board 8 on record opposing the Trump World Tower on First Avenue, between 47th and 48th streets. My resolution asked the Board of Standards and Appeals to reverse a zoning decision favorable to Trump World Tower and to revoke the project's Building Department permit.

JHW: Can you explain to me why you're so opposed to this Trump project?

RWW: I oppose the project because the residential skyscraper will tower over the nearby United Nation's building and its neighbors. It will cast a huge shadow over the surrounding neighborhood, blocking fresh air and sunlight. I'm also working to preserve our residential mid-blocks. Developers want to build a 31 story tower on the mid block of East 76th Street near the East River. Developers seek to overturn the principal of low-rise mid block zoning and rezone the industrial property to R8 zoning to permit a high rise tower.

JHW: What are you doing in terms of this zoning issue?

RWW: As a member of Community Board 8, I voted to oppose R8 rezoning on East 76th Street. I voted to rezone the block instead to the traditional R8B low-rise classification. And I offered testimony to the City Planning Commission in favor of low-rise zoning for the site and helped mobilize community participation in the Planning Commission hearing.

JHW: While we're on this topic, I understand Con Edison may be courting developers to buy some of its property.

RWW: Yes, at Con Ed's 40th Street

Continued on page 4

Two 'Martins' Join Liberal Party

*One as State Committee Member;
the other as Executive Director*

Martin S. Begun, a long-time leader in the Democratic Party in New York City and an influential voice in healthcare policy in New York, has enrolled in the Liberal Party and joined the party's leadership effort to effectively develop policy positions that respond to community needs throughout the state.

Martin I. Hassner, formerly chairman of the Young Liberals and executive director of the Liberal Party in Queens County during the Rose-Dubinsky-Davidson years, has become the party's State Executive Director.

After 35 years in academia at New York University's School of Medicine and Medical Center, Mr. Begun has formed and leads MSB Strategies, Inc., a consulting firm specializing in public policy, intergovernmental relations, and client services. He maintains an academic post at N.Y.U. as Senior Fellow at the University's Taub Research Center at the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service.

Mr. Begun serves, by appointment of the Governor of New York State, as a member of the Board of the Battery Park City Authority; by appointment of the Speaker of the New York City Council, as a member of the N.Y.C. Campaign Finance Board; and was chosen by the Mayor of New York to serve on the Mayoral Task Force on Police/Community Relations.

He has published widely specializing in healthcare.

After Brooklyn Law School, Hassner spent five years in radio and TV news and public affairs, and then as Special Counsel to the Mayor of Newburgh, N.Y. He returned to New York City as Executive Director of the Leukemia Society of America and he remained in the non-profit healthcare and education field for the next 25 years with time-out (four years) to be National Director of the Healthcare Marketing Division of Hill & Knowlton, then the world's largest public relations firm. He last did some political speech-writing and fund raising consulting in the early 1980's on the John Anderson Presidential campaign where he first met Ray Harding and that era of the Liberal Party.

For the past eight years he has been developing model programs in education, early childhood development and juvenile justice in Ft. Myers, Florida and Waco, Texas... a process (he says) more political-in-nature than election campaigns ■

THE LIBERAL PARTY IS ON THE WEB!

The Liberal Party has its own web page on the Internet and its own e mail address. Here are the addresses:

For the Internet - www.liberalparty.org.

For email- nyliberalparty@hotmail.com

Our website contains election results, the complete substantive text of the 'work-in-progress' platform/program and other data of interest to L.P. enrollees.

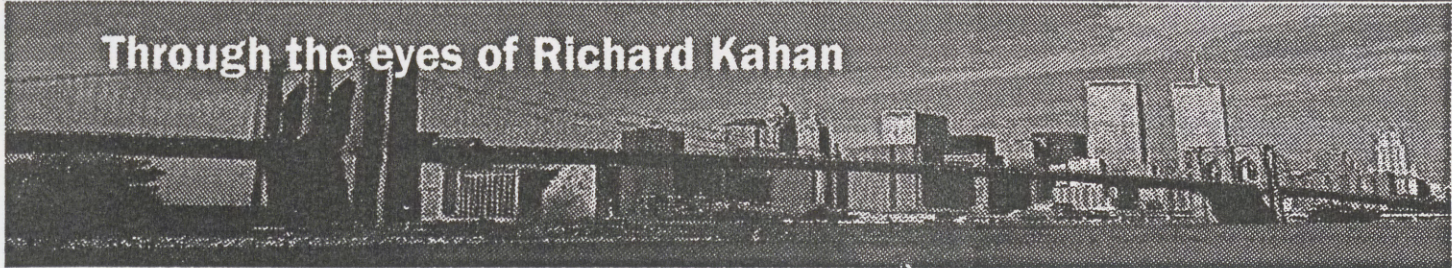
The purpose of the web page is to communicate with our enrollees and to provide information for those with a new interest in what we stand for.

