

Gordon Hall:

I think a good place to begin would be to have you tell me in your own words the actual background, briefly, of the National Renaissance Party. I think that most Americans who know about the party, think of it in terms of this being another Neo-Nazi group in the Yorkville section of New York city, associated with street fighting and street riots and all the rest. And I have found that in my lectures, when I say the National Renaissance Party is one of the really well-established and old totalitarian movements, everybody expresses surprise. So, I think it would clear up things a great deal if you were to give the actual historical background of this movement.

James Madole:

Well, the National Renaissance Party was founded in January, 1949 through a merger of the Citizen's Protective League of New York; the German-American Republican League of New York, and the Nationalist Action League of Philadelphia. These three groups came together to form a political party at that time, and it has been growing ever since.

Gordon Hall:

So, you are really fairly close then to two decades of continuous activity?

James Madole:

We certainly are.

Gordon Hall:

Mr. Madole, how do you regard yourself? You are the founder, of course. But do you enjoy a title?

James Madole:

Well, I was one of three founders, actually. The other two being Kurt Mertig and W. Henry MacFarland Jr. And as for a title, at the present time, I'm the national director of the organization.

Gordon Hall:

National director. So, you wouldn't have a title, for example, comparable to the late George Lincoln Rockwell who was the commander? You just are the national director of the National Renaissance Party?

James Madole:

Well, that's correct. He had the right to use that title as he was a former naval commander, as I understand it.

Gordon Hall:

I want to get into the Rockwell business a little bit later on, but for now, I want to stay on the general subject of the National Renaissance Party. Is this a full-time, and has this been a full-time task with you since the founding? Or do you hold jobs -- do you work say eight hours a day and then come home, and begin to take telephone calls and talk to your membership?

James Madole:

I have upon occasion, but for the most part, it's been a full-time job.

Gordon Hall:

I had thought that it was, although, I had never actually asked you that question in the past. And I think it's kind of remarkable that you have lasted, so to speak, in an area of American politics that has a very high turnover rate. I think you would agree with me that men and women, mostly men, have drifted in and out of these movements, and in and out of jobs over a very long period of time. As opposed to staying at one central task for close to two decades. Would you not agree?

James Madole:

I would agree, but we have one advantage, of course. When we formed this organization, it was a merger of three already existing groups. And many of these people were not youths. And there were people who were very stable in their ideas, and they remain consistently so over the decade. Some of these original members are still with us, though, many others have died. And many other new ones, particularly now, young people have started to come in.

Gordon Hall:

Are you offended at all by the term the totalitarian extreme right? Or the totalitarian right in the United States to distinguish your movement, for example, from let us say the Goldwater conservatives or even the John Birch Society rightist movement? Are you offended by the term totalitarian?

James Madole:

No, we use it ourselves.

Gordon Hall:

Yes. But I just wondered whether if, for example, in a newspaper piece, if someone were to refer to you as a totalitarian movement, whether that would bother you. I wouldn't think that it would, but I'm asking you because there are times when I've done pieces on any number of extremists movements, and while I have quoted largely from the basic literature of the group, the leadership has been offended thinking that I have maligned them by using rather strong terms.

And I will tell you, quite frankly, that I have admired the fact that even though I am in very sharp disagreement with your position, you have had the courage to say we are a totalitarian movement. And I have read it in your National Renaissance bulletin, but I just wanted to clear up that point.

Now secondly, are you offended by the suggestion that your movement is either Nazi in outlook, in relationship, for example, to imitating or emulating, I should say, the German experience under Hitler. Or Neo-Nazi in American terms, meaning a relatively new or post-World War II Nazi movement. Are you offended by the use of the term Nazi in connection with the National Renaissance Party?

James Madole:

I'm not offended by the use of the term, but I think in many respects if one studies our program, it's quite inaccurate. For example, we are socialists in our economic outlook, which few right-wing organizations would admit. But we believe that there has to be a program of social wealth there in order to win over the masses of the people. The reason the majority did not vote for the Goldwater -- for Mr. Goldwater as a candidate in the last presidential election was because they thought they would lose their social security,

their old age benefits, that they would not be able to work for government projects such as TVA. That he spoke against Huey Long down in Louisiana.

