

The Labor Front GOP Leaders Quiz Aides on Labor Drive

By Victor Riesel
KISSING babies at election time may be a past art but it doesn't look like the professional political leaders can avoid sitting with them.
It's a technique the labor politicians exploited last month much to the chagrin of the regular 75-cent-an-hour teen age baby-minders. But the union political action chiefs were out for ballots and good will and claim it won many a housewife's vote for their candidates.

NOW the Republican Party's earnestly soul-searching strategists are looking into those techniques in every ward in the country to discover if any bets have been overlooked in the drive "to bring victory back . . . in the Congressional elections."
Republican district workers everywhere have just received a letter from their energetic, tall, mustached national chairman, Hugh Scott, who asks them bluntly: "Where did our party fall in your community?"

This form letter to 180,000 party workers has generally been viewed as a routine pep talk on paper with a bid for dollars attached. But there's far more to it than that. At national GOP headquarters in Washington, the strategists tell me they're deeply interested in the operations of the new, doorbell-ringing political machines thrown into the wards by union district captains in the final week of the campaign.
The GOP topeado people want to know just what happened. Was their party misunderstood, did they lose on issues, or did the labor crowd merely turn the campaign into a personal popularity contest by sitting with babies, shopping for housewives and commiserating on personal problems?

When the information rolls into the GOP national headquarters in Connecticut Ave. it will be tabulated, analyzed and submitted to the Republican National Committee when it meets during the last week in January or the first week in February somewhere in the Midwest.
Incidentally, at the very time the Republicans are post-mortemizing, the AFL chiefs will be whipping into shape across country in Miami a political and propaganda machine which the expect to juggernaut right into the Democratic Party and capture a good part of it.
The Republicans will not let the Miami kangaroo go unwatched.

THE REASON is that Hugh Scott and the other GOP leaders have no intention of automatically conceding the labor vote to the Democrats—and are interested in what the union chiefs have to say.
In fact, ever since early hours that gray dawn of Nov. 4, when thousands of letters began hitting Scott's desk calling for a national-wide policy conference to give the Republican Party a "broader base," Scott has been "very much for getting labor's point of view presented at this party."
Republican practical men, these little boys that the committed labor girls, even if they were wanted, would trek to the national policy conference.
But the GOP did have the support of scores of rank-and-file leaders and rank-and-file rank-and-file leaders. These are the union men Scott will try to get to speak up at the gauntlet.
This conference still is in the planning stage. But there seems to be little doubt, amongst those I spoke to, that the Republican National Committee when it meets in about a month, will approve a mid-year conference—and that there will be labor men present.
Gov. DEWEY himself now is reported believing that too little emphasis was placed on campaign appeals to the 15,000,000 union members and his camp has been exceedingly friendly to New York labor circles in the past few weeks.
Senator Taft, who was never a die-hard on his labor law, has always been for amending it.
There'll be no appeasement, but the GOP does want to know what the working union stuff is thinking.

Headline Hopping

You Can Still Be Plastered, But Not Painted in N. J. Bars

By Ollie Crawford
DRINK hearty, mates! New Jersey has barred tattoo artists from its saloons. You can still get plastered, but not painted.
There was a time when all they needed was the beer.
Commissioner Hock says finding Old Ironsides tattooed on your chest, might be bad for your constitution. You can still walk up with the U.S. Missouri firing 20-gun salutes in your head. New Jersey has decided the hanger's bad enough without technical illustrations.
You can have Betty Grable on your mind, but not on your chest.
Hock doesn't want any moaning at the bar when he puts out to see. If anybody wants pink elephants, they'll have to paint the beasts themselves. There's such a thing as having one tattoo too many. Bars are no places for skin games and they don't want the customers competing with the television.
Now they'll have speakeasies for tattooing. Hide-aways.
Jersey doesn't want you to get tattooed on your "Lost Weekend." Ever since the bridge deals, they've been reshuffling the deck. The State's slogan is: "We may be Jersey, but you can't pull the wool over our eyes."
The tattoo artist can still make his mark, but not in Jersey bars. When you're painting the town red, it's no time to get pink.—The only art the commission wants in its taverns is the beer—and the bartender can draw that.
This New Year, all the customers will get stuck with is the check. After all, how can auld acquaintance be forgotten when the name is tattooed on your right arm?

