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THE NEW AMERICAN PARTY

(THE CITIZENS' PARTY)

submitted 29 February 1980

Alfred de Grazia

The American people is entering an Age of Transformation. Prolonged social, economic and military crises now engage our people. A review of party politics is urgent. Witnessing grave problems rising up on all sides, every American must decide whether the old political parties have become too incompetent, helpless, and downright foolish to be trusted with one's affairs and the business of the country.

Since World War II These incompetent parties have run the national government, each for long stretches of time. During these thirty-five years, American industry has declined in world competition, law and order have degenerated, the air has been polluted, our food-stuffs have become riddled with chemicals, the educational system at all levels has slumped, and the peoples of the world have come to view ordinary Americans with fear and anger. Two parties, thirty-five years -- the longest, the most degrading and disastrous decline in American history. In one generation, the National Democratic and National Republican Parties, with equal culpability, have undone the good works of six generations before them. The Democratic and Republican parties are neither democratic nor republican. If they are permitted to run the country much longer, the country will be neither a democracy nor a republic.

These old national parties have become TV parties, dying to dominate the TV screens but giving up little else. They will consign the American people to Armageddon to improve their TV ratings. In fact, these TV parties are War parties. They are Pollution parties. They are Exploitation parties. They are Greedy parties, that encourage everyone to grab what he can and scuttle into his hole. They are Fat with their rich connections. Lawyers and bankers swarm among them like termites.

But two-thirds of the American people declare that they no longer have faith in the government in Washington. Fully half the people have quit voting and will not turn out to vote for the so-called major party candidates in the next elections. Year after year, the number of Americans who confess to a major party affiliation as Republican or Democrat declines, until nowadays most people vote for a party only when they don't know all the names on the ballot and only when both candidates for an office are hopeless. To make the scene more ridiculous, the Democrats and Republicans in Washington have passed laws to pay for their campaigns by taking money from the people that the people have become less and less willingly to give voluntarily.

Meanwhile two-thirds of the American people declare that their standard of living is going down. A large majority warn that they cannot hold out much longer against the galloping inflation. Great industries are in desperate trouble -- publishing, education, construction, steel, and automobiles among them. Faith in the leadership of practically every sector of American economy and society has sharply dropped.

No one will deny the painful and serious condition of the country. The question that increasing numbers of observers ask is: Beneath all this disgust and degradation that Americans feel, does there still rest hope, will, wisdom? The New American Party, the Citizen's Party, believes that there is still hope, will and wisdom in the American people. Given a chance, they will seize it and turn it to the advantage of their country. Therefore the New American Party turns to the people.

The New American Party is your party, fellow-Americans. Make it yours, own it, support it, and win with it. The best beginning is a new government in Washington. Once you show your will in this regard, watch then how the Congress and State and local governments will be transformed regardless of party labels. Vote a new mind and spirit into Washington, and they will diffuse rapidly throughout the land.

What is it that the New American Party can do, once you charge it with the leadership of the highest offices in Washington? What can a Party of will, hope, and wisdom do that the helpless, hopeless and incompetent Republican and Democratic Parties cannot do? All these things that follow here, we pledge, and we beg you to join us and help bring them about:

I. To Bring the Economy Under Control and Manage it Rightly

1. Fix and enforce reasonable prices for the basic necessities of the people.
2. Eliminate profiteering on inflation by putting excess profits and excess capital gains into escrow until prices go down.
3. Set national priorities on the types of goods produced so as to conserve resources and switches of production towards rich consumers. ^{prevent}
4. Establish automatic worker ownership of shares in business.
5. Reduce the influence of mass advertising on people's minds.
6. Let private business compete with government wherever possible.
7. Abolish all taxes and complicated reporting for small businesses.
8. Break up monopolies and conglomerates for the sake of economic effectiveness and power decentralization.
9. Investigate the effects of tax laws on bad decisions and waste in business.
10. Convoke a national assembly of vehicle dealers, manufacturers, and service operators to present plans for the inevitable transformation of the vehicle industry.

II. Reform the Government

1. Reinforce and expand the laws against invasions of personal privacy.
2. Limit the Presidency to one five-year term with thereafter one term as Senator-at-large.
3. Begin to move government offices out of Washington into other regions of the nation.
4. Continue to open up all government offices to public scrutiny.

