

Interest Centers on November Polls

GOP Leaders Intrigue Press With Election Prospects

By BAUKHAGE
News Analyst and Commentator.

WASHINGTON, D. C. — This weather—in Washington and elsewhere—develops more heat than light. That's a trite phrase, I know, but it's apropos because heat, rather than light, is always the keyword at this season, politically speaking. Congress accomplished its fade-out rather gracefully, I thought, even if they must have prayed for forgiveness for "the things we have left undone" as fervently as for the things they did which didn't sit too well with their consciences.



And now the voice of the voter is heard in the land. Radio and newspaper correspondents are being courted by both political parties. For example, recently, a crowd of radio folk was given a luncheon-table look at the vote-getting machinery behind the Republican lines. Our hosts were Republican Chairman Carroll B. Reece at one end of the table, and Republican Campaign Manager Clarence Brown at the other. (A similar jaunt into Democratic territory will be reported in a future column.)

Reece Quiet, Popular Chief

Reece is a slight, greying, quiet-voiced man whose Tennessee accent reminds one occasionally of Claude Pepper in one of Claude's oratorical moments if you can catch him in one. (Personal confession: I like Pepper and Reece both and so do a lot of people who would be the first to say, "the views of these notables do not NECESSARILY agree with those of the undersigned.")

won Reece his decorations qualified him for his present job. He certainly doesn't lack assurance even if he doesn't rattle sabers in expressing it.

But we are not talking about Reece. We are talking about his job. He is out on the hustings, although his trip, which will take him as far west as Seattle and as far south as Georgia, is mildly camouflaged as a vacation. Anyhow Mrs. and Miss Reece are going along, and a part of the time will be spent at a resort in the Rockies.

Backstopping Reece here in the capital where nobody votes, but where a lot of writers and talkers remain, will be Clarence Brown, representative from the Seventh district of Ohio, a state which might be called a latter-day mother of presidents and which right now is looking hopefully over the patterns of maternity gown.

I have a fellow feeling for Representative Brown, tinged perhaps with the natural deference a reporter always has for a publisher. Brown publishes several country newspapers (that's the way he put it himself in the congressional directory) whereas I merely write for "several" besides this one. Also he has three more children than I have. He and I once met on the debating platform, and while I would naturally never admit that I didn't present the best argument, I will concede somewhat grudgingly that Brown's resounding oratory won him the most applause. We

Brown and Reece complement each other very well. Reece is slight, dignified, soft-spoken. Brown is large, loud enough to be heard in the back row without using the PA system, and half-fellow-well-met. As "campaign manager" he is going to sweat it out (that is literal) with the rest of the Washingtonians who don't vacate in the summer.

He was debating selective service, and I hasten to explain that former Senator (now Supreme court justice) Burton and I had the unpopular side. Anyhow, Brown (may-the-best-man-win) won.

Reece and Brown didn't talk on-the-record at the luncheon but I have a good idea of how things looked to the Republicans at that congenial gathering of radio folk. If the elections were held as of that moment, they claimed, the Republicans would win a majority of seats in the house of representatives and would make very heavy inroads on the Democratic majority in the senate. Since then many of the primary battles have been fought and I'll report the reactions later.

Gallup Poll Heartens GOP

In the first place I understand that the Republicans took considerable satisfaction in the Gallup poll which showed that, excluding the one-party Democratic states, 46 per cent of the persons interviewed showed a Democratic preference and 54 per cent a Republican preference.

The GOP leaders believed they had a good, fighting chance to win 15 to 17 senatorial seats from their opponents. In New York, they say Governor Dewey's good record and the campaign he is planning ought to pull in a Republican senator (they won't say whom). They believe Democratic Senator Mead will have to run for the governorship.

They felt they had a chance in Delaware and West Virginia and that if the ballots were cast at that moment they would win in Mis-



Carroll B. Reece and Rep. Brown

souri (I'm still talking about the senatorial race). They called Montana and Washington probabilities rather than mere possibilities.

O'Mahoney knows he has a fight, they say, and they believe the Republican candidate, John Henderson, has a chance against the popular gentleman from Wyoming.

I heard a lot of talk, too, about the interesting possibility in Connecticut where Repr. Clare Luce was expected to oppose former OPA Administrator Chester Bowles, which would be a colorful affair with all the technical skill of her publisher husband, and all the skill of an advertising man, Mr. Bowles, pitted against each other.

As to the house of representatives, Republican machinery has been grinding in at least 75 districts.

O' Kentuck Bloody Battleground

Kentucky was catalogued as still a dark and bloody battleground. At the time of the luncheon, Representative May's followers seemed to feel, according to press reports, that he was a martyr. If something should come out to change their minds on that score, he might go down to defeat. And we are reminded that, as one Republican put it: "every 20 years or so Kentucky changes its mind."

