

Citizens Groups Effective In Beating Political Bosses

By RAYMOND MOLEY

Eleventh of a series of 12 articles of a condensation of the book "How to Keep Our Country a Program for Political Action," by Raymond Moley.

THE FIRST decision that must be made by any group intent upon organizing militant political action is its objective.

1. Does it intend to keep itself independent of any legally constituted party organization but support the candidate or candidates of one or the other party? In this it will cooperate with a party without being identified with it?

2. Does it intend to work within the legal framework of a party for the purpose of gaining party control?

3. Does it intend to limit itself to a specific function, such as to get out the vote?

It is very important to make this decision. For to confuse the first and second of these possible objectives will result in misunderstanding, waste, and duplication of effort, and the ultimate weakening of both citizen activity and party responsibility.

CITIZENS' MOVEMENTS ARE SPRING UP

There are many illustrations of successful citizen action in this country. The fact is that such citizens' movements have been springing up rapidly since 1945 and many more will appear this year.

This newspaper has long held that the Highway Fund should be brought under the closer supervision of the General Assembly, and that expenditures for roads should be spelled out with almost as much rigidity as they are allocated for General Fund purposes.

CAUSE OR EFFECT?

A POLL of the Brown University class of 1947 reveals the interesting fact that the graduates with the largest waistlines currently are making the most money.

That poses an equally interesting cause-and-effect question. Did the obesity and gregariousness traditionally associated with large waistlines increase the earning ability of the individuals concerned?

Or did they get their big waistlines because they were making so much money they could afford to eat well?

TIME TO REMIND THE SENATORS

MAYBE we chortled too soon when we said it looked as though Congressional absenteeism would permit passage of some sound Hoover Commission recommendations.

The President sent three reorganization plans to Congress, affecting appointment of postmasters, customs collectors and U. S. marshals. They will be law June 20 unless a constitutional majority of either house (that's 49 Senators or 218 Representatives) votes against them.

Many Congressmen don't like these measures, because they would remove over 20,000 jobs from the patronage list. Some of these Congressmen are too busy campaigning to come back to Washington and vote against the measures. But their colleagues still in Washington are working hard against them.

DOUGLAS TO CARL

ONCE AGAIN the nation has gone through the uncomfortable season of the cap and gown. Graduates grasped their diplomas with the wrong hand, fumbling the handshake. Some forgot to move the tassel from one side of the mortarboard to the other. Some moved it the wrong way—no matter which way it goes it's right.

There was no one to the left or right? All in all Americans have proved once more that pomp and ceremony do not wear well on them.

FROM THE Selibury Post

THERE'S NO PLACE, ETC.

A SALISBURIAN just back from a couple of weeks in Chicago is declaring rather forcibly that he has no wish to go back even to attend the poli-techs which are held in the Windy City, he testifies, saying that he saw them with his own eyes.

Sign in small northeast Atlanta girl in crayon: "Country Margarine Served Here."—Atlanta Journal.

sidered political subdivisions within the county were singled out as the key to the success of the doorbell ringing take place.

"Who should ring the doorbell? There was no question in my mind but that the doorbell ringers should be a resident of the area or precinct in which the work of registration should be done."

"How should we go about recruiting these volunteer workers? This is the key to the success of our program. In the first place, we solicited members in the League by interesting men of influence in our program and then had interest free other men who, in the long run, would enlist five or more and so on. Each member thus acquired agreed to work in his own immediate neighborhood and interest his neighbor to the extent that he would be willing to help when called upon.

"The organizational work which described the line of responsibility of workers down to the city was superior. With a detailed definition of the job assigned to each member of the working staff."

"The organizational work was carried on to the point where there was a worker in almost every neighborhood and interest his neighbor. Meetings were held where they were properly schooled as to the most effective way of carrying on their work at the time of the call. A sheet was used by the block worker for recording the names of the interested voters after which it returned it to headquarters for checking at the time of the election."

"The results attained by the Active Citizens' League in the 1946 election were impressive. This organization was operating in the CIO P. A. in the 222 voting precincts in which it operated. It had about 800 active members and the registration rolls in its following work it succeeded in getting 100,000 more voters registered to vote. Their candidate, Taft, received 80 per cent of the vote."

This Columbus group has since decided to spread the idea which it originated by other localities in its area. It has set up an organization which publishes literature describing its methods as called the Ohio Plan. Several groups throughout the country are being organized on this basis.