Now that you have our Internet address so that you can learn what we are doing and our e-mail address so that you can reach us, we expect to be hearing from you. ☺



REBUILDING NEW YORK

Through the eyes of Richard Kahan



The first impression was strong. Not a big man but dark, intense, determined. And the eye patch covering some surgery, added an element of mystery...

Most members of the Liberal Party's Policy Committee were not familiar with Richard Kahan. Vice Chair Ray Harding had worked with him in the Carey and Cuomo administrations and said forthrightly that he was smart and innovative.

The resume covering a 25 year career in government and the private sector with a heavy emphasis on economic development, was impressive: Chairman of the Regional Plan Association's Competitive Region Initiative and its Workforce Campaign; CEO of the Battery Park City Authority; President of the Convention Center Development Corporation; President and CEO of the Urban Development Corporation in the years between 1978-84; he had initiated more than \$3 billion in economic development projects across New York State. As President of the Urban Assembly, he is leading an extensive community-based effort called the Bronx Center, which has developed plans for revitalizing a severely deteriorated 300 block section of the South Bronx, as well as developing an innovative High School.

His thoughts about economic development made a strong impression on our Policy Committee. His projection of what it would take to improve New York's very weak financial and economic position in our nation - we are last among all the states in securing new business, and we have the second worst credit rating in the nation - got right to the heart of the matter and paralleled the Liberal Party's own urban agenda.

Kahan believes that the cost of doing

business in the State is critical and that carefully targeted tax cuts could be extremely helpful, but that cutting costs and taxes are only a small portion of the big picture. He said that a real investment in the future would: rebuild our crumbling infrastructure, make our educational systems stronger so that students are genuinely prepared for higher education and the workforce, and unite our communities so that cities, suburbs and rural areas work together to create metropolitan regions that maximize our economic potential.

He concentrated his views on education to the high school and college years and on the fact that the United States is alone among the industrialized nations in having no formal system for moving high school graduates into the workplace...which is particularly tragic since 70% of our students who graduate do not go beyond high school.

He said he is seeking a strategic partnership among private sector executives, labor leaders and educators in the development of educational policies, core curricula and standards based on the underlying premise that education and employment are part of a single lifelong process. And he believes that government leadership is essential if the partnership is to take shape and stay on track.

Recognizing the historical fact that New York's cities, suburbs and rural areas have often worked against each other in a most counterproductive competition, he is seeking an interdependency among communities within the State and between New York and its neighbors. He sees as fact that when inner city incomes rise, suburban incomes rise as

well...and when they fall, they fall in the suburbs, too. He looks at the fastest growing 25 suburban areas in metropolitan regions across America and sees that every one of them is in close proximity to a fast-growing central city.

He reminded us that businesses make location decisions based on such factors as the quality of an education system, the availability and skill level of the workforce, the supply of affordable housing and the effectiveness of the transportation system and infrastructure.

When companies leave town, it effects an entire region. If education and transportation systems are failing in New York City, jobs are lost in the Westchester and Long Island suburbs. If jobs are lost in New York City, the suburbs lose residents.

Kahan never brought his message to the people of New York. He dropped out of last year's gubernatorial race after failing to gain any support from the Democratic state convention.

His experience, his knowledge base and his determination to use both to better New York, makes him a genuine and valuable leader who should be right in the middle of efforts to bring economic development to New York. ■

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Editor Jacqueline H. Wolf	Co-Chairman Richard Sedlisky NY County LP
Consulting Editor Martin I. Hassner	Co-Chairman Marc Stadtmauer NY County LP
Layout Artist Carlos A. Acha	

Continued from page two

site, for one. As you may know, Con Edison is preparing to sell the property that now houses its mammoth steam plant at 40th Street and the East River as well as related properties on First Avenue at 36th, 40th and 42nd Streets.