And in general, spoke against the antipoverty program in Appalachia. And this is a mistake that the right wing has made consistently over all the decades that I have been in the movement. And we have tried to steer away from this. I want to win the white working class. I also want to win business, but I think that the white working class is more important than winning the wealth of a few individual capitalists.

Gordon Hall:

Well, the thing that interests me about this though is you say that you must have social welfare programs as kind of a sop to the masses of the people. You have to do something to quote you, to win them over. You just said it a few moments ago.

Now, this would place you kind of New Dealish sense, although, I'm sure that would be not completely accurate in what you have in mind, because I've read some of your bulletins on that subject. But what I mean, is you would offer welfare -- social welfare programs to people primarily to win them. I don't think that it would be fair to say that you are doing this out of any ideology. For example, wouldn't you generally oppose socialistic measures?

James Madole:

No. It's quite openly in our program that we believe that 50 percent of the stocks, bonds and assets of our major corporate combines should be in the hands of the state in order to allow us to eliminate the income tax, both federal, state, and local. Now, the John Birch(s) will tell us that the income tax should be removed, and so will the conservatives, but they offer no solution as to how the government is to be financed. We do.

Furthermore, we believe this is a benefit both to the ordinary working man, and also, to the business man. Even though he may have to give a little, and so may organized labor, in the long run of such things as prices and wages are not stabilized by state decree, we are going to have an inflation that will end up in a depression as it in 1929.

Gordon Hall:

I see. Well, this also comes up quite frequently in discussions with the various right wing extremists around the United States. And I use the term extremist because, of course, I believe that they are extreme in their social, political and economic viewpoints. But very often, they will say the Madole faction, the National Renaissance Party, your movement, and the American-Nazi Party faction, which calls itself National Socialist, really belongs on the extreme left.

Now, what do you do when you counter the business of someone saying that you are really a band of socialists? And that in that sense, you really don't differ from the other kinds of socialists? I think I know the distinction that you've just made, and understand it quite clearly. And here, again, I think that you are emulating European experiences, but what about the average person who would ask me this question, let us say, a member of the Young Americans for Freedom who are very much concerned about the "socialism" of the National Renaissance Party and the American-Nazi Party. How do you answer the charge that you really don't belong on the left?

James Madole:

Well, I would say in the economic aspect, to a degree, we do belong on the left. In the sense that we stand for racial pride, and racial purity, we belong on the right. It is the combination of these two extremes that will build a new America. You can't have, for example, as the John Birchers would have, and as the conservative party would have, a movement that is only dedicated to the perpetuation of individual profits, and individual property. Because people don't die for property and assets, they die for ideals, they die for deep emotional beliefs.

And they also, perhaps, will die when you give them something to fight for, so that they can see that their children will have something more than they had. And unfortunately, the majority of these new conservative organizations wouldn't give the people so much as the thin scrapings off a dime if they could avoid it.

Gordon Hall:

Well, I think that what you're saying is, in a sense, not new, historically in America, because even some of the populous candidates of several decades ago, may have railed against the eastern seaboard finance, and may have seemed to take what would've been a 1960ish Goldwater-type position, let us say. And yet in their outlook, they were very pro-farmer, very pro-labor. And even many of them themselves, were very socialistic in outlook.

So, I can see where you can combine a kind of right and left wing blend. Joe McCarthy, the late Senator McCarthy was very strongly anticommunist, therefore, anti-left. But was also, of course, very populous in many of his early beliefs, and was in a sense, almost a New Dealer at the outset of his career. So, I don't think that that's all so unusual.

Now, in relationship to your party; I won't mention the address on this tape where you live, I think that would be unfair to you. But you do use a post office box. You've been here in this apartment building in New York City for a good many years. And I think that, again, people who think at all about the National Renaissance Party, I'm not talking about your members, I'm talking about throughout the country, regard it primarily as a New York City based group with street corner meetings, and basement meetings in church halls and schools, as opposed to a national party -- National Renaissance Party.

