

# Washington Digest

## New Political Groups Seek To Shape Parties' Policies

By BAUKHAGE,  
News Analyst and Commentator.

WNU Service, 1616 Eye Street, N.W.,  
Washington, D. C.

The donkey and the elephant are getting jealous, and the Washington Chapter of the SPCPA (Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Political Animals) is getting a little worried, lest some other new and strange fauna are going to sneak under the tent to steal the old regulars' fodder—and it ain't hay.



Three very active creatures are being heard from in tones so stentorian that the bray and the trumpet, familiar sounds in campaign years, are almost drowned out.

The latest performer in the ring is the ROF (Republican Open Forums). Officially the newcomer belongs to the Republican stable, as its name implies, but some of the old timers are afraid the coil is getting ready to kick over the party traces.

Although the other two more familiar creatures, the CIO-PAC and the NC (National Citizens)-PAC, are more at home in the Democratic pasture, they frequently get their heads through the rails to browse on the Republican side.

All three are full of ginger, and not too brittle-wise.

### Stassen Heads

#### Open Forum

Chairman of the Republican Open Forums advisory committee is Harold Stassen, and ROF is considered pretty much his baby. Wayne Morse, Walter Judd, Gov. Raymond Baldwin of Connecticut, and other Republicans not unfriendly to the liberal domestic and expansive international views of Stassen make up the committee.

At ROF headquarters, you are told it is strictly all-Republican, not a one dark-horse team. However, a broad-minded tolerance prevails which permits Democrats to take part in forums, if they want to.

The forums are compared to town meetings, and are supposed to provide members of the party with the opportunity to form party policy. At that point comes the rub. Old Timers don't want Mr. Stassen's outfit (which its director insists it isn't) making policy. They feel they have had enough experience in such matters themselves.

Anyhow, ROF is a going concern. As of mid-May, there were already 474 forums in operation in 44 states.

### CIO Works to Get

#### Out Favorable Vote

The CIO-PAC we know of old. That outfit is run by Sidney Hillman, and because the CIO fathered it, Mark Sullivan says that the CIO is no longer merely a labor organization, but has acquired the status of a political party. This column described CIO-PAC's dynamic activities, literature, and methods at the time of the last campaign.

Their ostensible object is to get out the vote; the real object is to get out the vote they want. A definite platform for both domestic and foreign policy is stated in detail.

The six points of foreign policy include such controversial subjects as the quarantine of Spain and Argentina, and self-government for colonial nations.

There are 13 points in CIO-PAC's domestic policy, ranging from a minimum wage to OPA, and including price guarantees to farmers, progressive taxation for large incomes, reduction on small incomes. Specific bills are singled out for support or opposition.

CIO-PAC's brother, NC-PAC, is what might be described simply as Simon-pure New Deal. Chairman of the policy committee is Dr. Frank Kingdon, with Sydney Hillman as an "honorary" and members including Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, Henry Morgenthau Jr., Henry Wallace, Hugo Black and so on.

The lead article in their organ, "The National Citizen," whose memorial edition made no single mention of the name, Truman, contained this paragraph:

"Stirred by the rising tide of reaction, and the steady drift away from the policies of Franklin D. Roosevelt, more than 2,100 of the late President's most ardent sup-

porters and closest friends gathered . . . to hear speaker after speaker sound the call to political action as the best method to fulfill the Roosevelt domestic and international program."

NC-PAC has a political guide which demands the election of progressive candidates for congress, and lists issues for action which include anti-labor bills, Argentina, British loan, conscription, FEPC, atomic power, and so on.

They likewise are sponsoring a "School of Political Action Techniques" here in Washington beginning June 26 which purports to "unveil the intricacies of professional political campaigning to the average voter." The school will be open to anyone; attendance will be limited to 500 students. NC-PAC says "it is believed that the majority of the student body will play an active role in the November congressional elections."

Needless to say, in school or out, they offer little comfort for the southern Democrats.

Of course, there are various other organizations, old and new, in the field. The Young Republicans, for example, who endorsed the ROF at a recent national convention; Mr. Ickes' Independent Citizens Committee of the Arts, Sciences and Professions to which James Roosevelt presumably brings a hereditary parental blessing, and others.

And I shouldn't fail to mention the Women's Division of the Democratic National committee, which teaches wives of politicians such fundamentals as platform poise, the right word at the right time, how to overcome fear of public speaking, and so on. Wives of cabinet officers, wives of senators, wives of members of the little cabinet and wives of top-flight agency heads are exhorted: "Use your feminine charm in the (Democratic) campaign. It helped you get your husband, didn't it? It will also help get votes."