The sale of this property presents a serious danger of overdevelopment with the potential of 5 million square feet of high rise towers blocking air, light and public access to the river. At the same time, it also presents an enormous opportunity to enlarge the existing waterfront park at 37th Street.

Redevelopment will require rezoning. As part of that process, I'm currently working to create a comprehensive waterfront plan for the site which would prevent overdevelopment and provide for public access to the waterfront.

Stuyvesant Town/Peter Cooper Village/Waterside Plaza

We haven't yet touched on Stuyvesant Town, Peter Cooper Village and Waterside. I'll fight perpetual MCI rent increases and lobby Albany to strengthen tenant protections. I'll also seek funding to complete and maintain the waterfront park at Stuyvesant Cove, which eventually would be part of a continuous East River Promenade stretching from Gracie Mansion to the Battery. I'll also work to bring corporate resources to PS. 40 and J.H.S. 104, and continue the funding stream Council Member Eristoff arranged for "Operation Escort," which helps area senior citizens.

I'll also join the Waterside Tenants Association's fight against Mitchell-Lama conversion. What the developer is trying to do there is outrageous.

JHW: Speaking of transportation issues, I understand you've taken a strong stand on the construction of a Second Avenue Subway.

RWW: We need of a full-length Second Avenue Subway. Period. And I'll do everything in my power to seek the funds necessary to build it. We've been talking about it for more than 70 years. Let's stop talking and start building.

JHW: Finally, I'd like to touch on a topic near and dear to you: the arts.

RWW: While serving as President of the Art Commission of the City of New York and Vice-chairman of the New York State Commission, I encouraged additional public funding for the arts. In addition, I've been deeply involved in beautifying our subway stations, libraries and parks.

You know, as great as the city is in the arts, we do not have sufficient arts space for all the performances and exhibitions that want to come to New York City. The report You Gotta Have Art, which I sponsored, proves that government financial support for the arts is a great investment; enhanced economic activity; job creation and a handsome return in tax receipts.

JHW: In a sentence, describe Reba White Williams as city council member.

RWW: I have new solutions to old problems and that essentially sums it up.

JHW: Reba, your ideas and energy are terrific. No wonder the Liberal Party's New York County Executive Committee nominated you.

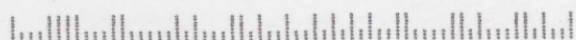
RWW: I'm very proud to have the Liberal Party nomination and grateful for all the help its members are giving me. I hope everyone will mark Tuesday, November 2nd on the calendars and come out and support me. Thank you! ■



Liberal Party of New York County
381 Park Avenue South
New York, NY 10016



Mr. Martin S. Begun
737 Park Avenue 3-C
New York, NY 10021



**The Liberal Party of the State of New York:
Nomination of Hillary Rodham Clinton
As Candidate for the U.S. Senate,
Delivered by Martin S. Begun,
Inter Continental Hotel,
New York City,
June 3, 2000**

Mr. Chairman, Jonathan Reiter ... Mr. Vice Chairman, Ray Harding ... Members of the Liberal Party of the State of New York ... Your presence here this morning is important ... because our mission here is important. Today, we will nominate the Liberal Party's candidate for the office of United States Senator from the State of New York. This is far more than a mere political nod of the head. It is ... in fact ... a fulfillment of the best traditions of this party's commitment to the task of improving the quality of life for the people of this state ... and for the nation as a whole.

Before we get to the formalities, I'd like to pause a moment ... and ask you to consider with me ... what that commitment means. In recent years, the term "liberal" has been demeaned – demeaned in the press ... demeaned in the rhetoric of the far right ... demeaned in the minds of the public. It has been endowed with connotations and nuances of meaning that its founders never intended and that we ... its members today ... absolutely refute – a refutation amply documented by word, deed and voting record.

And what exactly does "liberal" mean? – this word that the conservatives so malign. It simply means "free" ... undeniably the single most important concept underlying the creation of the United States of America. Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence, was, by the standards of his time, a liberal. George Washington, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin ... all of the framers of the Constitution were liberals. These heroes of the early republic were men of means and education ... holders of wealth and privilege ... yet they chose to risk all those advantages to defend a principle – the principle of freedom ... the principle of liberty. In 1775, conservatism was represented by the Tories, who were supporting the crown...George III. If the conservatives had prevailed in that historic struggle, we would be standing here today ... under the Union Jack ... singing "God Save the Queen."

