

Election Forecast, Comment

By DICK FELLMAN
Gubernatorial



Courtesy Lincoln Star
Wherry

The personification of a dull, dry uninspiring political race is the Nebraska gubernatorial contest. Politically speaking, there seems to be little actual battle, for Vic Anderson, hale, hearty, well-met fellow that he is, undoubtedly will win popular support. And why shouldn't he? For months, now, during the campaign, Anderson has remained uncommitted on the really controversial issues of the state. He has toured with the Republican Caravan and campaigned vigorously for office, but through fire and flame he has said absolutely nothing.

Anderson's answer that the Legislature must first decide a question does not consist of a positive plan. The Governor should offer some concrete suggestions. He should be an executive. He should also be a leader. To do this, he must have some ideas.

Six Year Senate

During a normal election year, Nebraska could expect one senatorial contest. This year the race should be to fulfill the term that Ken Wherry was elected to in 1948.

This situation has been complicated by a series of deaths and appointments.

When Wherry died, Fred Seaton was appointed to serve until the '52 election. In 1952 Dwight Griswold was elected to finish the term. He died during the 83rd Congress and was followed by Mrs. Eve Bowring, an appointee.

The "pee-wee" senatorial race will finish this term until the new Congress officially convenes in January. At that time, the winner in the Curtis-Neville race will occupy the harassed seat from Nebraska.

This race is among the very poorest in the nation. The Nebraskan would prefer to see neither of these men elected.

To vote for Keith Neville seems to us a little odd. True, Neville was the "boy Governor," but this was in 1918. Since then, for reasons un-revealed, he has remained out of active politics. It seems just a little bit unreal to be sending a man to the senate, with no previous outstanding qualifications, who when he finishes his term will be a freshman senator, age 32.

Carl Curtis, on the other hand, is a man of experience. But what has he done with it?

Curtis has served, rather obscurely, for the past 16 years. Few know anything god or bad about him. His one positive accomplishment seems to be that he has done a good job of keeping his political fences mended. This hardly qualifies a man for re-election, this time as a U.S. Senator.

It is foolish to suggest that a vote for Neville would be a vote against Curtis. It would be nice if this were true, but politics have little similarity to Alice's Wonderland.

It requires little guess work to forecast a Curtis win. The one saving fact is that he will be the junior senator from Nebraska, and the winner in the Hruska-Green contest, will have the honor of being the senior senator.

'Pee-Wee' Race

Nebraska's "pee-wee" Senate race is attracting some small bit of national attention. The anomaly of electing three U.S. Senators by itself would do this.

Add to this the large number of pollsters that have made predictions on the national race, each of them requiring special explanation of this Nebraska oddity.

And to complete the novelty of the election, add the fact that a woman is running and appears to be far ahead by all forecasters, thus adding another representative of the fairer sex to the highest legislative assembly in the nation.

It is a nice gesture on the part of Nebraska to give Mrs. George P. Abel the honor of being a U.S. Senator. She is the wife of a successful businessman, a mother who can be justifiably proud of her family and an active woman in the world about her.

Other than this, she has no qualifications, but she needs no more. The "let's send a woman" appeal plus the aggressiveness of her campaigning, notwithstanding her attitude toward the Nebraska, almost assures her election.

William H. Meier, the Democratic candidate, has put up a weak fight. Whether or not Meier would actually make a good Senator still remains a matter of conjecture. But the fact he is a man, and a Democrat at that, is quite a stone to overturn. Meier would be more than a Hercules if he wins.

Consolation and some solace can be found by realizing that this short-short-term Senator will have little legislative influence. The winner will vote in organizing Congress, but the Republicans will more than likely take this contest and the one for the succeeding full term, so this means little.

There is little choice in this campaign. It will be nice, though, to send another woman to Washington, new won't it?

The Nebraskan does not ridicule Anderson's claim that he is qualified for the job because of previous business experience. But it does not follow that success in relatively small-scale business is paramount to success in State government.

Ritchie, the Democratic candidate for the Governor's seat has little chance of winning. This, however, cannot be pitied.

Ritchie has had no experience in elected positions in government. He is retired from active law practice. It is not too much to suggest that Ritchie has entered the active political scene too late.

Ritchie's one golden quality is that he has made a definite stand on the most vital issue of the State—the tax question. The "added-value tax" proposed by Ritchie, however, beyond being difficult to understand would be more difficult to enforce and administer.

The pity of the race is that neither man has outstanding qualifications for the position of Governor. Anderson will be elected, and probably re-elected, by merely keeping quiet and playing a little politics. Herein lies the pity.

Four Year Senate

Amid the bleak, one-crop political prairie that is Nebraska, there remains one field where the sun still shines.

The race for the short-term Senate seat, vacated by the death of Hugh Butler, between Roman Hruska and James Green, both Omaha attorneys, the former currently Representative of the Second Congressional District, can be viewed with pride.

