Council for National Policy

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The Council for National Policy is an educational foundation registered under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
Executive Committee

Officers

Edwin Meese III
President

Foster Friess
Vice President

Reed Larson
Secretary-Treasurer

Executive Committee

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Beverly Danielson
Ed Feulner
Foster Friess
Preston Hawkins
Donald Paul Hodel
Louis "Woody" Jenkins
Marion "Mac" Magruder
Sam Moore
Oliver L. North
Howard Phillips
Lowell Smith
LaNeil Spivy

Senior Executive Committee and Past Presidents

Paul Pressler 1988-1990
M.G. "Pat" Robertson 1985-1986
Sam Moore 1984-1985
Tom Ellis 1982-1983
Tim LaHaye 1981-1982
Board of Governors

Howard Ahmanson
Daniel B. Allison
Tom Anderson
Thomas Armstrong
  Ed Atsinger
Carole Baker
Ray Berryman
  Dick Bott
Jim Bowers
Robert Cone
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Tim LaHaye
  Ed Lozick
Mac Magruder
Wilhelm Maier
Norm McClelland
Jim McCotter
Sam Moore
  Ollie North
Jim Price
Elsa Prince
Rich Riddle
Lynda Scribante
Rules and regulations

In order to "allow open, uninhibited remarks" from the speakers, CNP members must adhere to strict rules regarding the meetings. A memorandum from executive director Morton C. Blackwell listed the rules. They are:

* Special guests may attend only with advance unanimous approval of the Executive Committee.

* The solicitation of funds on a one-to-one basis is prohibited at meetings.

* Council meetings are closed to the media and the general public. The media should not know when or where we meet or who takes part in our programs, before or after a meeting.

* Speakers' remarks at Council meetings are off the record and not for circulation later, except with special permission. Members and guests are requested to keep in their personal possession their registration packets and other materials distributed at the meeting.

* Our membership list is strictly confidential and should not be shared outside the Council.

* Fundraising from the list is also prohibited.

* Members are asked to avoid organizing and attending formal meetings of other groups or organizations in the same city before, during or immediately after a Council meeting.
What members say about CNP

It isn't often in life that reality is better than the dream. That's the way it is with the Council for National Policy.

— The Rev. Tim LaHaye, CNP co-founder and first president

The Council for National Policy allows people to know each other, and by knowing each other they can integrate one movement with another.

— Judge Paul Pressler

I've often thought back that when we launched this organization with prayer and some very good men, and it really seemed like the Lord was with us that day in Dallas.

— Richard Viguerie, right-wing fundraiser

I got inspired by the people who spoke here, who shared their stories, got thrilled by not just talking about being a conservative person, but by the number of people in this organization who are doing things to make the country a better place.

— Rich DeVos, Amway

If you want to be in the know about the real scoop, that you don't read about in the newspapers, this is the organization to be part of.

— Pat Robertson, Christian Coalition

I was a charter member of the Council for National Policy, and it is a great organization. It has all the best people in it.

— Phyllis Schlafly, Eagle Forum

CNP is an organization which has been effective in developing links among people who ought to know one another, who are moving in the same direction. But who, but for the fact that these meetings occurred, would simply by ships passing in the night.

— Howard Phillips, Conservative Caucus, U.S. Taxpayers Party

Council encourages its members to be activists. And, that is not just to
learn something about the issues, but do something about it. It is so important to get involved.

— Ed Meese, CNP president, former U.S. Attorney General

There are very few organizations left that say 'yes, we believe.' And, we're out to implement that policy in every way we can. We need those people out there who are considering linking hands and arms with us in this battle. I do hope they'll join us.

— Jim Dobson, Focus on the Family

I think the Youth Council for National Policy has been a critical part...because what it has allowed us to do is to sit at the feet of our elders and to learn from them.

— Ralph Reed, Christian Coalition

The kind of people that are involved in this organization reflect the best of what America really is.

— Ollie North
CNP meets in Saint Louis

Over 200 members of the secretive Council for National Policy (CNP) held closed-door meetings at the Hyatt Regency in St. Louis on October 22 and 23, 1993. Founded in 1981, the CNP membership is a virtual who's who of the religious and political right-wing in the United States. The CNP exists as a networking vehicle for right-wing leadership. CNP meetings enable members to become acquainted with one another and to plan short- and long-term strategies.

At the October meeting, CNP members discussed the implementation of "school choice" as a mechanism for the elimination of public education. It was reported that CNP member the Rev. Duane Motley, executive director of New Yorkers for Constitutional Freedoms (NYCF), told the audience that his group is organizing churches in New York State. Motley received an enthusiastic response from his fellow CNP members when he informed them that he has organized more than 130 churches, which are providing a monthly stipend for NYCF's lobbying efforts in Albany, New York.