What the Republicans seem to count on most is the natural reaction, "throw the rascals out" theory which Americans always have reverted to after so long a period of any party's incumbency. In addition, say the GOPundits, there are the usual mistakes of the party in power which result in the well known attitude of one of Clarence Brown's constituents who told him:

"I don't know who I'm FOR, but I know damned well who I'm AGAIN."

'ENCOURAGED' DESPITE LAGS Vet Housing May Reach Goal

WASHINGTON.—Despite reports indicating building lags throughout the nation, Housing Expediter Wilson Wyatt predicted that his veterans' housing program will achieve its goal of getting 1,200,000 temporary and permanent homes started in 1946.

Wyatt's prediction was based on a report which he characterized as "encouraging" although it contained facts indicating the picture is not too bright. The report showed:

A total of 496,000 family units of all types were started in the first half of the year. To achieve the 1,200,000 goal, the number of "starts" will have to average 117,000 per month in the last half of the year compared with an average of 83,000 in the first half and with 92,500 in June.

First Slump Reported.
In June, for the first time since January, "starts" of conventional



NEW UNIFORMS ON PARADE... The navy's new uniforms went on test parade at Treasure Island, Calif., navy base. From left to right, sailors are shown wearing the new dress blues, old garb, new undress blues and new work clothes. Major Improvement, sailors agreed, lies in the fact trousers now have four pockets.

NEWS REVIEW

New Farm Plan Studied; Death of UNRRA Looms

UNRRA: U. S. to Quit

Following close upon the blast of Senators Butler (Rep., Neb.) and Ellender (Dem., La.) against use of United Nations relief and rehabilitation funds abroad, Assistant Secretary of State William L. Clayton told the fifth UNRRA council meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, that the U. S. would not contribute additional funds to the agency.

While the senators had charged that UNRRA supplies were being used to bolster foreign governments, Clayton stated that the U. S. was withdrawing future assistance to the agency because the period of immediate postwar impoverishment was passing and the U. S. and other countries had supplied sufficient credit mediums for financing recovery.

In all, the U. S. provided no less than 2 1/2 billion dollars of aid to UNRRA, sufficient for supplies to fill 2,000 cargo ships.

FARM PROGRAM: New Proposals

A new farm program calling for a combination of sound open market practices and governmental assistance was proposed by the special house committee on postwar economic policy and planning headed by Representative Colmer (Dem., Miss.).

In recommending changes in present farm legislation, the committee urged:

Greater flexibility be allowed in farm prices, especially toward each other.

Supply and demand be given greater opportunity to determine farm prices rather than artificial controls.

Re-examination of the out-moded parity price formula designed to give farmers an income on a par with industrial workers.

Concentration on a long rather than a short range farm program.

For establishing a "floor" under farm prices to prevent a disastrous drop, the committee proposed a support program guaranteeing producers "60, 70 or 80 per cent of parity"; a supplemental payment during hard times to assure a certain percentage of pre-depression income, and limits on the rate of decline for a specified commodity in a year.

CIO:

To Fight Prices

Remaining militant in its postwar program to aid the interests of more than five million members, the CIO announced an all-out drive on rising prices to prevent further depreciation of the workers' dollar.

Revealing that it had given up plans for another big wage drive to win further increases to offset rising living costs, the union stated that demands for more money probably would result in still higher prices.

In forecasting additional price rises of 15 to 20 per cent during the next few months, the CIO said that the corresponding reduction in purchasing power of the consumer's dollar would represent a wage cut of 17 per cent. A successful consumer strike against higher prices would terminate current inflation within the next 18 months at the worst and three to six months at the best, it said.



WAR INSPECTION... Separated by the war, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Manks found inspiration for a unique business venture. Mrs. Manks, the former Jane Fauntz of swimming fame, sculpted small figurines of her daughter to send to her husband, former football star. Now they are in business selling figurines.



SO FAR 1946 has been an amazing season in two ways—for its brilliancy and its failures. For its Mexican—and the good that Mexico has done for ball players everywhere.

The Red Sox, Joe Louis and Assault have taken full charge of the spotlight side. They have been the outstanding champions. Golf has no entry with Ben Hogan and Byron Nelson, the two leading money winners,

trailing Lloyd Mangrum in the U. S. Open. We seem to have the best tennis players but a Frenchman is still the Wimbledon winner.

What has happened in the first year after the war? Except in the way of record attendances and general enthusiasm, the aftermath of World War II hasn't even approached the aftermath of World War I. Not in the way of competitive class.

Can you name competitors today who have anything like the combined class of Babe Ruth, Jack Dempsey, Bobby Jones, Bill Tilden, Tommy Hitchcock, Rogers Hornsby, Earl Sande, Walter Hagen, Gene Sarazen, Red Grange, Man o' War? We have Joe Louis. But Joe Louis has been the world's heavyweight champion for over nine years.