Both men running are capable, fair and seemingly very honest. Here is the spot where a mistake was made. These two men, if they would have run for the two different Senate seats, might have both been elected. Certainly, they would have both admirably served the State of Nebraska. It is sad that one of them must be eliminated.

If each of the contests in Nebraska, and the rest of the nation, had men of this caliber running for public office, cries of indifference and inadequacy would be ill-founded. That this is not the case, in actuality, is an indisputable, yet sad, commentary on American politics.

Hruska seems to be the favorite. After all, he is a Republican. There is more to him than this.

Hruska has served his constituency well the last two years. His record in Congress has been one of solid committee work, which is the hard-core of all legislation. Hruska has been outstanding in this "behind the scene" type of labor. Hruska's campaign claim that the most important function of a legislative group is one of an investigative and judicial nature is true. In this area he has excelled.

Green, it must be added, cannot be discounted until the final ballots are in. In Douglas and Lancaster Counties have a heavy Democratic vote, Green could easily be elected.

For a newcomer to politics, Green has made his name a slogan across the state. He appears to be a very polished speaker. Generally, Green gives hope of becoming another "national" senator.

The issue here narrows down to one of degrees in the two men's politics. Hruska is the more conservative, and Green is the more liberal. Both have their advantages and drawbacks. It is up to the voters to decide. The more metropolitan areas of the State will determine the winner.

Afterthoughts Mental Health

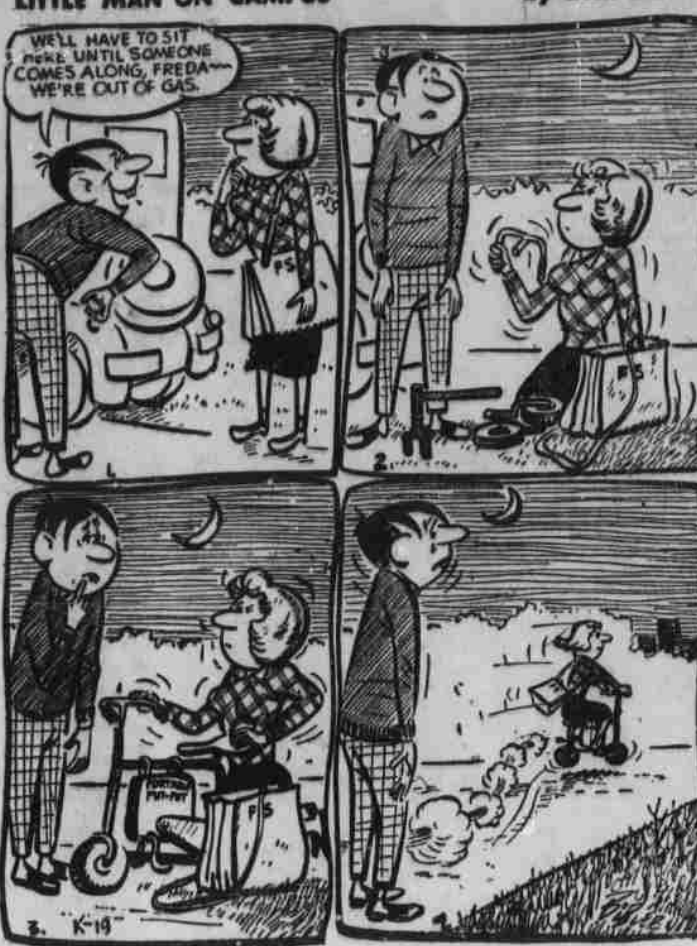
A non-paid citizen's committee has reported to Governor Robert Crosby that adequate staffing of the state's three mental institutions with well trained personnel is a "crying need." The group said that trained psychiatrists are especially needed.

The committee also recommended a series of improvements in research, teaching, training and administration.

Let us hope that these findings are considered by Nebraska's next governor and something is done to remedy the situation which The Nebraskan has previously termed "substandard" for our state.

LITTLE MAN ON CAMPUS

by Dick Bibler



Givin' 'Em Ell

Columnist Tells Facts

By ELLIE ELLIOTT

Sometimes the truth hurts. Apparently the truth hurt the Kosmet Klub last week . . . even though it, taking on an air of injured innocence, did not seem to consider the statements made in this column as facts. Therefore I feel that, unfortunately, Friday's letterip cannot go unchallenged.

Kosmet Klub stated in Friday's Nebraskan that my column last week was "not exactly accurate." I stated that "the Kosmet Klub had neglected to invite several of the independent women's houses to submit candidates for Nebraska Sweetheart." Not only was that statement accurate; it was a polite understatement of the facts.

True, Towne Club had a finalist in the Nebraska Sweetheart competition. Towne Club also had to ask Kosmet Klub several times for an invitation. That is a fact. It is also a fact that Towne Club is not a house . . . a residence hall. It is a campus organization for independent women, as is Adelphi.