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redress with one's employer, whether the employer is a person, a company or a government.

5. Combine scientific and human relations training within new educational institutes around the country to create a new generalized professional practitioner for counselling people in an integrated way on the many problems encountered in this complex society.

V. Improve Personal Health Standards

1. Provide professional standards and status for paramedical workers of all types.
2. Guarantee every American's right to full medical and hospital care.
3. Promote comprehensive self-care and health education in the mass media and schools.
4. Strengthen and enforce standards for solid, gaseous, and radioactive wastes disposal throughout the country.
5. Compel advertisers and sellers to be accountable for their public messages.
6. Authorize an advertising and sellers assembly to set up means of including significant analytic information for all products offered for sale.

VI. Rebuild Our Cities

1. Start a crash program to redesign all city centers and build rental housing there for all classes.
2. Begin to build one hundred energy-saving, classless, and livable cities around the country from the ground up.
3. Enact a federal code for cities - state relations that will strengthen the powers of cities to plan and control their affairs.
4. Encourage varied public transportation vehicles and routes within cities, with growing restrictions upon private traffic.
5. Organize fully-empowered federal assemblies for every

metropolitan area with local officials and professional members to institute overall metropolitan coordination short of abolishing the independent suburbs with respect to their legitimate functions.

VII. Establish Equality with Law

1. Write the Equal Rights of Women into the Constitution and strengthen the enforcement of laws for equal rights and opportunities.
2. Guarantee the rights of personal privacy and personal relationships, whether intellectual, sexual, or environmental, against interference by officials or private groups.
3. Set up a federally-guaranteed insurance system to pay for legal aid for all, including federally-paid premiums for the poor.
4. Abolish capital punishment by federal law.
5. Outlaw possession of handguns and store them for owners for an experimental period of five years.
6. Create as an arm of the Supreme Court a Law Codes Panel to review and revise all branches of federal law, introducing them into Congress as law, subject to veto by Congress.
7. Expand the judiciary and fix compulsory arbitration for many areas of conflict in order to speed up the processes of civil and criminal law.
8. Introduce early screening and detection of potential criminals, inaugurate new programs of crime prevention, and move strongly towards therapy as the cure for crime.
9. Increase funding under federal standards for police education in colleges around the country.
10. Grant status as legal residents to all improperly entered aliens as of November 1, 1980.
11. Expand racial integration in non-governmental schools.
12. Require all local governments in America to take affirmative steps to increase housing integration and dissolve ghettos.
13. Limit the right to inherit wealth to an amount equal to a normal lifetime's at a decent subsistence ~~level~~ afforded the average American; all other wealth at death shall descend to ~~the~~ worthwhile organizations uncontrolled by family members as designated by the testator, but in no case to act. Federal or State government by tax or otherwise.

VIII. Enable Life-Long Learning

1. Eliminate age discrimination in education while permitting g- increasing exceptions to compulsory education at fixed ages and increasing the association of differing age groups in the classrooms.
2. Assure the affiliation of the vast governmental research and training operations with the general educational process, for mutual advantages and exchange.
3. Endow a federal program in six universities of the country for advice and research on means of speeding up and equalizing the burden of needed social changes.
4. Move the national arts and culture agencies from Washington and decentralize them to enhance the development of potential talents, art forms, and audiences at the community level.
5. Disperse all educational and scientific research presently operating in Washington among the universities and other schools and institutes, endow them to the extent necessary, abandon federal controls over them, and use competitive bidding for needed applied research.
6. Endow liberally all excellent private colleges that present inventive future plans but are now on the edge of financial collapse, extending the endowment to a new group of schools each year.
7. Investigate how much energy and resources can be conserved by turning popular activities into education and cultural activities.
8. Set and achieve research, innovation, education, and culture-support goals in America at 15% of government and business spending.
9. Encourage by all means the inherent capacity of the press, television and radio, film industry, and advertising to take on greater responsibilities for public education in self-help, courtesy, honesty, nutrition, mechanics, and better human relations between people and among groups.

