ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL WITH A PRESIDENTIAL HOPEFUL

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Molly Waite

Dick Johnson

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In summation, as I look back upon this event that took place thirteen years ago, the impression comes to my mind, more than ever before, that all people should have the opportunity to spend some time with a Presidential candidate. You hear the comment "you can't tell a book by its cover", and this was so true. Observing an individual from the "inside" is usually quite different and you do receive a view point quite unlike what you may have first considered.

As you can recall from my original article which was published in "The Herald" shortly after my return in September of 1972, Senator McGovern made many of the moves that he thought would support his candidacy. He spoke to the Jewish element, attempting not only to get their vote, but the money behind it. He addressed the Machinist's in Los Angeles to get union support, talked to the average workers in San Diego (Aircraft people), and East Peoria, Illinois (International Harvestor workers). The shopping center excursions in Dallas and the visit with unemployed engineers in Houston were other people he tried to "woo". He visited the senior citizens in Rockford, and the working Scandanavians in Minnesota, the farmer in Iowa, and the wealthy ranchers in New Mexico, with of course the thought in mind he could win their vote and confidence.

These attempts, by this personable, congenial man, to me were "exercises in futility" because Senator McGovern, in my estimation and with the benefit of hind sight, was a man ahead of his time. He tried hard on various occassions to impress the young people, even using many of them during his campaign and his

attempts to defeat "Tricky Dick" Nixon failed even though the "Spector of Watergate" had not fully exploded. Senator McGovern was too unpredictable as on many occassions he changed his mind on critical issues.

As things turned out he did lose the election overwhelmingly; and I am sure it had a great deal to do with the soon thereafter demise of his political career as he was defeated for re-election as senator in his home state. I believe among other things today he is teaching a history course at his alma mater Northwestern University.