Since the founding of the republic, liberals have been the standard bearers for all that is best in America ... caring ... compassion ... concern for the protection of all ... and especially for those unable to care for themselves. We have been the authors and champions of the finest hours in American history, from the Boston Tea Party ... to the Battle of Yorktown ... to the defense of the entire free world some 60 years ago in Europe and Asia. That is a tradition that the Liberal Party of the State of New York honors today – and will continue to honor ... in its support of candidates and causes that present themselves for consideration by the electorate of the state.

Let's take a brief look at our party's history. It was founded in 1944 by social and political activists – among them the seminal educator John Dewey and the great theologian Reinhold Niebuhr – to support the presidential candidacy of Franklin D. Roosevelt. Since that time, it has been a significant force for social change in New York ... the party not only of Roosevelt ... but also of Herbert Lehman ... Jacob Javits ... Hugh Carey ... Robert F. Wagner ... and scores of others who have served the state in elected office. Its mission has been to ensure ... through the political process ... that all Americans gain equal access to the freedoms and opportunities promised by our nation's founders and guaranteed ... in perpetuity ... by our Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

Historically, the Liberal Party has supported candidates who offer real, practical solutions to the most difficult social problems we face. Unlike the political robots they often oppose, liberals speak to human concerns ... to the poor, the elderly, the young, the marginalized ... working people ... family people. The concerns of the Liberal Party have not been political concepts ... but real issues ... problems that people grapple with every day.

Today especially ... let us remember also that, after President Roosevelt's death in 1945, his widow became the living symbol of this party ... continuing, outside the spotlight of elected office, the work to which she and her husband had dedicated their unique partnership. Presented with the opportunity to seek office on her own, Mrs. Roosevelt declined. But that was over a half-century ago. Times have changed, and it doesn't take a big leap of imagination to feel that ... in those circumstances today ... she would surely have said "yes."

So it is fitting that the Liberal Party should choose a candidate who is the spiritual and political descendant of Eleanor Roosevelt – someone ... like Mrs. Roosevelt ... whose cares and concerns demonstrate a total commitment to education ... universal health care ... and the equal protection of rights for all citizens. Someone who has learned the realities of Washington politics under the spotlight of high – very high – political office. Someone with the cumulative, substantive experience ... indeed the wisdom ... so necessary in an effective and innovative legislator ... qualities rarely found in candidates of any party.

And speaking of the traditions of the Liberal Party, I'd like to make a few observations about the traditions of New York State. New York is more than a state of the union ... it is the Empire State ... a state of mind ... a place in the heart. It's where people come ... from all over the nation ... from all over the world ... to fulfill their dreams ... to make their marks ... to leave behind a place that is better for their having been there. For artists, scholars, educators, performers, writers, scientists, reformers, financial titans ... for all who hear the call to achieve and excel ... New York is the promised land. Even today ... 214 years after its dedication ... the Statue of Liberty ... our Statue of Liberty ... raises her arm in welcome to all who would come here to make this world a better place.

Just look at some of those who have crafted New York's history and heritage. Carl Schurz, a man we all consider a New Yorker ... the man for whom we named a park on the Upper East Side of this city ... was born in Germany, represented the State of Missouri in the U.S. Senate,

and only settled in New York after serving as secretary of the interior. Reinhold Neibuhr himself, a founder of this party, was born in Missouri and first came to New York in 1928 to join the faculty at Union Theological Seminary. Senator and state supreme court justice Robert F. Wagner, father of this city's late Mayor Robert Wagner, Jr., was born in Germany. George Washington, a resident of Virginia, took the oath of office as President of the United States in this very city. The list goes on and on.