Morton Blackwell, CNP's executive director, said that rules governing the meetings are designed to "allow open, uninhibited remarks from our speakers." CNP meetings are closed to the media and general public. The group makes every effort to avoid letting the media know when or where it meets or who participates in its programs. Any members desiring to bring guests may only do so with the advanced, unanimous approval from CNP's Executive Committee. The CNP membership list is strictly confidential. To encourage openness, it is the group's policy that speakers' remarks at Council meetings are off the record and not for circulation.

Indeed, members do speak freely. One CNP member was overheard using racist and anti-Semitic language, making references to "Jew-boy" and "nigger."

Judy Brown, president of the American Life League, was welcomed as a new member. Other recent new members include: Barbara Alby, John Ankerberg, Lee LaHaye, Edward G. Atsinger III, Benjamin Bull, and Ralph Reed. Alby is a California Assemblywoman. Ankerberg is a television evangelist. LaHaye, the son of the Rev. Tim and Beverly LaHaye, is comptroller of Concerned Women for America. Atsinger is president of Salem Communications (which recently purchased Pat Robertson's CBN radio network). Bull is senior litigation counsel for Pat Robertson's American Center for Law and Justice's western regional office in Phoenix. He was formerly general counsel of Rev. Don Willdmon's American Family Association and Charles H Keating's Citizen's for Decency through Law. Reed is executive director of Pat Robertson's Christian
Coalition.

With about 205 in attendance at the gala dinner, the seating arrangements placed Ralph Reed and his wife Jo Anne, with Linda Bean Folkers (L.L. Bean board member), state director of the Christian Coalition of Maine. Paul Weyrich, of the Free Congress Foundation, and Network Empowerment Television, joined Holly Coors, vice chairman of A Christian Ministry in the National Parks, and board member of the Adolf Coors Foundation, at another table.


Informed sources told The Freedom Writer that the 1994 CNP meetings are set for February 4 and 5 in Palm Beach, Florida; May 6 and 7 in Arlington, Virginia; and November 18 and 19 in New Orleans.

Published in Freedom Writer January 1994
CNP meets in McLean, Virginia

Approximately 375 members of the secretive Council for National Policy (CNP) held closed-door meetings at the Ritz-Carlton Tysons Corner hotel in McLean, Virginia on May 12 and 13, 1995. Founded in 1981, the CNP membership is a virtual who's who of the religious and political right-wing in the United States.

The meetings are so secretive that the press is not allowed, and no public announcements of the meetings are ever made. Plainclothes security guards carefully watch who comes and goes at the hotels where the meetings are held.

The CNP is a networking vehicle for right-wing leadership. CNP meetings enable members to become acquainted with one another, speak freely, and to plan short and long-term strategies.

At each meeting, CNP Action Inc. sponsors standing committee workshops, which provide a vehicle for members to work together to influence crucial public policy decisions. According to a CNP memo, at these workshops members "formulate strategies and execute plans to make a difference on the issues where we can have a real impact." The six permanent standing committees are:

* Family co-chaired by Dr. James Dobson of Focus on the Family and Phyllis Schlafly of Eagle Forum.
* Law and justice co-chaired by former Attorney General Edwin Meese III and former Texas Court of Appeals judge Paul Pressler.
* Economics co-chaired by former Office of Management and Budget director Jim Miller and Reed Larson of the National Right to Work Committee.
* Defense and foreign policy co-chaired by Sen. Jon Kyl (R-AZ) and How-ard Phillips of the Conservative Caucus.
* Institutional reform co-chaired by former California state senator H.L. Richardson and direct mail expert Richard Viguerie.
* Environment chaired by former Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Energy Don Hodel.

At the May meeting, CNP members discussed impeachment strategies regarding presidential appointments. It was pointed out that any presidential appointee can be impeached, and that the process is quite easy. Though not mentioned specifically, it may be that they had President Clinton's nominee for Surgeon General, Dr. Henry Foster, in mind during this discussion.

Two members of the House of Representatives who were swept into office last
November, Rep. Steve Stockman (R-TX) and Rep. Helen Chenoweth (R-ID), spoke on "Oklahoma City, militias, and terrorism."

Stockman, a lifetime member of the National Rifle Association, is a new CNP member. In the June 1995 issue of Guns & Ammo magazine, Stockman wrote: "Bill Clinton and the gun control lobby were not unhappy with the fiery end of the siege at Waco. Waco was to be a lesson to gun owners all over America: Don't own firearms that the government doesn't like."

Dr. James Dobson led a workshop called "Abortion and the Republican Party," and spoke about "the attitude of Haley Barbour." This past spring, Dobson sent a letter to Barbour, the head of the Republican National Committee (RNC), saying, "If the RNC abandons its clear pro-life position, then you leave us and millions like us with no recourse but to consider a third party candidate for president in 1996."

According to an informed source, during a question and answer session with Sen. Bob Smith, who appeared on behalf of Sen. Phil Gramm, Dobson proceeded to lecture the group about Gramm's waffling on "family values." Moderator Ed Meese cautioned Dobson that this was a question and answer session, not a debate. According to our source, Meese finally said, "Jim, I've told you before that this is not a debate, it is a question and answer period. Now please sit down so we can have the next question."

The CNP's last conference was held in February in Palm Springs, California. Discussions included capital punishment, school prayer, "defunding the left," and English as the official language of the United States.

Richard Viguerie said that the battle to defund the left "will be won primarily in the committees and subcommittees." In other words, kill funding in committees, before items come up for a vote in Congress.

Phyllis Schlafly claimed that last year Congress gave more than $1 billion to feminist organizations. She also spoke about the need to abolish the National Endowment for the Arts and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

Howard Phillips called for a constitutional amendment to make English the official language. His proposal was inspired by the passage of California's Proposition 187.

Published in Freedom Writer June 1995
CNP influences legislators

Washington, DC - The Council for National Policy (CNP) recently released a report on senators and congressmen "most open to persuasion." The CNP is the nation's foremost group of ultra-conservative leaders.

According to the CNP, the legislators "have records over several years of frequently switching their votes back and forth between conservative and liberal positions on legislation within the categories of economic, social, or defense/foreign policy issues." The report states that "swing" senators and congressmen determine whether conservatives win or lose legislative battles. The CNP report urges its influential members to "get to know these key legislators and maintain regular communication with them."

The list of more than 200 names includes legislators from every state except New Hampshire and Wyoming. One senator, Bob Packwood of Oregon, is listed as a potential swing voter in all three categories. Currently battling charges of sexual misconduct, Packwood may not be of much help to the conservatives.

Prepared annually, the list does not include freshman legislators, as they have yet to establish a voting record. "By working with them a lot," the CNP report states, "you can move them to the right."

Published in Freedom Writer June 1995
Nashville, Tennessee — With about 360 members and guests present, the Council for National Policy, at its September 29th and 30th meeting at the Opryland Hotel in Nashville, honored Dinesh D'Souza, a fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, with its Winston Churchill Award. Mr. D'Souza is the author of the controversial book, The End of Racism: Principles of a Multiracial Society.

As a result of D'Souza's book, other fellows at the American Enterprise Institute, a leading conservative think tank, have disassociated themselves from the organization. Glenn Loury, economics professor at Boston University, and Bob Woodson, president of the National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise, both black, denounced the book. Woodson called D'Souza "the Mark Fuhrman of public policy." He said, "The End of Racism, the title itself a deceit, fans the flames of racial animosity."

Other black conservatives, including writer Shelby Steele and magazine editor/publishers Gwen and Willie Richardson, have also denounced the book.

With chapter titles such as "Uncle Tom's Dilemma: Pathologies of Black Culture," and "The Content of Our Chromosomes," D'Souza writes about "a natural hierarchy of racial abilities." He also suggests that segregation was a system designed "to protect blacks."

Michael Cromartie, senior fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center, said, "There are certain phrases and arguments Dinesh uses in the book that could either have been edited out or not said."

With almost 600 members, the secretive Council for National Policy is a virtual "Who's Who" of the radical political and Religious Right. The group meets four times a year to socialize, network, and plan national conservative strategy.

Published in Freedom Writer November 1995
CNP and the government shutdown

On September 19, 1995, the influential Council for National Policy (CNP) sent its members a confidential memo featuring a "for your eyes only" interview with Congressman Mark Souder (R-IN), who, according to the memo, is "one of the conservative stars in the new Congress." Souder, a conservative Christian who interprets the Bible literally, has said that his theological views will shape his public policy. He was one of the signers of the "Contract with America." The confidential report sheds light on the recent government shutdown and the battle over the federal budget.

"We'll let the government shut down," Souder told CNP's interviewer, Alex Mooney. "This is not a game over whether the government is going to shut down. This is our maximum point of leverage to insist that parts of the revolution are executed. Because if they are not attached to money bills, they will never get through."