Washington Background Polish-Born Aide Ghosted Hurley's Famed Irish Wit

By The Inquirer Washington Bureau Staff

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23. President Truman elevated Col. A. Robert Ginsburgh to a brigadier general the other day. It reminded us that the new general never got credit for a lot of hard work he put in ghosting pieces for many officials in the War Department from the Secretary of War to some generals.
However, the best story they tell about Ginsburgh concerns Maj. Gen. Patrick J. Hurley when he was Secretary of War in President Herbert Hoover's Cabinet.



GEN. PAT HURLEY

Hurley went around the country telling some of the funniest Irish stories told by a Cabinet officer. Hurley got the reputation of being an Irish wit. But his audiences did not know that it was Ginsburgh who was putting the Irish jokes in Hurley's speeches.
Incidentally, Ginsburgh, who was born in Warsaw, worked on the old New York World when the First World War started. He enlisted and was promoted to first lieutenant. He has been with the Army many years.

Here is one for the books!
The Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Co.'s house organ, The Transmitter, shows that it can garble figures as badly as the Census Bureau, always good for a laugh.

The current Transmitter says that:
"Yale graduates have 1.3 children while Vassar graduates have 1.7 children. This proves that women have more children than men."

Senator Ralph E. Flanders (R., Vt.) almost became a second story man the other day trying to get into his home.
Flanders, who is chairman of a Joint House-Senate committee delving into corporate profits, concluded late hearings and went home.

His key would not open the door. Flanders circled his house trying the windows on the first floor. It was no soap. They were closed tight.
Forty-five minutes later he called police. A District of Columbia policeman went up a ladder into the only unlocked second story window and let the Senator in.
"At least we were safe from burglars," Flanders said later.

The espionage hearings of the House Un-American Activities Committee has been sending shivers down the backs of Government employees. As a result some very funny incidents have cropped up.

Recently a Civil Service Commission official called in one of his subordinates and told him:
"We've had a leak here in the Commission for over a year, and despite everything we've done to run it down, we just can't find the source."
"What's it about—loyalty," the underling asked.
"No," the boss answered. "Water."

A collector's Christmas card has been received by officers of the National Geographic Society from the sequestered kingdom of Nepal.
Printed on a primitive handmade paper, its chief feature is a conventional kneeling Buddha in the unconventional role of conveying Yule greetings. Underneath the idol is the familiar message:
"Merry Christmas."

The blending of Christian and Buddhist symbolism was air-mailed by members of a scientific expedition which recently arrived in Nepal under sponsorship of the Society, Yale University and the Smithsonian Institution.
Washington is getting ready to end the wettest season it has experienced since 1889.

This time it's not the per capita consumption of alcohol that the Weather Bureau is bragging about, but the amount of rain. With only seven days to go, 52.18 inches has been recorded at the National Airport, the fourth greatest amount in 77 years of Weather Bureau records. The record of 61.33 inches in 1889 was preceded by 60.09 in 1878, and 58.17 in 1884.
If you are coming to Washington for the inauguration take the rainfall into consideration.