IX. Open the World to Peace

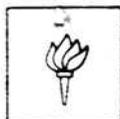
1. Support all regimes everywhere who believe in neighborliness, human equality, personal liberty, the application of humane science to the solution of world problems, and government by consent.
2. Dismiss the treacherous arguments of opportunists, and treat as opponents the regimes of the world that are militaristic, chauvinistic, domestically repressive, and exploitative of other peoples.
3. Move all CIA personnel and facilities out of Washington to a more efficient location elsewhere, so that there will be no question of interference in the affairs of government or private groups and personal lives.
4. Reorganize the State Department to raise International Communications, the Armed Forces, and Economic Aid to full parity with the diplomatic and political sides of foreign operations.
5. Install universal national service for everyone for one year in world and domestic tasks of civic and economic merit as well as in military training.
6. Nationalize and restrict the sale of arms and munitions abroad.
7. Prevent multi-national and other companies operating abroad from harming the host country by exploitation, pollution, autocratic behavior, corruption and exhibitionism.
8. Invite the people of Puerto Rico to join the United States as a State.
9. Increase by voluntary recruitment the numbers of mobile, infantry and close-support units in the armed forces and reduce reliance upon heavy weapons.
10. Undertake unilateral disarmament in nuclear weapons up to a reasonable level of deterrence.
11. Prepare an annual balance sheet with every country in the world, showing what we have given to them and they to us.
12. Begin to establish, parallel with but not to abandon the United Nations, a virtual world government of nations who are prepared with us to renounce sovereignty, abolish barriers, and create a new world order of equality and mutual prosperity.

These, then, fellow-Americans, are the chief lines of action of the New American Party. If they seem difficult to achieve, we point to the glaring reality that just as many actions -- but dangerous and useless actions -- and of even greater complications and difficulty -- are being carried on right now by the parties that are running the national government. We need not be timid about the challenges of our forthright program. Anything less than what we propose to do would not be enough to defeat the forces aligned against us and solve the grave problems confronting us. We are confident that every plank in our platform will simplify and benefit the life of every American.

America is not only a country of materials and machines. We have had the longest experience of any free and democratic nation in the world. We have an educational and scientific establishment equal to that of the whole world. We have a reserve of managers and technicians,; of mechanics, ministers, and writers; of experienced travellers and explorers; of designers and computer experts; and even of experienced military forces, exceeding those of any group of nations. When we break the blockages still remaining against women, blacks, the differing special types of people and cultures -- all with their own great values -- among us, the youth, the aging, the immigrants, the underemployed and uselessly employed and harmfully employed, and free the energies and ideals of all of these fellow-Americans and add to them all the remaining millions, then with two hundred and more millions of such women and men, we need fear nothing, no one, no problem in this wide world.

America is prepared to be the leading instrument of a new world order, and is now prepared to begin with the reconstruction of our own domestic society.

Fellow Americans, look around you, look at the lifeless parties that claim you for their own followers, and look at our plans and promise. If you will lend to us, the New American Party, some fraction of your time; and give us some of your thoughts; and explain us to your friends; and contribute a few pennies to our cause; and, most important of all, if you feel like one of us and join us in spirit and fact -- then there will be no doubt of the outcome. We will win. And the great Age of the Transformation of America will have begun.



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28 February 1980

Alfred de Grazia
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Wretha Hanson, Chair
Issues Committee
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Washington, D.C. 20008

Dear Wretha:

I am glad that I was able to carry out my promise to you and complete the enclosed draft of a platform for the Citizens' Party before leaving the country on Tuesday. I will try to reach you before departing or you might try calling me. Otherwise and in any event, you can reach me by name at Island of Naxos, Cyclades, Greece, by airmail. A message left with Savvas at oll-30-285-22213 will reach my isolated place and prompt a return telephone call.

I have used the name New American Party (NAP) for positive reasons but also because of the vocal awkwardness and negative connotations of Citizens' Party (sounds antique, jacobin, property-holders, square, anti-foreign, limited number of people). I think that a change can be made readily by the Executive Committee or voted at the April Convention.

I have drafted the Platform with the idea that for each plank there should be a back-up position paper. I regret not meeting with your group to explain some of the items that are not clear as to wording or wisdom, and to bring in all the needed changes.

With all best wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours,