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Republicans Recover From Financial Crisis

WASHINGTON (AP)—With its big money contributors scared off by the Watergate scandals, the Republican party says it now is recovering from financial crisis with an army of small donors.

Little more than a month ago party officials were lamenting publicly that the two-party system was in danger because the sources of Republican operating funds were drying up.

Now, GOP National Chairman George Bush says a direct mail campaign has overcome the setback and the party will end 1972 in the black and still outpace the Democrats three to one.

What's more, Bush says, most of the money by far is coming from the rank and file. So far this year 85 per cent of the contributors have given less than \$100 each with an average gift of \$22.35.

In August, the GOP took in \$260,000 in contributions, against a \$400,000 monthly budget. But in September, after massive mailings, income soared to \$380,000.

The September figure is particularly significant coming toward the end of the year. Most political money flows in early in the year.

Most of the September income, \$300,000 of it, came from the

under \$100 class, party finance chairman Pat Wilson says.

Wilson says that with some cash already on hand, another \$300,000 would take care of Republican National Committee operations this year.

The national committee, under new chairman George Bush, has been trying, apparently with some success, to divorce itself from the scandals connected with President Nixon's re-election campaign.

"I hope you will agree that in spite of the ill-advised actions of

certain employes of the administration in connection with Watergate, the Republican party leadership . . . will not roll over and play dead," solicitation letters mailed out around Labor Day said.

"The Democrats are trying to bury the entire Republican Party and thereby hurt the many honest and sincere dedicated people who are in the Congress, as well as many who are in the administration but who had nothing to do with Watergate."

Merrie Melodies and Looney Tunes

By TED BORISKIE

It is hard to describe the new Elton John album, "Goodbye Yellow Brick Road." Mere words, like pointless, dull, drab, unexciting, stupid, blah and uneven still leave a lot unsaid.

He came on like a flash four years ago with "Elton John," his first album to be released in the U. S. He followed that with "Tumbleweed Connection" which caused many persons, including this writer, to believe that he was truly the answer. He had the most versatile voice known to rock. He could hypnotize with a gentle ballad or fill his voice with so much raunch that he could rival Mick Jagger. No two songs sounded alike.

He has not lost his voice so much as he has just abandoned exploring with it. He comes across now like some aspirant pop star trying to sing like Elton John. No two songs sound differently.

"Road" is a two record set, Elton's first double LP. Very few people have been able to produce a double album without throwing in a lot of filler or a couple of clinkers that would be edited out of a single LP. Elton John is more guilty of this than most as he would be hard pressed to filter two sides of creditable material out of this mess.

We can't place all the blame on the redolent Mr. John since the lyrics come from the pen of Bernie Taupin, his faithful companion. At one time, riding on the strength of the first two Elton John albums, he was considered a serious enough writer to warrant releasing an album of his poetry. Now he is reduced to complaining about girls who do not bathe enough. He also has a bad habit of unnecessarily writing in the first person. All but two of the songs on the album are written from this point of view which leaves the listener detached from whatever Taupin wants to say.

The secret of Elton John's massive success and the failing point of this album is that it does everything to formula. There is absolutely, undeniably, irrevocably nothing new to be offered from this effort. All of his early efforts are reincarnated here. "Your Song" is back in the form of "This Song Has No Title." "Crocodile Rock" can be found in "Your Sister Can't Twist (But She Can Rock 'n' Roll)." The strings that graced all his previous albums are back and to his credit, Elton

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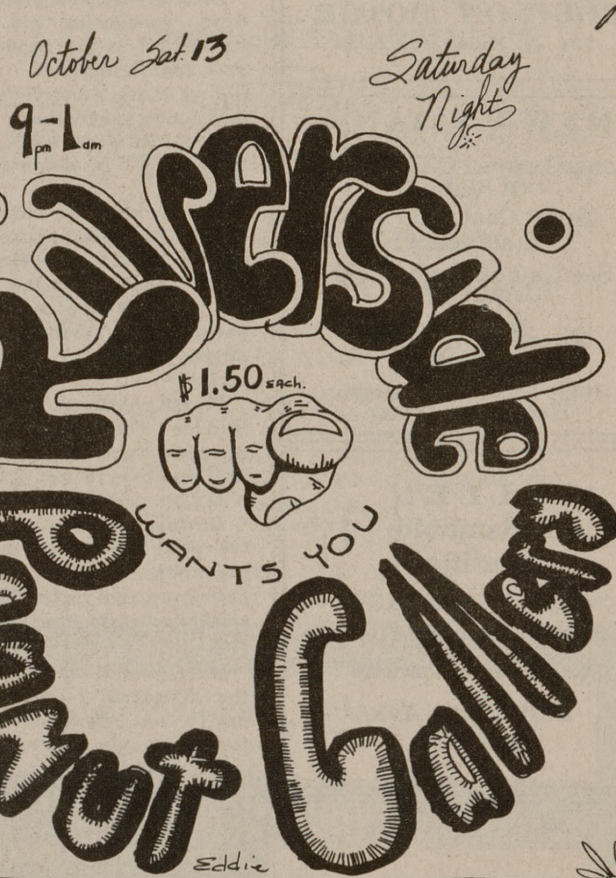
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