But these are only mother's helpers. The PAC twins, and the ROF are the ones that make the donkey and the elephant nervous when they look over their left flanks.

### Congress Needs

#### Salary Boost

Wages are at the top of the inflation list.

But that doesn't mean more pay for congressmen. One of the best arguments for a boost in the congressional payroll comes from a congressman whom I won't name, but whose bitterest rivals mention as one of the smartest members of either chamber. He says:

"The vote against a pay raise comes from the men who know that they couldn't get elected, if congressional salaries were high enough to attract a better class of candidates to oppose them."

Phillip Broughton, ex-newspaperman and political scientist who has spent a decade in Washington, says, in his "For a Stronger Congress," that every independent student of congressional reorganization has "recommended a raise to \$15,000 or \$25,000 a year. Certainly, it would seem that the same public which can afford \$500 a week for the writers of Grade B movie scenarios can afford a similar sum for those who set policies that control our national life."

A congressman now gets \$10,000 a year. Anybody who lives in Washington, Broughton points out, knows that that isn't enough. A congressman has to maintain two homes; campaigns cost money. Besides, he has to contribute to "the do-good organizations that claim a root in his constituency," and "secretarial expenses and meager railroad mileage do not balance his family budget."

There are, of course, many other changes required in congressional organization before this body can be brought up to date . . . but one of the most important objectives is to attract men of sufficient ability. That means offering such men a salary somewhere near what their services could command elsewhere.

Otherwise you get an under-quality product . . . or you have to depend on men of wealth.

The thing that pains me most as I travel up and down the land is to hear the very people who scream that no congressman is worth even \$10,000 a year, object to paying enough to hire a man with ability.



ENJOYS HIS PARTY . . . President Truman, host to 885 wounded war veterans at a garden party on the White House lawn, looks happy as a kid with his favorite desert, ice cream and cake, even with strike worries. President was said to have left all labor conferences in order to be with the wounded vets at his lawn party.

IT'S NOW FATHER KELLY . . . To all his other titles "Commando" Charles Kelly has added the new one of "father." He is shown making friends with his daughter born May 26 in Pittsburgh (Pa.) hospital. Mrs. Kelly cradles the baby in her arms. The "Commando" was Pittsburgh's first Congressional Medal of Honor winner in World War II. He is now operating his own service station.



"IKE" REVIEWS CHINESE TROOPS . . . Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, chief of staff of the U. S. army, with Gen. Ho Ying-Chin, chief of Chinese army, inspect the Chinese guard of honor which greeted him as he stepped from his airplane in Nanking. The soldiers are special elite troops picked from among Generalissimo Chiang Kalshek's personal bodyguard.



FIRST FORD CAR . . . Henry Ford, founder of the company, poses in the first car he built in 1896. His wife and their grandson, Henry Ford II, president of the company, pose with him. Detroit was holding the automotive golden jubilee celebration, at which the Fords played an important part. Lt. Gen. William Knudsen was in charge of the celebration which took on the color of a world's auto fair.



AMERICA'S 1946 WIGHTMAN CUP TEAM . . . Members of the 1946 Wightman cup team who will represent the United States against England at Wimbledon. Left to right: Patricia Todd, Lafayette, Calif.; Louise Brough, Beverly Hills, Calif.; Pauline Betz, Los Angeles; Mrs. Hazel H. Wightman, Margaret Osborne, San Francisco and Doris Hart, Miami.



STILL ALIVE . . . Francis O'Garra was reported dead, while a prisoner of the Japs for two years. The ship was named after him. Ships are named after the dead, not the living as O'Garra proves he is.



MELON EATING CONTEST . . . Miss Marion Helm, Leesburg, Florida, gets in trim for the melon-eating contest. The first melon of the season sold for \$3.50 compared to ceiling price last year of \$1.50.



OPERA STAR . . . Patti Lou Goldstrom, 7, Homestead Park, Pa., chosen for a part in "Sari" to be presented by the newly-organized Pittsburgh civic light opera series this summer.



DREAM GIRL . . . Korky Kelley selected by the society of photographic illustrators as the "dream girl" of the camera and the ideal composite model, who combines most beautiful features of their ideal.

# NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS

By PAUL MALLON

Released by Western Newspaper Union.

### COMMUNISTS LOSE OUT AT BALLOT BOX

WASHINGTON. — The Russian program for world political action is losing, and a change of front may eventuate from the Browder talks in the Kremlin.

Severest setback to Communist plans for postwar political aggression was defeat of their new constitution for France. Moscow controlled the spirit of the French government since they defeated De Gaulle's policy of a strong army, and acquired collaboration of the Socialists. Their constitution proposed a single center of government authority in the chamber of deputies with a subservient president and cabinet.

Facially this appears like utmost democracy — somewhat like the superiority of the British parliament you might say. The majority of the French electorate was not fooled.

Every time the Communists go to the electorate, it seems, they are being rejected. In the French referendum on the subject last October, their proposal for a weak executive was defeated, although they succeeded in electing the largest bloc of delegates to the convention. In the convivances of international conferences and domestic political dickering, the Moscovites have won the most ground, but at the ballot box they have proved weak.

### Labor Bans Communists.

Less conspicuous events than the French election disclose their forced retreat with even greater clarity. A spare three paragraphs in the London Times recently revealed the decision of the British Labor party to change its constitution so as to deny membership to Communists. This decision follows the disclosure made in this column a few weeks back, and not yet generally published, that the left wing unions in CIO were taking similar action, in similar quietude. The constitution of several CIO unions is being changed to ban Communist party members, and unquestionably labor in the two democracies is attempting to purge itself of the Communist influence.

It was in the light of these world-changing events that Earl Browder flew to Russia on his unexplained mission. The CP postwar political action in this country has been in the hands of the Fosterites who oppose co-operation with capitalism. Browder was ousted from party control here because he brought CP into co-operation for production during the war. Will the Moscovites now order a period of co-operation again?

I doubt it. Look at the matter the way Moscow looks at it, if you would find the answer. Capitalism was the first enemy chosen by Communism. Fascism became a later enemy. Fascism has now been eliminated as a world power. Communist aggression against capitalism can stop only through a genuine reorganization of its totalitarian ideals, and this is hardly to be expected now as the Russian government, flushed with victory and new power throughout the world, sees its greatest opportunity for world achievement.

### Superficial Co-operation.

But there is another stronger reason for doubt. Democratic capitalism is struggling to its feet, following war. If the Communists cooperate and we get production, we may grow strong again. Therefore the Browder mission is likely to succeed only if the Kremlin becomes convinced capitalism will fall anyway, and a period of false appeasement is justified as a temporary strategic retreat. The decision could favor CP face lifting, and superficial co-operation, but could hardly run into genuine depths.

In these fundamental currents, some are saying the ultimate conflict will be between Socialism and Communism. But Socialism is a word which has lost more of its original definition than Communism. The Nazis were Socialists, so were the Fascists. So is Russia. The name of that Communist nation is The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. British Socialism, on the other hand, clings to law, the parliamentary system and Democratic forms.

Events therefore are shaping the world conflict into a clash of Statism, Dictatorship, Communism on the one hand versus Democracy, Capitalism, Socialism on the other. LEFT AND RIGHT WING RADICALS

One distinction may be noted between Communist strikes and regular union strikes. The Communist strike generally seeks political benefits. (Crusades for political issues or capitalist sabotage), while the union strikes are primarily concerned with wages and working conditions, and a desire to improve them. If wages are not the reason for a strike, look for CP somewhere in the background. The swift changes in CP line can be read in the Daily Worker.

**Gems of Thought**  
FOR every social wrong there must be a remedy. But the remedy can be nothing less than the abolition of the wrong.  
—Henry George.  
There's a better man behind an honorable failure than there is behind a dishonorable success.  
The world would be both better and brighter if we could dwell on the duty of happiness, as well as on the happiness of duty.  
We can well afford a seeming sacrifice for the right, because any other side is a losing side.—Ben Franklin.  
Everyone excels in something in which another fails.—Publius Syrus.

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## BARBS . . . by Baukhage

Suicides dropped during the war. You can't compete with Mars.

Six million pianos out of tune, says an official of the piano manufacturers' association. Ten thousand piano-tuners will be kept busy for years fixing them up. Maybe that will solve some of our future troubles when the next inflation bubble bursts.

Jack Spratt eats too much fat, his wife eats too much lean and so between the two of them the rest of the world starves.

"Taking over" mines and railroads doesn't end strikes. It's true there are no strikes in Russia but they have a Gestapo and a handy Siberia, neither of which Americans care for.