

Several Hundred Friends Salute Roy Cohn, a Lawyer for 25 Years

By Steven R. Weisman

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The associates of Roy M. Cohn thought that the end of his first 25 years as a lawyer in town was as good an occasion as any to honor him. So last night a few hundred of Mr. Cohn's closest friends got together for a tribute that drew a crowd of widely mixed backgrounds and persuasions, from William F. Buckley Jr. to Mayor elect Abraham D. Beame.

Leading the praise for the 46-year-old Mr. Cohn was President Nixon, who, in a letter, wished him "heartiest congratulations and best wishes."

The judges, politicians, clergymen, businessmen, news executives and lawyers who gathered for the black-tie event in the Grand Ballroom of the Biltmore Hotel were there to raise money for two charities—the Cardinal Spellman Foundation and the American Jewish League Against Communism—and to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Mr. Cohn's entry into the New York bar.

They were 25 controversial years, as many of the speakers at the

banquet recalled. Mr. Cohn was a young Investigator in the United States Attorney's office here when he helped to prosecute the spy case against Julius and Ethel Rosenberg. He became famous afterwards as the youthful chief counsel to the late Senator Joseph R. McCarthy's committee that investigated internal security.

Since then, Mr. Cohn has been indicted three times on Federal charges ranging from conspiracy to bribery to fraud. He was acquitted each time.

“It's no secret I've disagreed with Roy Cohn In philosophy) over the years,” Mr. Beame said in his brief remarks last night. “But our disagreements have never intruded on our mutual respect and friendship. I've known Roy and I've known his family for many years, Today in this day, we should respect our differences, but we should also recognize where we are in common agreement.”

Mr. Buckley praised Mr. Cohn last night as a man who “had triumphed over his tormentors, and he deserves the credit we are here to give him so enthusiastically.”

Among those present were Frank G. Rossetti, the New York County party leader, who sat at a table with his predecessor, Carmine G. DeSapio. At another table, Jerry Finkelstein, commissioner of the Port Authority, sat with his son, Assemblyman Andrew Stein of Manhattan.

Also in attendance were State Supreme Court Justices John M. Murtagh, Hyman Korn, Thomas Hughes, Alvin F. Klein, Joseph Marrow and Alfred M. Ascione.

Representing Cardinal Cooke was Monsignor Theodore E. McCarrick,

his personal secretary.

“It's wonderful to be be with my friends,” Mr. Cohn said, as he moved around the crowd last night. “There Is such a wide range of political opinions here. We all tolerate each other in true friendship. I know, there are 36 people out there on three juries who voted a certain way. And you know, all in all, this country has been very kind to me. I'm a grateful man.”