Could you just give me some idea geographically of what you think would be your pockets of strength? The late commander of the American-Nazi Party, for example, George Lincoln Rockwell, and I think you would agree, had a unit on the West Coast in Los Angeles, and he had a much smaller one once upon a time in San Francisco. Has a Chicago, Illinois office. Has a printing plant in Spotsylvania, Virginia. And even has a New England unit of his American-Nazi Party.

So, he was kind of spread out, even though the national headquarters happened to be in Virginia itself. Now, what would you deem to be your pockets of strength around the country, and where you derive the bulk of your membership from?

James Madole:

Well, I would say Los Angeles, Chicago, scattered throughout the south in most of the major cities; and of course, here in New York; both down here and upstate where I used to live for a considerable number of years, we have the majority of our membership.

Now, we probably have more actually around the Los Angeles areas in those small towns, Escondido, and various little bergs that are around there. But they're not organized into cells, shall we say. Because

I don't know the people personally, and until I know the person, I am not going to put them charge of a unit and have the unit fall into the wrong hands.

Gordon Hall:

Now, what constitutes, Mr. Madole, a member of the National Renaissance Party? In interviewing the late Commander Rockwell, and various other leaders of movements of this type, I find the answers are very different. If someone writes to you, for example, and subscribes to your National Renaissance bulletin, does he become a member?

James Madole:

No, he has to request a membership card before he can become a member of the party. Then, of course, there are most stringent requirements to become a member of the uniform section, which involves taking an oath, and signing an affidavit, a copy of which is kept here, and paying dues on a monthly basis.

Gordon Hall:

Would it be an acceptable question if I asked you just in general terms, nationally, what the membership of the National Renaissance Party is?

James Madole:

Approximately 3,000, maybe more or maybe a little less. I haven't counted them to the minute. That's about it.

Gordon Hall:

And you feel in your own mind that you actually have people who have done more than simply subscribe? I raise the question simply because in talking with John Kasper many years ago; Kasper tended to believe that anybody was a member who was on his mailing list. And I had to remind him that I was on his seaboard white citizens council mailing list, and I'm hardly qualified either as a sympathizer or a member. I merely wanted to get the literature, so I sent him a dollar to collect it.

You are convinced then that -- you figure more or less 3,000 would constitute your nationwide apparatus?

James Madole:

Right. And some of these people purchase large quantities of leaflets. And these leaflets are distributed in their particular communities by they, or their friends. Sometimes as many as 750 copies of a pamphlet such as "Who is the Real Enemy" are ordered regularly for distribution in local chapters of organizations that they belong to, not the NRP, but other groups that may belong to. Other people, on the other hand, may try to organize local meetings, whether with other organizations or to try to set up branches of our own. Here, in New York, for example, in a given month, I would say we might distribute up to 20 or 25,000 copies of recruiting leaflets, or leaflets on specific subjects of a local nature.

Gordon Hall:

Yes. And before I leave this afternoon, I would like to have some copies of the recruiting literature. I see, of course, your bulletin, since I'm also on your general mailing list, so I do get that. But I'd like to get the recruiting literature. Now, in terms of your uniformed cadres, where someone now has to sign an oath

and affidavit, one copy of which is, as you say, is kept on file here in New York. How many different cities would you actually, seriously now have uniformed men?

James Madole:

Well, there are several people from other cities who have requested to form units of the NRP uniform core, especially ex-members of Rockwell have written in from Los Angeles, and from Wichita; another points of the compass. But I do not allow them to do so, until I actually know these people. I don't think Rockwell did either. Now, here in New York, and out on Long Island, we very definitely have organized units, and these are men who have come here personally to take the oath here at headquarters, and who pay their dues regularly to the head of the security echelon, Mr. James Wagner. And he, in turn, keeps financial records, and a bank account for the security echelon separate from that of the National Renaissance Party.

Gordon Hall:

Well now, since that it is more or less -- what you're really saying is that this part of the movement is limited to the -- really, the New York City area. Largely because of the time involved to get to meet all of these people, and have them checked out, and so on. So, you're really talking then about a uniform wing of the movement right here in New York City.