Edgar Ansel Mowrer
American Liberty Is Periled By Wild Espionage Scare
THE death of Laurence Duggan ought to be a signal to the American people to stop, look and listen.
Like most other citizens, I have not the slightest idea whether Mr. Duggan was the victim of murder or of suicide or of an accident. Yet his death somehow indicates that the United States of America we knew is becoming a different and a worse place.
Mr. Duggan's death in connection with the espionage disclosure was not the first. Harry White, formerly a top executive in the Treasury Department, died allegedly of "heart failure" after he had become involved in the same affair.
ALGER HISS, a former State Department favorite, stands accused of perjury in connection with alleged espionage for a foreign government.
Dr. Edward Condon, head of the U. S. Bureau of Standards, was denounced publicly by a subcommittee of the House Un-American Activities Committee as the "weakest link in American security."
Other prominent names are being banded about Washington as connected with a vast international plot against the United States. Rightly or wrongly? Who knows?
WHAT I think we do know is that if this sort of thing goes on, the kind of United States that lasted from 1789 until Pearl Harbor is gone forever. Today the FBI has only investigative powers. It is not, I believe, supposed to read letters through the envelopes or to tap telephone wires. But tomorrow?
The so-called loyalty test for Government employes, based on the principle of "guilt by association." This means that although there may be not one shred of evidence that a specific government employe is anything but a discreet and patriotic American, if he or his wife or his brothers or his children happen to frequent the company of Communists or Wallace-ites or pro-Russians, he can be declared unfit to occupy a government job. In consequence, all government officials must change their friends and associates from time to time as the American foreign policy evolves.

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HAD the tests been in operation in 1941, all those friendly to the German Fascist Party or semi-Fascist Spain would have been invited to leave. Just now it is the pro-Russians. Tomorrow it could be the pro-Chinese or pro-Argentinians.
What is the end of this development? Clearly, a state whose citizens, if they wish to work for their government, are expected to change their opinions in order to have none.
Nonetheless, the Chambers documents exist. There certainly has been a leak in the State Department. The spy scare does have justification. How then remove the real need for defending the defense secrets of the United States at a moment of world crisis with the equal need for defending the rights of individual citizens?

SOMETHING, I submit, could be accomplished by education. Had the Administration and the American public been aware that all Communists and crypto-Communists were potential spies for the Soviet Union, clearly some persons would not have been taken into government service. But not all American pro-Russians are spies or even potential spies.
Personally, I believe the USSR is by far the most reactionary government in the present world and one of the most hateful. That is because I esteem personal liberty far above social security.
THE present spy scare is a symptom of something much more frightening: In the air-and-atom age, there is a real incompatibility between maximum military security and personal freedom. Somewhere between the two lies the threat of instant atomization and retaliation to the "enemy." The American people are going to be deprived of that freedom and personal independence out of which, far more than out of any high standard of living, the "American way of life" has been born.
Woodrow Wilson told us in 1917 that we should have to give up democracy or make the world safe for it. The spy scare is saying that we shall have to give up our freedom or eliminate war.

Westbrook Pegler Students Get Wrong S' at On Unionism

BY CONVERSATION and correspondence with young Americans I have been convinced that most of the teachers of classes dealing with unionism in our colleges and high schools are either willful liars or ignorant gossips. Some of the young men and women with whom I discussed the large subject of unionism some few years ago are now thoroughly adult citizens along toward thirty. They probably are still deceived by the lies or stupid superstitions which they heard when they were too young to cope with poised and slick professionals in class.

The members of the present student bodies who express their praise to me obviously are being imposed upon with the same counterfeit of knowledge.
THE teachers usually help themselves to the assumption that anything which the students may read in the papers which disparages unionism is Fascist propaganda paid for by Wall Street and/or the National Association of Manufacturers. This was the gist of President Truman's remarks about the Taft-Hartley Law during the recent campaign. Inasmuch as young students are still naive and idealistic, a President who twists the truth has an advantage of them. Not for fifteen or twenty years will they really understand that a candidate who claims a privilege known as "campaign oratory" actually claims a license to lie without moral responsibility.
There is only one way to get at the truth of unionism. That is by analyzing the union constitutions, clause by clause, studying the experience of men, unions and communities and comparing the popular claims with the facts.

FORTUNATELY for any student who seriously intends to root out a dishonest teacher, there are few "red" unions. Careful study of any of the big ones will discredit any pedagogue who undertakes to defend them.
To get at the real root of the evil I would recommend the constitutions of the Musicians Union, the Hodcarriers, the Teamsters, the Boilermakers and the United Mine Workers unions. I suggest these because they are the earliest affronts to the American concept of responsible government and popular power. They spell out autocracy and the power of the union bosses to graft, persecute, abolish the electoral process by executive ruse and perpetuate themselves in office.