This is another impressive bit of proof of what public citizens can do if they set to work and keep at it.

Such movements as these can do more for the citizenry over the country, there would be an end to the domination of the Government by a Federal machine.

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Prove It, First

Montaigne, the great French essayist, once said a doctor should not be allowed to treat any disease he has not himself suffered from.

We don't agree with this experience-theory in medicine, but we do agree with it in politics. Before telling others how not to be divorced, such experts should first divorce themselves. Before telling others how to live in the loveless and "how to stay married," we think this is a good maxim to follow.

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Why Vote Republican?

Editors, The News: Why vote Republican? What have they ever done for labor or the farmer? I am 82 years old, had seven years of General Grant and that arch foe of the poor, General Sherman, the reconstructionist.

We owned lots of land but had no money. Five cent cotton made us paupers. I hardly know what a nickel looked like for my first years. The Negro children and I wore long white shirts and went barefoot nine months of the year. In 1868, the Paquet Mills were built. They

worked men and women twelve hours daily for 50 cents per day, now they get \$10 for eight hours. I have sold the wagon at five cents per pound and the chickens at ten cents per pound. My flock of eight cents per barrel of indigo in and down to Houston, called the barons in and Government will take you over once. They went up overnight to one dollar per barrel and farmers in the corn belt burned corn for fuel at eight cents per bushel. This was the market price. They had no money with which to buy coal.

I am 100 per cent Democrat from South Carolina. I think Mr. Kefauver will make a second Andrew Jackson or Franklin J. Roosevelt.

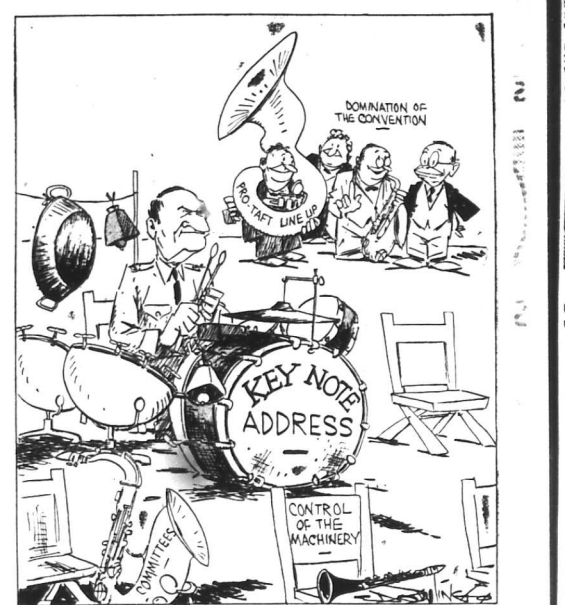
—RALPH CONNELLY.

Taft's Political Trick

Editors, The News: THE Taft forces have chosen Gen. MacArthur as the keynote speaker. There are millions of voters who will not support Taft due to this political maneuver, for they know it is a trick to win votes for Taft. I think it will benefit Eisenhower.

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People's Platform

Letters should be brief. The writers name and address must be given, but may be withheld from publication in the discretion of the Editor. The News reserves the right to condense.

'Mother, Home & Heaven' CHARLOTTE

Editors, The News: CARROLL REECE of Tennessee, in commenting on Dwight Eisenhower's first political speech on his return from Europe, said he was in favor of "mother, home and heaven." The words were not intended as a compliment to Eisenhower, but they have helped him rather hurt him.

I am a Republican from the western part of the state. I had not made up my mind whether I was for Taft or Eisenhower until I read Carroll's comment. Now I am for Eisenhower.

I used to live near Johnson City, Tenn., and knew Congressman Reece to be one of the Old Guard of the Republican Party. He is working hard for Senator Taft. If his phrase, "mother, home and heaven," becomes well publicized, it will be a slogan that will benefit Eisenhower.

If such proves to be the case, imagine the contrast of Brullia (Carroll) Reece. —RALPH CONNELLY.

Burton Backs Ham Jones

Editors, The News: I SHOULD like to use The Platform to express my appreciation to the thousands of voters who supported me in the primaries.

There weren't quite enough of us to do the job but there were more than some people predicted—so we can consider it a respectable effort.

