

STW (HA) GLOBE
 SEP 26, 1985

Kemp aides once critical of Jews, Catholics

By Walter V. Robinson
 Globe Staff

WASHINGTON — Rep. Jack F. Kemp this week appointed as national cochairmen of his campaign a well-known evangelical couple who have criticized Jews and Catholicism and insisted that only Christians should hold elective office.

"Brilliant [Jewish] minds have all too frequently been devoted to philosophies that have proved harmful to mankind," Rev. Tim LaHaye, a fundamentalist minister and author, wrote in a 1985 book, "The Coming Peace in the Middle East."

Rev. LaHaye, in another book, said Catholicism is a "false religion," adding, "You may be inclined to think me anti-Catholic, but that isn't exactly true. I am anti-false religion. Rome is more dangerous than no religion, because she substitutes religion for truth."

At a conservative convention this year, according to a partial transcript of his remarks provided to the Globe, LaHaye said, "When we say 'Judeo-Christian,' we don't mean the Jews really helped us build this country."

His wife, Beverly LaHaye, who

is president of Concerned Women for America, a conservative group, wrote in a 1985 article in USA Today that "politicians who do not use the Bible to guide their public and private lives do not belong in office."

[LaHaye, in a telephone interview late yesterday with the Baltimore Sun, distanced himself from past writings in which he called Catholicism a "false religion." He also said that if anything he wrote "20 years ago or five years ago in any way hurt Jack in his candidacy," he would "immediately resign" his campaign post.]

In an effort to enhance his appeal to fundamentalist Christians, Kemp named the couple to be his sixth and seventh national co-chairmen during a campaign trip to Iowa on Wednesday. With the LaHayes at his side, the Republican presidential candidate cited the inclusive nature of his campaign, and his support by evangelical Christians, ethnic Catholics and Jews. He even noted that his Houston, coordinator Phil Arnoff, is the chairman of the local chapter of the Anti-Defamation League of B'Nai B'rith.

In a telephone interview last night from Concord, N.H., Kemp said he was not aware of LaHaye's controversial writings before the endorsement. But he said, "I'm not endorsing his theological views. He's endorsing me."

The candidate, who hopes that the LaHayes' endorsement will help him offset Pat Robertson's appeal to fundamentalist Christians, said he was reluctant to comment on LaHaye's views without seeing them in their entirety.

"There's no room under my tent for anti-Semitism and religious bigotry," Kemp said. "But I have assurances from Bev and Tim that they are not anti-Semitic or anti-Catholic, and I take them at their word."

Kemp said he believed the LaHaye writings that had been called to his attention amounted to the minister's "theological" views, noting that Jews reject Christian teaching that Christ is the Messiah.

"I should be held accountable for what I say and do, but not for the writings of evangelical Christians who have endorsed me," he said, adding "I'm in Caesar's world running for president of the United States and I can't impose

PAGE 1 OF 2

Writings of Kemp cochairmen critical of Jews, Catholics

a theological litmus test on my supporters."

The LaHayes are not the first Kemp supporters whose views have proved troublesome for the Kemp campaign. Last summer, Kemp removed former N.H. State Sen. John P. H. Chandler Jr. from an honorary campaign post after Chandler refused to apologize for remarks that some considered racist. Chandler told a joke about Jesse Jackson's mother and argued that too much race mixing would destroy the white race.

The LaHayes could not be reached last night for comment. But in a statement distributed by the Kemp campaign, Rev. LaHaye denied that he is either anti-Catholic or anti-Semitic, and charged that any suggestions that he is stem from unfair attacks on him by People for the American Way, a liberal lobbying group that among things monitors statements by ministers on the Religious Right.

People for the American Way, which maintains records of such writings, made some of the LaHayes' work available to The Globe.

LaHaye, in the 1985 book - one of 23 that he has published - wrote, "Except for orthodox and conservative Jews, the sons of Jacob have often yielded to a secularistic, even atheistic, spirit. Brilliant minds have all too frequently been devoted to philosophies that have proved harmful to mankind. Consider for example, Karl Marx, Leon Trotsky, Sigmund Freud..."

He added, "Jews of history who have made the greatest humanitarian contributions to Western Civilization have not been atheists, but God-fearing people."

At another point in the book, LaHaye appeared to blame the Jews for Christ's crucifixion. "The Jews rejected the Son of God, crying, 'Crucify Him! Crucify Him! We have no king but Caesar!' In choosing Caesar over Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, the people of Palestine brought the judgment of God upon themselves and their land."

In a 1984 article in Religious Broadcasters Magazine, LaHaye wrote that conservatives must continue to control the US government because, he said, "a strong and free America is the launching pad for Christian missions to the peoples of this whole world."

And in a 1985 newsletter in which he expressed hope for more conservative appointees to the Supreme Court, LaHaye called for a national prayer campaign "for the removal [by any means God sees fit] of at least three of the Supreme Court members while Ronald Reagan is president."

His wife, in the newspaper article, reinforced her husband's belief in the need for evangelical Christians in government/saying, "America is a nation based on biblical principles. Christian values should dominate our government. The test of those values is the Bible. Politicians who do not use the Bible to guide their public and private lives do not belong in office."

Rev. LaHaye, during a 1985 appearance on ABC's Nightline, said, "Secular humanists should not hold political office in America, and the reason I say that is because our Constitution is not compatible with secular humanism without twisting it and changing it."

Rev. LaHaye, who first met

Kemp when he was a Baptist pastor in San Diego and Kemp was the quarterback of the San Diego Chargers, is a former vice president of the American Coalition of Traditional Values and president of Mission to Catholics International, a group that seeks to convert Catholics to fundamentalism.

Kevin Long, the director of Public Affairs at the Milwaukee-based Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, said his organization considers Rev. LaHaye to be anti-Catholic. "I have no evidence that he harbors personal animosity toward Catholics," Long said. "But he holds views that grossly misrepresent and distort what Catholics are all about."