And this tradition of welcome continues to this day – to all who seek to live and work in and for New York. Bob Kerrey, recently selected as President of the New School here in this city, is now a senator from Nebraska. John Brademas, president emeritus of New York University, is from Indiana and represented that state in the U.S. Congress. Harry Pritchard, Dean of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, and Manhattan Borough President Virginia Fields – both from Alabama. (Virginia only came to New York in 1970.) Daniel Patrick Moynihan, the man whose senate seat we are gathered here to fill, was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

So what is – as the song says – “a native New Yorker”? Technically, I suppose, we'd have to say someone born in the state. But where would New York be ... and how would its history read ... without Alexander Hamilton (born in the West Indies), Aaron Burr (New Jersey) and Nelson Rockefeller (Maine)? And what would its artistic and cultural heritage be without such iconic New Yorkers as Leonard Bernstein (Massachusetts), George Balanchine (Russia), Thomas Cole (England) and Asher B. Durand (New Jersey)? Or O. Henry (North Carolina), Jackie Robinson (Georgia), Babe Ruth (Maryland), Dawn Powell (Ohio) and Nora Zeale Thurston (Florida)? My point is simple: Being a New Yorker is a matter of spirit ... not a matter of origin.

New York has always embraced newcomers ... indeed prides itself on the fact that the fabric of our state is enriched by the fiber of those not born here. We are the financial and cultural center of the nation – indeed, of the world – and our resources have never been defined by birth certificates and prior mailing address. To enforce such a definition would be to compromise our history ... our integrity ... our commitment of service to the nation ... and to the world.

To honor that heritage and that mandate, I am proud to be here this morning ... to nominate for the Liberal Party ... our candidate for U.S. Senator from the State of New York, a true New Yorker in the larger and deeper sense of that term. Born in Chicago, educated in Massachusetts and Connecticut, a longtime civic and political leader of the state of Arkansas, until recently a resident of Washington, DC and now of Chappaqua in Westchester County, she is the quintessential New Yorker. She strengthens the fabric of New York ... she speaks to our concerns ... she shares our standards of excellence.

She has been to all 62 counties in New York. In her role as First Lady of the land, she has seen America in all its parts ... and knows the hopes and aspirations of our people in a way that cannot be matched. Her travels abroad – to the world's most sophisticated countries ... and to the less-traveled nations of the Third World – have given her unique insights and knowledge. She is a mature and seasoned observer of the human condition ... as it exists in all segments of

society. Farmers, laborers, working families, professionals, teachers, parents and children – one and all are a familiar constituency.

There is no need for pretense or illusion when describing the credentials of our nominee ... no magical transformations designed to turn a novice into a person of stature. This candidate comes well prepared ... both in the scope of her knowledge and in her skills of communication. She is not a nine-day wonder; her qualifications for the office of United States senator have been finely honed by experience, observation and intellectual curiosity.

It is my great, great honor to place in nomination the Liberal Party's candidate for U.S. Senator from the State of New York ... the name of Hillary Rodham Clinton. And I want to say to Mrs. Clinton, when she joins us here on the dais ... you honor us, and ... like the lady in our harbor ... we lift our lamp beside the golden door.

###



OF NEW YORK STATE

Media Contact: Martin I. Hassner
(212) 213-1400

For Immediate Release

Saturday, September 23, 2000

LIBERAL PARTY ELECTS NEW STATE CHAIRMAN

**Long-time Democrat Martin S. Begun
to Lead America's Oldest Third Party**

Harding Continues As Vice Chairman and Chief Strategist

Name Gore-Lieberman Electors at State Committee Meeting

Martin S. Begun, a former Democratic Party leader and nationally-known expert in community and mental health affairs, was today elected Chairman of the Liberal Party of New York State, the most enduring third party in the nation.

Mr. Begun replaces acting chairman Jonathan Reiter, who was reelected the party's First Vice Chairperson. Mr. Reiter, a New York City attorney, was the Liberal candidate for Lt. Governor in 1998.

Raymond B. Harding, who placed Begun's name in nomination, will continue in his long time role as party Vice Chairman and chief political strategist.

Martin I. Hassner was reelected as Liberal Party secretary. Party officers serve two-year terms.

The election of Begun, who is president of MSB Strategies, Inc., a consulting firm specializing in public policy issues, and a former Senior Associate Dean and Vice President of External Affairs at the New York University School of Medicine and Medical Center, came at the biannual reorganization meeting of the party's State Committee at the InterContinental Hotel in New York City. The Liberal Party was founded in 1944.

The Party also nominated 33 electors for President and Vice President, all pledged to the Gore-Lieberman ticket. The Democratic Party and Working Families Party have chosen the same 33 electors.