"The House Republican leadership," Souder said, "has said that the minimum goals are to balance the budget in seven years, reform welfare, save medicare, and have tax cuts." However, Souder added, "The freshmen have communicated to the leadership that that is not enough." Without the support of the new rebels in Congress, House Speaker Newt Gingrich found his hands tied.

"The question is the details of the budget," Souder said. He added that there are "social issues, regulation and environmental changes, and labor changes" that are of concern, and, for example, "Will we compromise on the National Endowment for the Arts?"

"We are not saying we have to have everything in all of those categories, but it better not be a stripped, nice presidential campaign thing for Dole and Clinton and not have anything for our [hard right] supporters."

When asked "What would really happen in a government 'shut down'?", Souder responded, "We don't know or really care."

"What can the CNP members do to support you to ensure there is no compromise on the key social and economic issues?" the CNP interviewer asked Congressman Souder.

"The big thing that CNP members can do is to bolster up individual [congressional] members and tell them to hold firm and do what you said you would do," Souder responded. "Tell them if you get heavy pressure, know that
we are with you. CNP members can tell the [congressional] members with whom they have influence, 'if you have to vote against a continuing resolution in order to get our points of the agenda, we understand. Hold firm. This is our big chance.

"The pitch the leadership is making to the freshmen is: 'Are you really going to bring down the entire bill just because of your one point?"

On January 4, 1996, three weeks after much of the federal government remained closed, the Christian Coalition's Washington office faxed an Action Alert urging its members to pressure President Clinton to give in to the Republican's proposed budget, and to keep the pressure on the House and Senate Republican leadership and conservative Democrats.

Christian Coalition president Pat Robertson is a former CNP president. He and Christian Coalition executive director Ralph Reed are active CNP members.

The Action Alert included a list of the crucial congressional leaders to contact. It also suggested holding press conferences, calling talk shows, and writing letters to editors.

The Action Alert emphasized that the issue at stake is more than balancing the budget, and included a point-by-point list of the hard right agenda. Some of the numerous items listed included: a permanent Hyde Amendment; abstinence education funding; education vouchers; a prohibition on unmarried couples adopting children; no funding in any way for abortion; zero funding for Goals 2000; a 40% reduction in the National Endowment for the Arts; and elimination of the Office of Surgeon General.

After the longest government shutdown in history, time will tell how the Council for National Policy, and its Christian Coalition members, affected the innumerable details of the complex federal budget.

Founded in May 1981, by the Rev. Tim LaHaye, T. Cullen Davis, and Nelson Bunker Hunt, the goal of CNP is to make the member's "shared moral values" dominant in domestic and foreign policy. If there is one group in the United States that serves as an umbrella for the hard right it is the Council for National Policy. The group's 500+ members represent the hard right's religious, political, and business leaders.

Former Attorney General Ed Meese III currently serves as president; Morton Blackwell is the group's executive director. Former CNP presidents include
the Revs. Tim LaHaye and Pat Robertson, and Amway's Rich DeVos. CNP's first conference was held in Dallas on January 17, 1982. Membership is $1,500 a year, plus an additional $300 a year for Capitol Hill Report, the newsletter of CNP Action, Inc. The price of admission to the CNP's thrice-yearly conferences is additional.

The members of the secretive group meet clandestinely at specially selected cities to plot public strategy. The group's next meeting is scheduled for March 8th and 9th at the Buena Vista Palace, in Orlando, Florida. For two days, these leading political and religious right-wing leaders will gather under tight security to hear speakers, attend workshops, network, and socialize.

Ten years ago, when Freedom Writer started investigating CNP, a spokesperson refused to answer any questions, saying that the group "operates as secretly as possible; the members and officers names are kept strictly within the confines of the organization." At the time, CNP was located in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Today it has offices at 3030 Clarendon Boulevard in Arlington, Virginia.

The Council for National Policy has taken credit for a number of conservative victories in Congress. They include: the defeat of President Clinton's health plan; the defeat of the President's attempt to allow gays to serve openly in the military; the Whitewater hearings; sidetracking the Freedom of Choice Act; preventing the passage of the Fairness Doctrine in broadcasting; stopping the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) from prohibiting religious harassment in the workplace; and blocking the Lobby Reform Bill. Some members, such as John Doggett, testified on behalf of Clarence Thomas during his confirmation hearings for a seat on the U.S. Supreme Court.

