

REBELS AIR VIEWS ABOUT HUMPHREY

Backing Him Is Hypocrisy, House Candidates Feel

By STEVEN V. ROBERTS

"This is not an ordinary year," said Allard K. Lowenstein, as he dashed to a political rally at City College.

"One reason so many people are frustrated and disgusted with the political system is that during the Johnson years it seemed to be a great mark of sophistication to be hypocritical about politics.

"This year we've put a stop to that. People want candidates with integrity, who say what they honestly mean. That's why [Senator Edmund S.] Muskie has caught on—he's saying what he feels."

That's why, too, several local Democratic candidates for Congress, including Mr. Lowenstein, have declined to endorse the head of their ticket, Vice President Humphrey, for President.

Mr. Lowenstein, one of the founders of the original "dump-Johnson" movement, is running in the Fifth District in Nassau County. Other candidates who have so far failed to endorse Mr. Humphrey are Edward I. Koch (17th District, Manhattan), Paul Davidoff (26th District, Westchester), and Franklin Miller (Sixth District, Queens).

In most cases, their failure to support Mr. Humphrey has cost them badly needed funds and workers from labor unions, as well as from the regular party organization. But in the year of the "new politics," they feel they have little choice.

"I'll vote for Humphrey, but I can't campaign for him," said Mr. Koch, a 41-year-old City Councilman. "I'm really sad about it—he was a great hero of mine in 1948—and the election of Nixon or Wallace would be a tragedy.

"But it would be hypocritical of me to campaign. I've opposed the war since 1966, and that's the major issue. It's not only immoral, it's been divisive at home and prevented us from dealing clearly with our racial problems."

Mr. Koch's storefront headquarters at 79th Street and Second Avenue was covered with photographs of Paul O'Dwyer, the Democratic Senate candidate, and Senator Eugene J. McCarthy, the spiritual leader of the rebellious Democrats, neither of whom supports the Vice President. The words "Humphrey" and "Democrat" appear nowhere in the headquarters nor on Koch literature.

Even regular Democrats in numerous areas are trying to minimize their relation to the party and its Presidential candidate, and Mr. Humphrey has said he is depending on the "coattails" of other party candidates to pull him in.

For all the candidates the war in Vietnam is a critical issue, but they do not ignore domestic problems. For example, Mr. Davidoff, a 38-year-old professor of urban planning at Hunter College, has stressed the discriminatory effects of suburban zoning patterns.

Mr. Koch has made the preservation and extension of rent control a major issue, and Mr. Lowenstein, one of the early organizers of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic party, has emphasized his civil rights record.

The result of the lack of money is that the Rebels are counting heavily on the "secret weapons" of the McCarthy movement—youth and housewife power.

"I haven't gotten a penny from the regular organization," said Mr. Miller, a 46-year-old lawyer in Flushing. "But I have hundreds of volunteers from Queens College and the local high schools. If you count their time on a dollar basis, then I'm running a million-dollar campaign."

Mr. Davidoff is drawing many of his volunteers from Sarah Lawrence and Manhattanville Colleges. Mr. Lowenstein, who helped recruit many of the students who first worked for Mr. McCarthy, has numerous veterans of the Senator's campaign running his operation. Mr. Koch and 300 volunteers have distributed 75,000 pieces of campaign literature since the June primary.