- MORE -



Among these 33 electors are three members of the Liberal Party: Begun, Harding and Alberta Madonna of Schenectady. The electors will convene in Albany after the Presidential election upon the Gore-Lieberman ticket winning the popular vote in New York.

In his acceptance speech Mr. Begun, who also serves as Chairman of the Advisory Board of the Baruch College School of Public Affairs, said that as a reform Democrat back in the 1960s and 70s he worked extensively with Liberal Party leadership. "At that time Liberals and reform Democrats had much in common on every philosophical and practical level. We often worked side by side in political campaigns and community activities," Mr. Begun said. "Those years of cooperation now make it very comfortable for me to not only join the Liberal Party but to become one of its leaders," Mr. Begun added.

He pledged to reach out to party enrollees throughout the State and to work tirelessly to organize formal county committees in every one of New York State's 62 counties so Liberals could have a voice and be a presence in every area of New York.

Mr. Begun, a member of the New York City Parks Council, recently stepped down as a member of the Battery Park City Authority and as a member of the Campaign Finance Board. He is also the immediate past president of the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York. In 1997, he was appointed by Mayor Rudolph Giuliani to the Task Force on Police Community Relations. He also served for 18 years as the Chair of the Community Services Board of New York City's Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Alcoholism Services.

Mr. Begun said he expected to work closely with the party's Executive Director, Martin Hassner, in developing the party structure and in shaping the Party's issues and public policy platform.

###

**The Liberal Party of the State of New York:
Acceptance by Chairman-Designate Martin S. Begun,
Inter Continental Hotel,
New York City,
September 23, 2000**

Mr. Chairman, Jonathan Reiter ... Mr. Vice Chairman, Ray Harding ... Members of the Liberal Party of the State of New York ... I am truly honored just to be here among you this morning, to feel a part of an organization dedicated to improving the quality of life in the State of New York and to be in the company of the men and women – outstanding citizens and visionaries all – who make that organization what it is: a significant force for social change in this state.

My sense of honor is of course magnified exponentially by my personal role in today's agenda – to accept the chairmanship of the Party. In that context ... and before commenting on my own vision of the party's role in the future life of New York State ... let me first acknowledge my enormous gratitude to Jonathan Reiter, who precedes me in wielding the gavel as Acting Chair. Jonathan has perpetuated a Liberal Party family tradition – his mother is a member of the State Committee, and his sister Fran Reiter is a former party chair – a tradition of providing unselfishly the talent, the wisdom and the shirtsleeves effort required to meet every challenge facing the organization. Jonathan has proved himself to be a loyal and effective leader in the ranks of this dedicated outfit, and we all owe him a round of thanks.

And, of course, I must thank the state committee for its confidence in selecting me for this important job. The committee – indeed the party as a whole – has my pledge that I will carry out the Party's traditions to the very best of my ability.

My strong and heartfelt thanks go also to our vice chair, Ray Harding, a brilliant strategist and political tactician who has steered the Liberal Party through some of its most creative initiatives ... an invaluable asset to our efforts for social progress in this city and this state. The Liberal Party's reputation among the electorate has in many ways been shaped by Ray Harding's persistence and deep-rooted knowledge of the historical social and political realities that have prevailed in New York State for the last quarter century.

And there is another fellow on this party's leadership team whom I especially respect and admire. His intelligence and spirit are captivating; he thinks precisely, speaks eloquently and writes with enviable ease and clarity. In so many ways I see him as a philosophical beacon for the Party. He is able not only to address the issues of the moment – at any given moment – but also to take the long view, to know instinctively when prudence should be the overriding guide. He knows that political leaders need to be challenged ... questioned ... maybe even scolded. I enjoy my talks with him immensely ... and I suspect that many of you do as well. I speak, of

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course, of Martin Hassner, the executive director of this party. Martin, I thank you for your friendship ... and your guidance.

Those of you who know me know that I cannot resist an opportunity that calls for the exercise of both intellect and experience. Such was the call I heard when I first decided to join the Liberal Party, and it is a call I hear again today as I make my commitment to opening a new chapter in the party's history.