While the CNP does not endorse or oppose candidates, lobby for or against legislation, or take official positions on policy issues, its affiliated group, CNP Action, Inc. is politically active. CNP is a tax-exempt (501)(c)(3) organization; CNP Action, Inc., is a (501)(c)(4), which is exempt from taxes, but contributions to it are not deductible. CNP Action, Inc. can lobby and conduct other political activity. CNP members who lobby usually do so in their own name, or in the name of the organization they head.

CNP Action, Inc. conducts the CNP meeting workshops, and follows through with reports on the sessions, including the appropriate action CNP members should take. For example, CNP Action Inc. interviewed Congressman Mark
Souder, and sent the confidential memo to CNP members, urging them to push for a government shutdown in order to coerce President Clinton to include their agenda in the federal budget.

Every six months, CNP members receive "Update on Producers of TV and Radio News and Public Affairs Programs." This publication lists the names, addresses, phone, and fax numbers of all national radio and tv news and public affairs producers. CNP members use the list to write to producers to inform them of their area of expertise and interest. They are instructed to give the media their office and home phone numbers so they can be contacted when their issues arise. The purpose, of course, is to influence the thinking of the media and general public.

Once a year, CNP provides members with an analysis of members of Congress "who are the most open to persuasion." The report says: "These legislators, listed by state, have records over several years of frequently switching their votes back and forth between conservative and liberal positions on legislation with the categories of economic, social, or defense/foreign policy issues. 'Swing' Senators and Congressmen determine whether we win or lose legislative battles. If a majority of these officials vote on the conservative side, we can prevail. If they vote with the liberals, we lose."

"Please get to know these key legislators now," the report continues, "and maintain regular communication with them. Put them on your mailing list to receive your newsletter and other publications. They are open to your information and ideas. By establishing good personal and political relationships with them, you will make a real difference in the outcome of many votes in committees and on the floor of the House and Senate."

CNP Action, Inc. also sponsors standing committee workshops at CNP conferences which provide a vehicle for members to work together to influence crucial public policy decisions. According to a CNP memo, attendees at these workshops "formulate strategies and execute plans to make a difference on the issues where we can have real impact." The six permanent standing committees are:

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* Defense and foreign policy co-chaired by Sen. Jon Kyl (R-AZ) and Howard
Phillips of Conservative Caucus.
* Institutional reform co-chaired by former California state senator H.L. Richardson and direct mail expert Richard Viguerie.
* Environment chaired by former Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Energy Don Hodel.

CNP members receive written reviews of each workshop, including a list of specific steps to take to implement their ultra-conservative agenda.

For example, at the September 1995 meeting at the Opryland Hotel in Nashville, Cathie Adams, president of Texas Eagle Forum, proposed defeating the next United Nations women's conference in June in Turkey. Called "Habitat Two," she said the meeting's agenda includes zero population growth, livestock control, redistributing economic resources among countries, and city planning. "Conservatives," she said, "must unite and plan now to be in Turkey."

"It would be terrific," she added, "to get us out of the U.N. Our goal must be to both derail the liberal agenda in Turkey, and then defeat President Clinton in 1996."

The report on Ms. Adams' presentation concluded with the following "Action Item." "Contact the Representatives with whom you have influence and tell them to oppose any funding for Clinton's White House Council on Women, which he promised would implement the U.N.'s platform for action."

Every CNP Action, Inc. report ends with action items. They often name specific senators and representatives to contact; and often ask that the information be passed on to interested think tanks or other groups; and sometimes ask for names of foundations, companies, or major sponsors who might be able to help financially with the specific intended action.

While these tactics are not new, or particularly innovative, they demonstrate that the hard right is well-organized. Superb organizing and advanced communications skills help explain the many successes of the hard right. The Council for National Policy is the group leading the way.

After the March 8th and 9th meeting, CNP meets next on August 9th and 10th in San Diego. Their final meeting of 1996 falls after the national election, on November 8th and 9th, in Williamsburg, Virginia. While CNP may not endorse a presidential candidate, its members will surely oppose the reelection of President Clinton, and push the ultra-conservative agenda. There is nothing the hard right wants more than to control both houses of
Congress, and the White House.

Published in Freedom Writer January 1996
CNP meets in Orlando, Florida

Members of the secretive Council for National Policy met behind closed doors on March 8 and 9 at the Buena Vista Palace in this resort city. Much of the chatter focused on Bob Dole and who he might choose as a running mate. The ultra-conservatives at the conclave appeared ready to back Dole if he picks a explicitly antiabortion running mate. Dole would apparently face extreme opposition if he chooses anything but.

Christian Coalition executive director Ralph Reed hinted that CNP members might look elsewhere, perhaps to a third party, if Dole fails to sustain a full antiabortion ticket.