However, the job is more important than the office, and until the job is done we must not let up. That job is to prevent isolationism and reaction from getting a stranglehold in Washington. That could be as disastrous today as it was in the 1920's.

The job will not be an easy one, and Webster could bring an upset in this 10th District unless every Democrat and Independent voter supports Congressman Hamilton Jones, and the rest of the Democratic ticket. I plan to vote as energetically as my time permits from now until the future action of the primaries in my district there may be some who will discuss our national security, foreign policy, peace, states rights and civil rights with many audiences.

—THOMAS BURTON.

Fun In The Sun

Editors, The News: MYRTLE BEACH went to thank you for the unusual support given to Myrtle Beach and your annual Sun-Fun Festival. We want you and your readers to get the best in vacations, at reasonable prices, and to be proud of our last growing city. In turn, we want you to be proud of Myrtle Beach and to visit us often.

—F. EARL CRAWFORD, JR.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON WHEN Senator Kefauver first tossed his coxswain cap into the ring, Washington social tongues wagged that his wife Nancy would be a handicap. The American people would never elect a President married to a British wife.

As the campaign has progressed, however, President Kefauver has become the go-to-it for the biggest assets. She has worked night and day, traveled by plane, train and car, shaken hands, mingled at ladies luncheons and scored a hit everywhere.

Whether she is British, Tennessee or what, people have loved her. The fact is that Mrs. Kefauver is the daughter of a Scottish ship-peninger who helped design the Onondaga Hood for the U. S. Navy. Her mother was American, and she met Kefauver when she returned to Tennessee to visit her mother's family. After young Kefauver met her, he went to pursue the romance and finally persuaded Nancy to marry him.

The other day, Senator Russell of Georgia, whose campaign slogan has been "I'm a regular fellow" and who has a strong sense of humor as well as playing, was discussing his lagging campaign with friends. "Yes," said Bachelor Russell. "I guess what I need is a Nancy."

Senator Russell Says He Needs A Nancy

Tom Buchanan, the President appointed as chairman of the Federal Power Commission in May, but is now the victim of a quiet conspiracy by the gas lobbyists and certain Senators who have played into his hands.

There is good reason why the gas lobby is trying to block Buchanan. There's also good reason why householder Mr. Magnuson is chairman of a gas bill at the end of the month should be for him.

Buchanan vigorously fought the lobby in raising gas rates—and lost. He was defeated by a vote of 55-45. What happened was that President Truman vetoed the Kerr Bill, which was the Federal Power Commission then turned round and reversed his veto.

One of those who led the reversal was none other than the President's old enemy, ex-Senator Mon Wallgren of Washington.

And today it is a crosby of crosby Wallgren who is playing into the hands of the gas lobby by holding up Buchanan's appointment as FCC chairman, Senator Magnuson of Washington, Democrat.

Buchanan's appointment was sent to a subcommittee of the Senate by Senator Magnuson, Senator Magnuson of Washington, Democrat.

of Maryland, and Tobey, Republican of New Hampshire, as the other two members. For almost a month, however, the subcommittee has stalled. No meetings have been held and Buchanan's appointment has been let dangling.

Tobey and O'Connor appear favorably to Chairman Buchanan, but Magnuson does not. The ex-Senator Wallgren, has delayed. Strategy of the gas lobby is to delay until the Senate adjourns for the convention. Then after the Republican victory on November 9, a new FCC chairman could be appointed.

It would be a new FCC chairman to reason. Chairman Buchanan, who would be the gas lobby, would be out in the cold.

Washington Pipeline

THE average American probably doesn't realize the effect abroad of the court decision in the steel strike. Though the court decrees may have caused economic uncertainty here, they strengthened confidence in American democracy overseas. It is significant that the only great interest and Latin Americans expressing from various interests and appreciation of the fact that a Little-known U. S. District Judge, David A. Pine, could step in and nullify the Supreme Court's decision on the steel strike. This was considered proof that don't go in for dictators in the USA. "Your President is only interested in Little Judge Pine," said one Latin American, "but so did the Supreme Court. We now believe to understand how your democracy works." Taft observers considered it significant that the only member to accompany Eisenhower on his Abilene trip was Tom Stevens, a Dewey man. They plan to use this with anti-Dewey as a subcommittee has stalled. No meetings have been held and Buchanan's appointment has been let dangling.