James Madole:

Correct. And --

Gordon Hall:

And not elsewhere, and on Long Island. I see. Could you give me an estimate of the uniform strength of the National Renaissance Party as of this date, August 30th of 1967?

James Madole:

Well, those sworn in, I'd say we have about 35 or 40 men.

Gordon Hall:

That's a fair number for the steps that one must take to do that.

James Madole:

[Interposing] have to keep up the dues of approximately \$2.00 per month, which is not excessive by any means. And out of this, they print their own literature, recruiting pamphlets. And they also purchase a uniform individually, which costs them \$57.

Gordon Hall:

That's most interesting. I have always felt, for example, that it would be wrong to minimize this kind of activity because a man has really, in a sense, become a true believer -- and I think you would agree. And has really gone all the way into your movement, and I think would share what you believe to be your ideals and your principles with you, and you would really have that, a really firm member.

James Madole:

Well, we have indoctrination sessions here also, once a week, particularly for the young men. And these people sometimes range from 16 and 17, on up to the age of 40. We have what we term section leaders who are in charge of five men; the group leader who would be in charge of 15 men. Above that, of course, we have the head of the SE, which is Mr. Wagner, and he also will be the national head of the SE when it is established in other towns, as it already has been in at least two communities in Long Island. And it will be when it's established in other states still set up under exactly the same guidelines with sections of five men, groups composed of 15 men with three sections. So that each man in turn gets a chance to rise up by his own ability. And if he is able to rule five men, eventually, he will be given the opportunity to govern 15. And so on and upward.

Gordon Hall:

I see. The colors of the uniform, is there anything especially striking about them? How are they different, for example, from the Rockwell uniform? Although, obviously, you don't use the Swastika. But how will they differ otherwise from the Rockwell -- [Interposing]

James Madole:

Well, and colorful. They are, of course, gray -- the shirt is gray. The pants are black jodhpur pants, riding britches, more or less. The boots come up to the knee; they are riding boots. The hat, Ridgeway hats dyed black with a phoenix affixed to the front. The armband is gold and black with a black thunderbolt going through a gold shield, and a black background.

Gordon Hall:

Now, in national terms, let's go back to the somewhat around the figure say 3,000. Do you have any estimate of the average age in this area, forgetting for the moment that the uniform categories. The average age would you say of a person who is actually taken on a National Renaissance Party membership card. What would the average age be?

James Madole:

Well, that would be hard to say, because we really don't send these people application [Interposing].

Gordon Hall:

I see.

James Madole:

-- in which they could fill out these forms, unless, they come to national headquarters or volunteer the information themselves. I couldn't very well tell you.

Gordon Hall:

Fair enough. Well, what about just in New York City and out on Long Island? For getting, again, the uniform session, just the average age of the rank and file member, the person who's taking a membership card. Could you hazard a guess at that?

James Madole:

Well, I would say that they average around perhaps 35 to 60, somewhere in that age. Of course, a lot of the younger people want party cards, but then now that we have the SE pretty well organized, more of

them prefer to hold SE card. We encourage these fellows after they reach a certain age to also take out a party card.

Gordon Hall:

And what age would that be?

James Madole:

Well, we prefer them to be about at least 18 before they do that.

Gordon Hall:

And what does SE, again, stand for? I don't know that we've established exactly what SE means?

James Madole:

Well, that was devised by a former Marine who formed the Security Echelon as it is called.

Gordon Hall:

Oh, I see. Security Echelon. I just wanted to make sure we understood what those -- what that stood for. Would you care to comment in relationship to the New England area where, of course, I do the largest number of pieces for the Boston newspapers and [inaudible 0:20:16] and so on. Do you feel you have very much strength, say in Massachusetts, which is my home state. Let's forget Connecticut, because before we started taping, you mentioned some strength in Lakeville, Connecticut.