Reed urged CNP members to become delegates to the GOP's national convention in San Diego. Only by doing so, and in concert with Buchanan's delegates at the convention, could conservatives hold Dole's feet to the fire on pro-life, pro-family matters — and, specifically, force him to choose a pro-life running mate. (Among others mentioned by Reed as not acceptable were Colin Powell and Christine Todd Whitman.)

Reed said there are "two stark moral choices." With all the problems today — welfare, abortion on demand — there still are some people who honestly believe that the solution is not a return to God, but another government program.

"The question is," Reed said, "which of those two paths will we follow?" He said that the revolution will not be complete until there is someone in the White House who, among other things, will legalize prayer in schools and sign the Contract with America. Reed, however, indicated that the prospects for that are not good. With Dole leading in delegates, what can be done to deal with him?

There is one good sign, according to Reed: "People of faith have been pouring into the primaries." Reed sounded a warning to moderates and Democrats. "You better get used to us, because we're going to be around for a long time."

Thus, according to Reed, the key issues going into the GOP convention are the party's and the nominee's pro-life and pro-family stand. That is why Buchanan's delegates matter. That is why conservatives must control 800-1000 delegates in San Diego if they are to have enough clout to force their position on these issues.
As for the vice presidential nomination, Reed said, there remains the possibility of a pro-choicer, like Powell or Whitman. If that happens, he predicted, "The Republicans will lose the White House...for having turned their back on the pro-life movement."

In other news from the Orlando meeting, Freedom Writer Magazine learned that Michael Farris is considering a run for the U.S. Senate. Farris, head of the Home School Defense League, and former attorney with Concerned Women for America, ran a hotly contested and unsuccessful race for lieutenant governor in 1992. Farris expressed his opinion that Virginia "needs Kay James or me."

James recently left her position as head of Virginia's Secretary of Health and Human Resources to teach at Pat Robertson's Regent University. (Source: Jeff Truesdell of The Orlando Weekly, and several others contributed to this story.)

Published in Freedom Writer April 1996
CNP in California

Over sixty Californians are members of the Council for National Policy (CNP) and nowhere in the country have CNP members been more politically active and spent more money than in California. Since 1988, many of these members have assumed a very active leadership and generous financial role in a variety of ideological causes moving the California Republican Party into the ranks of the Radical Religious Right.

One of the most influential CNP members no longer lives in California, but his long shadow reaches from the Rocky Mountains to the Sierras. James Dobson, formerly of Pomona, now presides over his Focus on the Family (FOF) empire from Colorado Springs.

According to a November 26, 1995 article in The Los Angeles Times, California state Senator Rob Hurtt Jr. came under the influence of Dobson in the early 80s. Hurtt, in turn, helped bring together a group of men who have built a formidable political machine by spending over $8,000,000 from their own pockets to change the face of California politics. All are members of the CNP. This group of men now consists of:

* Howard Ahmanson Jr., the heir to the Home Savings fortune, chair of the California Independent Business PAC, successor to the Allied Business PAC, 20+-year trustee of R. J. Rushdoony's Chalcedon, board member of the Claremont Institute, and deep-pocket political campaign contributor. In a 1985 Orange County Register interview, Ahmanson stated he wanted to dedicate his fortune to see that we had Biblical law integrated into our everyday lives.

* Roland Hinz, owner of Daisy/HiTorque Publications, publishers of Dirt Bike and Motocross magazines. His wife, Lila, has served on the board of directors of Paul Weyrich's National Empowerment TV.

* Edward G. Atsinger III, owner of 29 commercial Christian radio stations, graduate of Bob Jones University, and board member of the National Religious Broadcasters Association.

* Richard A. Riddle, owner of I. W. Walker, a box manufacturing company and a partner in Richray Industries, an import-export company which does a lot of business with South Korea, and a graduate of Bob Jones University.

The group has gone through several name changes. It started out as the
Capitol Commonwealth Group which became the Allied Business PAC which in turn has been reborn as the California Independent Business PAC. It has helped to elect over one-fourth of the 120 members of the California legislature.

Because of California political campaign laws, Sen. Hurtt has been forced to drop out of the California Independent Business PAC. However, that did not keep him from spending almost $2,000,000 on political campaigns in 1994.

In 1987, Hurtt, Ahmanson, and CNP member Preston Hawkins, a developer, founded the Capitol Resource Institute (CRI) in Sacramento as a public-policy organization affiliated with Focus on the Family (FOF). Since CRI's founding, Hurt and Ahmanson have provided over 75% of the annual budget.