We have Ted Williams, but Ted Williams hit over .400 before the last war. He was a great ball player, or at least a great hitter, before World War II ever developed a slight fever. Sammy Baugh and Sid Luckman go well back before World War II.

The brief postwar period has developed a wild stampede to the box office. But very little beyond that. In baseball the batting stars today include Ted Williams, Dixie Walker, Dom DiMaggio, Vernon, Musial, Hank Greenberg and a few more. But these are veterans—most of them. Hal Newhouser of the Tigers and Rocky Graziano have been the two leading stars since 1941.

Against this list I haven't the heart to give you the names of those who have faded, folded up or slipped badly—yet, returning from army and navy assignments, fell far behind. The outstanding performance of 1946—so far—has been the Red Sox, plus Ted Williams. Plus the Dodgers' fine showing against heavy odds, player for player. The second nomination is Joe Louis—who against Billy Conn had almost no opposition.

Ben Hogan and Byron Nelson are the two major money winners in golf—but Lloyd Mangrum is Open champion and Herman Keiser is the Master's winner. And Sammy Snead is British champion. It is all very much confused, very badly tangled up.

Most Class in Football

In my opinion the feature part of 1946 won't belong to baseball, racing, boxing, basketball, track, golf or tennis. It will belong to football. This applies to both the college teams and the pros. This first applies to the quality of competition. There will be far more class to football than any other postwar sport can even approach.

I understand that over 100,000 applications had been made for the Army-Michigan game back in June. There will be over 200,000 ticket applications for this contest at Ann Arbor. Applications for the Army-Notre Dame game will pass the 300,000 mark before September. Army-Notre Dame and Army-Navy together could leave the 500,000 mark behind—if there was only space enough.

The Navy-Georgia Tech game in Atlanta already has two times the seat applications that Atlanta can handle. Notre Dame, Army, Navy and Michigan will be a triple sell-out for almost every contest. The same thing will happen to Southern California and UCLA on the west coast. Also to St. Mary's and others.

But I doubt that Notre Dame will have the team Frank Leahy had in 1943 or that Army will have the team Red Blaik had in 1944 or 1945. The talent hasn't improved, but the crowd interest has. Veterans coming from army and navy service have proved nothing. Some have been better—others have taken a big dip. This has been true in baseball—and it will be just as true in college and pro football.

There will be stars from other years who will shine—and there will be stars from other years who will be flops.

There will be a professional football entanglement that will leave you gasping—and more than a few pocketbooks flatter than a thin plank. In looking on ahead you will also see a big revival in tennis interest—and one of the hottest amateur golf championships any galloping member of the Thundering Herd has ever known. Bud Ward—Frank Stranahan—Cary Middlecoff—golfers good enough to beat the Nelsons and the Hogans in major tests, plus young stars moving up. This has been a rather dizzy season so far, up and down.

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CABINS FOR RENT Clean housekeeping cabins with electricity available for August and September. Lady of the Lake Resort Park Rad., Minn.

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After the rockers have been removed, it may be made to change character to suit the material used for cushion and back covers.

This idea is from Home-Making Booklet No. 5 which also contains more than 30 pages of illustrated directions for other things to make from things on hand and inexpensive new materials. Readers may get a copy of Book 5 postpaid for 15 cents by writing to:

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Just Casting About

Fred MacMurray has been chosen to play the male lead in "The Egg and I." We rather looked for the part to go to "Hennery" Fonda or Walter Pidgeon.

Tom Drake and Donald Duck would have sounded okay in the egg play, too.

And for the right touch, what screen actress would fit better in the female lead than Evelyn Laye.

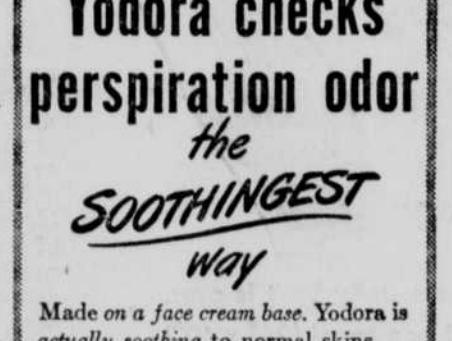
Cary Grant plays Cole Porter in "Night and Day" and if he looks or acts like Porter then Monty Woolley is the inheritor of Tad Jones and the ideal man to play the late Arthur T. Hadley would be Jimmy Durante.

Elmer Twichell has one of those new house-to-auto telephones. Absentmindedly he took it in the other day for a grease job.

THE INCREDIBLE
Count that day lost
Beyond your walls
That sees no headline
"Russia Assaults."

Twenty-six ball players have just met with big league club owners on a new deal including better wages, pensions, etc.

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As he came up to the plate—
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