I do not come to this task without some experience. As many of you know, I have been a lifelong Democrat who has served that party in elected office and worked closely with colleagues in New York City public office who have, more often than not, supported candidates and initiatives that reflect the credo of the Liberal Party. My own involvement in the political life of this city began years ago as a Reform Democrat – a movement initiated in the early Sixties by Democrats concerned with the philosophical direction of their party and the calcification of its spirit and consequent lack of spontaneity.

The election of 1963 was the first of my seven terms as a leader of the Democratic Party on Manhattan's East Side, and it placed me in a pivotal position, allowing me to work with the leaders and elders of the Liberal Party. At that time, there was a very thin line dividing the Liberal Party from the Reform Movement of the Democratic Party. They were spiritual cousins, and I recall vividly the many times I met and spoke with the legendary Liberal Party leader Alex Rose. For reasons that I've never fully understood, Alex and his colleagues took a liking to me as a young Democratic district leader, and we forged some alliances that have lasted through many years.

So the roots are there – in my respect for the origins of the Liberal Party and for its mission, to which I enthusiastically subscribe.

I've said before that I firmly believe that there is a place in New York for a political party with the history and traditions of ours: a strong commitment to social justice and to the economic vitality of the state – a political party that understands the present and looks to the future, a party whose mission is not driven by looking into a rear-view mirror. By its very nature, contemporary liberalism based on solid and responsible social policy fosters legislative initiatives appropriate to the needs of the people ... initiatives that are economically both feasible and prudent.

We know what the issues are. We know that education and health care and the environment and economically depressed areas are on the minds of all New Yorkers. Ours is a party that considers all sectors in our state – rural, suburban and urban; it is a party that should promote private and public partnerships, the kind of collaboration in which New York State has pioneered.

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I see ahead of us a new decade for the Liberal Party, one in which we capture the imaginations of our fellow citizens – by being straight-talking and fearless in recognizing and articulating the needs of people in terms they understand and recognize as realistic ... and realizable.

It starts with the young. We are, after all, most liberal when we are in our late teens and still respond instinctively to what we see as the injustice of the world ... wanting to right those social wrongs. One of the unhappy developments in recent American political history is that young people – call them Generation X or Generation Y (or, to use their own term, *whatever*) – have not found the interest in politics and the political process that their parents did when they were young. Whether distracted by the material opportunities of the new century or turned off by what they see as bland and vacuous candidates, the heirs presumptive of our government leadership have just said **NO** to politics. Certainly the Liberal Party, among all the available options for political affiliation, has the greatest chance of capturing the attention and imagination of young people. We must pursue that opportunity with vigor.

And there is another group in our society to which the party must address itself. Between 1990 and 1996, over three-quarters of a million immigrants settled in New York City alone – almost 11% of the City's population as counted in the 1990 census. And other urban centers in the state – Syracuse, Utica, White Plains, Buffalo, Rochester – all are experiencing the same trend. More than ever in its long history of welcome to immigrants, New York State at the start of the new century is enriched by the energy, creativity and enthusiasm of new citizens. These are people who came to this country **longing** for a political identity and a voice in government. And they are people culturally and philosophically predisposed to the tenets of the Liberal Party. We should seek their attention.

As to the issues ... In public education, we have squandered at least ten years in exaggerated rhetoric that has left us no better off today than we were before. Vouchers and charter schools have become code words; they have not clarified the solution to the crisis in public education; indeed, they have clouded the issues. Bilingual education, originally thought to be answer – some said the sine qua non – for education in a progressive society, has complicated the progress of education without fulfilling its promise. A set of artificial standards, uniformly impressed upon a system that has little chance of meeting them, hardly facilitates experimentation and flexibility in approaching the task of teaching a diverse and growing student population.

Our teachers are seriously underpaid, under-prepared and under-appreciated and surely not given the respect that all of us in the Party – all of us in this room – were taught to extend to **our** teachers. I ask you: If you attended a public school in New York (City or State) could you in good conscience recommend sending your children – or grandchildren – to that same school today?

Health care. New York State – and New York City in particular – is blessed with some of the finest biotechnical and clinical facilities in the world. Our scientific skills are literally at the cutting edge. With New York as a resource, the American people are blessed with a biomedical

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treasury unequaled anywhere. Yet, in terms of the delivery of these products and services and the expected bedside results of that expertise, our system is at best mediocre. Managed care has proved to be an unsuccessful means of making the fruits of our scientific achievements available to the public. And we know all too well the shortcomings of HMOs and other schemes to privatize medical care.