With a small staff, CRI conducts a multitude of activities such as lobbying the legislature on behalf of Hurtt and FOF, publishing at least two monthly newsletters, conducting daily and weekly radio programs (mostly on Atsinger's radio stations), providing voters' guides, and presenting Community Impact Committee seminars.

Ahmanson's megabucks also provide support for such organizations as the Western Center for Law and Religious Freedom, the Reason Foundation, the Claremont Institute, the Heritage Foundation, the California Prolife Council, and Chalcedon, Inc.

In 1994, the men supported a failed school-voucher initiative by providing over $450,000. According to a Common Cause report, in 1994 they were responsible for almost 10% of all the money donated to the California Republican Party.

Another CNP member is assemblywoman Barbara Alby, an ally of former state senator H. L. (Bill) Richardson, a long-time Christian Reconstructionist activist. Assemblyman Howard Kaloogian of San Diego County is a new member. Former assemblyman Patrick Nolan is still listed in the 1995 CNP phone directory as a member, although he is presently a resident of a federal correctional facility. Nolan pleaded no contest to political corruption charges. Christian Reconstructionist guru R.J. Rushdoony has been listed as a member for many years, although he claims he hasn't been to a meeting in years and doesn't know who pays his annual membership fees. Some other Californians who are members:

* Pat Boone, actor/singer/info-mercializer
* William Dannemeyer, former U.S. Representative
* Robert K. Dornan, U.S. Representative and candidate for the Republican presidential nomination
* William Saracino, Citizens for Responsible Representation, slate mailer expert
* Louis K. Uhler, U.S. Taxpayers Association, author of California legislative term limits
* Barbara Keating-Edh, Citizen Alert, failed candidate for the Assembly
* James Dignan, former chair of the Republican State Party
* Dr. Henry M. Morris, retiring president of the Institute for Creation Research
* Margret Lescher, former owner of the Lescher publishing empire which she reportedly sold for $350,000,000
* W. Robert Stover, chairman of Western Temporary Services (among their temporary services, they supply most of the Santas for department stores and malls in California)
* Larry Arnn, president of the Claremont Institute (promoters of the anti-affirmative action initiative)
* Robert W. Poole, president of the Reason Foundation
* Joseph Farah, former editor of the now-defunct Sacramento Union
* Ms. Terry Siemens, a former Miss California
* William Rusher, fellow of the Claremont Institute
* David Balsiger, movie and TV producer
* John Stoos, former executive director of California Gun Owners Association, political consultant

To define most CNP members as radical is charitable. As one looks at the activities in which CNP members are engaged, it would appear their goal is the total destruction of society as we know it. They are leading the charge to deny minorities equality, destroy public education, and the institution of government. California is their testing ground.

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Cover Lifted on Secretive Conservative Group

Great Barrington, Massachusetts -- Clothed in secrecy since its founding in 1981, the Council for National Policy (CNP) is a virtual Who's Who of the Hard Right. Comprised of the Right's Washington operatives and politicians, its financiers, and its hard core religious arm, the CNP's membership list, until today, has been highly confidential.


According to Freedom Writer publisher, Skipp Porteous, "Hard core conservatives use the CNP's three-times-a-year secret meetings to plan strategy for implementing the radical right agenda. It is here that the organizers and activists meet with the financial backers who put up the money to carry out their agenda."

For example, televangelist Pat Robertson met Amway's Rich DeVos at the CNP. Then, this year, they launched a scheme for broadcasting the Republican National Convention on Pat Robertson's Family Channel.

Last September, the CNP sent a confidential memo to its members outlining how religious conservative freshman in Congress planned to stand up to Speaker Newt Gingrich and shut down the government to force implementation of the conservative's social agenda.

Because CNP rules state that "Council meetings are closed to the media and the general public," and "Our membership list is strictly confidential and should not be shared outside the Council," the mainstream press knows very little about the CNP. Through this site, and the Freedom Writer, the Institute for First Amendment Studies is, for the first time, revealing the activities and current membership of the Council for National Policy.
Secret meeting slated for San Diego

The Loew's Coronado Bay Resort in San Diego will host the CNP's meeting on August 9. 10, 1996, just prior to the Republican National Convention in the same city.

The Republican National Convention, Howard Phillips' U.S. Taxpayers Party Convention, and Pat Buchanan will be hot topics during the two-day meeting.

Many CNP members are grumbling about the Republican establishment's endorsement of Bob Dole as their candidate. Many would prefer Pat Buchanan, who has been all but shut out of the convention.