But do you feel you have very much in Massachusetts in terms of general mailing, and also members? I ask simply because by and large, while the Nazis -- the Nazi Parties made a flurry from time to time, and has made the headlines right in the Boston area. The National Renaissance Party to-date has not, and I wonder whether you consider this an area which is fertile in terms of membership, or whether you actually have membership there now.

James Madole:

Well, I think you will find that the local police department has been approached by some of our people with request to use the Boston Common. But as yet, then, we were referred, of course, to the parks department, and as of yet, nothing has been straightened on this matter. We're having the same runaround as we did in Newburg and other such places. But I do believe that before another year is out, we should be able to hold a meeting on the Boston Common. It's my preference when I first go into a city to speak outdoors. This gets a certain number of people who would be afraid, perhaps, to come indoors to hear speakers from a so-called radical movement.

But if you speak outdoors for two or three meetings, enough of a following is gained that you can afford to go indoors. Then, again, I have found that if I try to rent private halls, the owner will be terrorized to such an extent through the telephone calls of an anonymous nature, threatened picketings, possible bombings that he will throw us out before the meeting is held. But just about three months ago, I won a case here in the state Supreme Court of New York that recognizes the National Renaissance Party as a legitimate political party. This case was won in a contest over my using the Orange County Courthouse. And as a result, the party can now use any state-owned or federal-owned property that is used by any other political party in any state in the union. This case was won for us through the American Civil Liberties



Union. And the county didn't care to contest it any higher, which would've been the Federal Supreme Court.

Gordon Hall:

I want to touch on the American Civil Liberties Union defending totalitarian movements, such as the one that you lead. But I want to first stay on the business of Massachusetts. Now, you say that I will find that if I checked -- and I don't doubt your word -- that the police and the parks department had been approached. I have a memory, and it's a fairly recent vintage the last couple of years of your having a fairly active person rushing around the city of Boston for you. Except that he is now down in Arlington, Virginia with the American-Nazi Party. I speak of George Parker.

Now, Parker I had identified with the National Renaissance Party, and then I ignored him for a little bit, and he suddenly turned up running the New England unit of the American-Nazi Party. And of course, now, he has transferred and has become a storm trooper in Virginia. Isn't it really, Mr. Madole, a case very often of the movements that are similar -- and we'll discuss the differences a little bit later. The American-Nazi Party, the National States Rights Party, various wings of the Ku Klux Klan, and the National Renaissance Party.

Aren't you constantly kind of raiding one another? And taking members away? And we can get into the business, for example, of the man who was presently being talked about the new head of the American-Nazi Party, Matt Koehl. Matt Koehl was once in the National Renaissance Party. Now, why is it that Parker stayed with you a very short time, seemed to be doing something, and then, suddenly shifted to the American Nazi Party? Or do I have my facts backwards on this?

James Madole:

No, the facts are quite correct. He was invited here to New York to come and speak at the Robert F. Wagner High School, and he also appeared here at one of our street meetings. Now, I think this was a little out of his depth in the sense that these meetings were rather large, and of course, you do have hecklers. You have heavy traffic when you speak on the streets. And he had never done this before. Now, as a result, he faced doing the same thing in Boston, and leading the thing in Boston. And I think he preferred going down to Arlington and being a follower, because he never really attempted to do the same thing as we were doing here up in Boston. Although, he did make the application to the police department for the use of the Boston Common. But I have another man who is already talking on the Boston Common, though, not for the National Renaissance Party who might invite me there as a guest speaker. And if he does so, then I shall appear, and perhaps more than once. And if we get a good following, I will try to use some building that are used by the other political parties.

Gordon Hall:

May I hazard a guess? Are you talking about the Reverend Richard Hamel by any chance?

James Madole:

Yes. He did make the invitation.

Gordon Hall:

I thought that he might. I see Reverend Hamel from time to time, and I believe he mentioned somewhere along the line that he had been in touch with -- he is a rather strong admirer of yours, you might be interested in knowing. And he does do quite a bit of speaking. And in fact, I think he's recently done a

television show in Boston. I was told that he did something on one of the local stations for half an hour. So, he's getting about quite a bit. Rather interesting.