Economic development. In its social-policy initiatives, the Liberal Party must think creatively and support policies and legislation that will foster economic development in those areas of New York State that have missed the years of expansion and economic vitality enjoyed by so many of our communities. These are issues that we can neither escape nor avoid. Those candidates that we support should clearly be tested on how they stand, not only on matters that affect their own constituencies but also on those that will determine the health and vitality of the state as a whole.

I do not pretend – nor do I expect any of you – to have the answers on all these issues, or others, like farm policy and the environment, but I do know this: it is time for the Party to consider all of these matters in an organized and structured way and to further develop a platform that both engages us in active debate and provides a blueprint for our consideration of candidate endorsements.

At the end of the day, New Yorkers – particularly those who like to think of themselves as independent thinkers, should know that there is at least one political party in the state that is ideologically humane, politically independent and true to a tradition of confronting reality ... fearlessly and prudently. Modern liberalism confronts the present with an eye to the future. This is the legacy of such liberals as Franklin D. Roosevelt, Eleanor Roosevelt, Robert Wagner, Daniel Patrick Moynihan, Jacob Javits, Alex Rose, Ray Harding, David Dubinsky, Herbert Lehmann, Fiorello LaGuardia, Robert Kennedy and John Lindsay. These are our models; these are the individuals who shaped our present political lives.

In a class by himself, Rudy Giuliani, the current mayor of the City of New York, also fits our tradition of realism and practical leadership during a time of great need and opportunity. His response to the City's crisis of management was timely and effective. Mayor Giuliani has been a man for his time, and he and his administration have managed the enterprise of New York City with results that are entirely consistent with this party's mandate to meet the needs of the day with the best available talent. With results that are entirely consistent with this party's mandate to put talent and capability before ideology, the Liberal Party has once again proved that the best political policy is the timely response to a critical civic need.

A few weeks ago, The Liberal Party of the State of New York continued its great tradition of recognizing superior ability by nominating Hillary Rodham Clinton as our candidate for the U.S. Senate. Since that time, she has more than established her enormous capacity to understand the needs and expectations of our citizens and to withstand the harsh personal criticisms and insults of lesser individuals. We can be proud of her and must now do everything possible to help get her elected.

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The Liberal Party is important in this race for the Senate – and conversely, the race is important for us – for it extends the reach of Hillary Clinton's candidacy to people throughout the United States who think about the issues and seek real and practical plans to resolve the problems that plague our society. Mrs. Clinton's health plan of seven years ago was on target in its assessment of our needs and its proposals for meeting them; it is what Americans want today. It failed not because of concept but because of process. Let us nor forget that.

As members of the Liberal Party, our mission now is to urge everyone who votes in the November elections – for president, vice president and U.S. senator – to do so on the Liberal Party line. Let us give the electorate – those who are active participants in this business of government by the people – a chance to see that a third party – like the Liberal Party – with a tradition of independence and a solid track record of sound judgment – is the appropriate place in which to exercise our democratic franchise.

I happen to believe that *passion* is one of the most important and powerful words in our language, especially when it comes to political activity. If you're not passionate in the exercise of your will and your opinion, you've effectively neutralized your impact on your environment. To be passionate is to be devoted and thoughtful and, ultimately, effective.

I invite you to join me in demonstrating that passion by working with me to nurture and grow the Liberal Party. Simply put, we need new people! We need them, and we can find them ... in every borough of New York City ... in every town in our neighboring suburbs ... in cities, counties and villages all across New York State. Our goal in the next two years – a goal that many would call unreachable – should be to establish and support formal county committees in every county in the state.

Tomorrow's members of the Liberal Party are out there. We have the agenda, message, the heart and the will to reach them. We must now develop the resources to bring in those voters.

That is my personal goal ... that is the need that you can help me meet. I pledge to you my good will, my energy and my dedication – to make that so-called unreachable goal a reality. I know I can count on your help, your experience and your knowledge. Together, with renewed vigor, we can make this happen.

We are, after all, the Liberal Party. For me ... and for my friend and colleague Ray Harding ... and for all of you – the future is ours to determine. I say to all of you – to all of the people of New York – our time is now!

Thank you for this opportunity. Remember, most of all, be true to yourselves: vote liberal!