There are, on city campus, five independent women's residences: Terrace Hall; Howard Hall; Wilson Hall; International House; and the Residence Halls for Women, which consist of three separate halls. None of these houses received invitations to compete in the Nebraska Sweetheart contest this year. All of these houses have stated that they would have done so, had they been given the opportunity. Four of these houses stated that there had been similar "unintentional oversights" in past years: late invitations, or no invitations at all. (Wilson Hall did not feel qualified to say.) This was, I think, quite an oversight on

the part of Kosmet Klub.

And what, may I ask is an "economical living unit"? If KK meant "co-op," still, only Wilson and Howard Halls consider themselves as such. It is certainly ridiculous to call the dorm economical, which means, among other things, "frugal."

Each one of these independent houses has a student administrative organization headed by a student president or governor. These organizations do not control the activities or scholastic standards of the individual members; they are not self-perpetuating, and do not determine who shall or shall not live in the house. Thus the organizations are administrative, not fraternal . . . but organizations nevertheless.

This, again, is the truth. These facts have been substantiated by statements obtained from the presidents of the independent women's houses on city campus. There is no reason why these facts should not have been published, for the public has a right to know the truth.

Vic Vet says

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Political Press Conference

Green, Hruska Run For Four-Year Seat

By DICK FELLMAN
Copy Editor

(Editor's note: This is the last in a series of interviews with opposing candidates of the Republican and Democratic parties who are running in the November elections. Candidates interviewed in this article are running for the short-term senate seat vacated by the death of Dwight Griswold. Questions were asked these men concerning national and international issues. Their answers are printed in full, exactly as they said them in an interview.)

Roman Hruska, Omaha attorney and present Representative of Nebraska's Second Congressional District, age 50, married and three children. Hruska attended the University of Omaha and graduated from Creighton Law School. Chairman of the Douglas County Board of Commissioners from 1945-52. Past president of Nebraska Association of County Officials, Vice President of National Association of County Officials, 1951-52. Regent of the University of Omaha since 1950 and Vice Chairman of Nebraska Civil Defense, 1951-52.

James F. Green, Omaha attorney, age 38, married and seven children. Green is a graduate of Creighton University Law School, Chairman of Americanism Commission of the National American Legion for five years. Twice candidate for national commander of the American Legion. Director of the Omaha Metropolitan Utilities District since 1952. Douglas County Chairman of the Democratic Party. Named Outstanding Young Man in 1950 by the Omaha Junior Chamber of Commerce.

(Editor's note: The absence of answers to questions by James F. Green is noticeable. Green was contacted by a Nebraskan reporter and promised to send his answers through the mail. Due to a mix up in addresses, on the part of The Nebraskan, and the out state campaigning of Green, he could not be reached for an interview. The Nebraskan is sorry this interview cannot be more complete.)

Should the present farm parity price support program be continued or should the parity price be further raised or lowered?

H.—In my judgment the 1954 farm bill which goes into effect in 1955 provides for flexible price supports which are best suited to bring the farmer his fair share of the national income with a minimum of bureaucratic control. It should be given a chance to overcome the proven failure of the present 1949 farm bill.

What should be done with the increasing farm surpluses the government is storing throughout the country?

H.—They should be used to help regain our foreign export market in so far as possible. Increased consumption for people as well as in industry should be found. Increased appropriations for research toward this end were made this year. Also, laws were passed along lines of recovering foreign export markets.

Should the present selective service laws be revised to a policy of universal military training?

H.—In general I am opposed to the traditional or past concept of Universal Military Training. It would appear that the United States cannot resort to standing forces alone for national defense. Workable plans for development of civilian components, national guard and organized reserve, with a minimum of interference with normal civilian life, should be considered.

With the shortage of reserve military strength, should a compulsory reserve training law be enacted?

H.—See answer to above question.

What can be done in a new and positive way, to halt subversion in government?

H.—New and positive steps have been taken in the past year and a half to halt subversion in government. Eisenhower's new security program, the vigorous prosecution of subversion and the passage of about a dozen new laws modernizing and strengthening America's ability to deal with this problem all testify to this fact. Also, the Eisenhower Administration, unlike its predecessor, is co-operating with J. Edgar Hoover and the F.B.I.

What do you feel will be the result of the recent London Pact?

H.—The result will be a decided gain in stabilizing the European situation and firming up its defense.

Should the proposed Bricker Amendment be adopted by the Senate?

H.—Yes.

Should Sen. McCarthy be formally censured by the Senate?

H.—On the basis of the knowledge and information which I now have, I would say no.

Why are you running for the U.S. Senate?

H.—To render a public service by way of the most worthwhile contribution of which I am capable, to the common sense, progressive government in which Nebraska has long been voting and believing.

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