The IFAS home page lists the more than 500 CNP members both alphabetically and by state. In most cases, the member's affiliation or company is also listed. The web site also includes several articles about CNP from recent issues of Freedom Writer magazine. "New information is being added regularly," according to Porteous.

A private promotional video obtained by Freedom Writer reveals the purpose of the CNP as described by some of its members. "It isn't often in life that reality is better than the dream. That's the way it is with the Council for National Policy," according to the Rev. Tim LaHaye, CNP co-founder and the group's first president.

"The Council for National Policy allows people to know each other, and by knowing each other they can integrate one movement with another," said Judge Paul Pressler.

"I've often thought back that when we launched this organization with prayer and some very good men, and it really seemed like the Lord was with us that day in Dallas," remarked right-wing fund raiser, Richard Viguerie.

Amway head, Rich DeVos said, "I got inspired by the people who spoke here, who shared their stories, got thrilled by not just talking about being a conservative person, but by the number of people in this organization who are doing things to make the country a better place."

Christian Coalition founder Pat Robertson said, "If you want to be in the know about the real scoop, that you don't read about in the newspapers, this is the organization to be part of."

One of the group's few women members, Phyllis Schlafly of the Eagle Forum
said, "I was a charter member of the Council for National Policy, and it is a great organization. It has all the best people in it."

"CNP is an organization which has been effective in developing links among people who ought to know one another, who are moving in the same direction. But who, but for the fact that these meetings occurred, would simply by ships passing in the night," according to Howard Phillips of the Conservative Caucus and The U.S. Taxpayers Party.

Former U.S. Attorney General and current CNP president, former, Ed Meese, said, "Council encourages it's members to be activists. And, that is not just to learn something about the issues, but do something about it. It is so important to get involved."

Other leaders, such as Dr. James Dobson, of Focus on the Family, said, "There are very few organizations left that say 'yes, we believe.' And, we're out to implement that policy in every way we can. We need those people out there who are considering linking hands and arms with us in this battle.

Christian Coalition executive director Ralph Reed, who originally joined CNP through its Youth Council, said, "I think the Youth Council for National Policy has been a critical part...because what it has allowed us to do is to sit at the feet of our elders and to learn from them."

Former senatorial candidate, Oliver North, said, "The kind of people that are involved in this organization reflect the best of what America really is."

Receiving 25,000 visits a week, the address of the IFAS home page is http://www.berkshire.net/~ifas/.

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Weyrich attacks Kemp

Excerpt from Paul Weyrich's speech at the Council for National Policy meeting in San Diego on Saturday, August 10.

Before I discuss the topic of the morning, I want to make a comment or two about Jack Kemp. I have been asked about fifty times this morning what I think. So for the benefit of those of you who haven't asked, I decided I would save myself some trouble and give you my opinion.

Does Kemp help Dole? Yes, he helps him marginally. He helps him with some conservative voters, with some minority voters, probably with some support in the Jewish community. Does he contribute to a Dole victory? I doubt it. I think that the only person who can beat Bill Clinton is Bill Clinton. And that's only going to happen if, God forbid, we have some disaster in Bosnia or if Hillary gets indicted. Otherwise, it is unlikely that simply the addition of Jack Kemp is going to make any difference. Although, the vice presidency is important in this case, given Dole's age.

What about Kemp? In comparison to whom? In comparison to Tom Ridge, one of the people who was floated by Bob Dole? Well, of course he's much better.

But understand that Jack Kemp is a big-government conservative. In fact, I don't know of any government programs that he has advocated cutting. He is pro-life -- and sincerely so -- but it's not an important issue for him. He has said repeatedly, "This is not my priority. Yes, I take that position, but this is not my priority."

His priority is tax cuts and the return to the gold standard. Those are important issues, don't get me wrong. But he is somebody who does not feel comfortable with the platform that Phyllis and Kay described last night. He's on the other side of affirmative action. He's on the other side of "English only." He's on the other side of immigration and curtailing illegal immigrants. He's on the other side of right to work. I could go on down the list.

What you have now is two candidates who are not going to run on the platform passed by the Republican National Convention. And if I were on the other side, I would simply crank up a debate between the just-passed platform and the two candidates running on it and make that the story for the rest of the election. And you can bet that's probably what's going to happen.

So if you are looking for this to be the silver bullet that is magically
going to transform Bob Dole into a winning candidate, I wouldn't count on it.

There is always some possibility that something will happen, that Clinton will defeat himself. When you build your whole career on lies, things can collapse. And they can collapse in a hurry. But it's going to take that because it's very clear at this point that the majority of the people in this country affirmatively do not want Bob Dole to be president.