

## The Kochs and the Yippies

Jesse Walker | June 7, 2012

This morning Matt Welch [noted](#) a disputed anecdote in *The Washingtonian's* [feature](#) on the Cato/Koch battle. That's as good an opportunity as any to bring up another interesting anecdote in the same article:

When [Jeff] Riggenschach suggested recruiting '60s activist Abbie Hoffman for Cato's radio program, [Charles] Koch seemed surprised but didn't say what he thought. "Ed [Crane] had to tell me later how much Charles really hated the idea," Riggenschach says.

Riggenschach tells me that he wasn't proposing this as a one-time thing: He thought Hoffman should be a regular. Several figures on the left, such as [Julian Bond](#), did contribute regularly to the program, which consisted of a daily syndicated 90-second commentary.

People are sometimes surprised when you tell them that a Koch-funded [publication](#) gave a [platform](#) to [Noam Chomsky](#) (who later [said](#) the magazine was "the only journal I could publish in as long as it existed"), or that in the lead-up to the 1984 election, David Koch wanted the Libertarian Party to nominate [Earl Ravenal](#), a foreign policy analyst associated with the leftist Institute for Policy Studies. Lord knows how they'd react if there had been an Abbie Hoffman connection too.

*Elsewhere in Reason:* I wrote about Abbie Hoffman [here](#) and chatted with Rick Perlstein about him [here](#). I detailed the younger Kochs' links to the left [here](#).

*Elsewhere not in Reason:* Read *National Review's* 1979 attack on Cato and the Kochs as some sort of pinko conspiracy [here](#). And hey: Abbie Hoffman might have missed out on that Koch connection (as opposed to a [coke connection](#)), but his Yippie comrade Paul Krassner did [pop up](#) in the same mag that published Chomsky.