I ADVISE all students to heckle their teachers, make them shun the old perceptive, cliché and prove every assumption and contention. Concede nothing. If a teacher ally speaks of Dan Tobin, the president of the Teamsters, as a "labor leader," say "wait a minute! Not 'labor leader' but 'union boss.' If he won't stand for 'union boss' settle for 'union official.'" But don't let him call Dan Tobin a labor leader. Or Lewis or Morel, of the Hodcarriers.
Don't let your teacher speak of the union people as "organized labor." The proper term would be "subjugated labor," as you can prove by the extraction of the class if you will study the constitutions, the methods of unions and the conduct of the Labor Relations Board from the beginning.
DON'T let him talk you off the subject. Don't be enticed or seduced into a discussion of the sins of employers, a favorite ruse of the liars and fakers who teach "labor relations" and "social science." The subject is not "labor" between employers and workers. The subject is the relationship between unions and workers, first.
Years ago some of our states, and northern states as well as sisters of the southern tier, leased out convicts from their prisons to work for manufacturers and road-builders. The men were paid by the warden and the employers. Unions nowadays do exactly the same thing, except that they let their subjects receive some pay after the checkoffs. However, don't forget that the union worker has to pay for his own keep whereas the prisoners got free board and room.

You will find that most of the teachers know very little and can be drawn into silly statements. They will say that the Wagner Act was intended to make it possible for workers to organize a union, the act plainly says it was intended to promote interstate commerce by removing the causes of labor disputes. But the result was to confer a power of taxation for political purposes on a private, irresponsible political auxiliary of the party which enacted the law.
Nancy Oakes Marigny, who swapped quarters with Carmen Figuera, unofficial ambassador from Mexico (he gets her New York apartment, she his villa in Mexico City), will undergo surgery while south of the border.
When George Choremis gets his divorce from Nancy Choremis through the Greek Consular Court in Alexandria, he'll marry Parisian-born Simone Bernard Hershey, a childhood romance interrupted when she wed GI Corp. Stanley S. Hershey, of Cleveland, O., while he was attached to the U. S. Army Service Command in the Middle East. She won an unconteud divorce in 1946 in Cleveland.
Mrs. E. E. Steel, wife of the Manufacturers Trust vice president, is seriously ill at a New York hospital.
Los Angeles police believe they now have enough evidence to reopen the 13-year-old Thelma Todd mystery death . . . Scotty Beckett's front page antics (drunken driving charge) may cost him an M-G-M build-up. He was set for the role of Clark Gable's son in "Any Number Can Play."

THE Theater Guild will play Santa Claus to the 371 actors working in its numerous casts . . . Herb Shriner, "Inside U.S.A." comic, turned the tables by tossing a party for all department store Santa Clauses at the CBS studios . . . Musicians buzzing about the bigtime bandleader who got \$3000 for a one-night stand (banquet) and handed out \$16 each to his musicians as tips. The outfit that gave the dinner made up for it.
Perry Como's waxing of "The Missouri Waltz," we are reminded by RCA-Victor, was the first record to get on the air after the Petrillo ban was lifted—in two hours flat . . . A song written by Gloria De Haven will be used in a proposed Broadway show called "Cops and Robbers" . . . The current Black-and-White art exhibit of Lisa at Rockefeller Center will contribute all sales money to the March of Dimes campaign.

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Samuel Grafton

Thanks to U.N. Chiefs for Advancing Peace

A MERRY CHRISTMAS to Trygve Lie and Herbert V. E. A. who did not wait until Christmas before remembering about peace on earth. By trying to bring the Powers together in November, Lie and E. A. advanced the annual peace season by a full six weeks. This is a great miracle than producing strawberries in January. May their holidays be merry because of it.
A Merry Christmas to all Netherlanders who may, in their hearts, oppose their country's dubious Christmas gift of war to the East Indies and the world.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS to a man I saw using a hand spade to clean out the stalled works of a big complicated snow-removal machine. The monster mechanism stood submissively, while the small man dug at its insides with the shovel like any suburbanite clearing his path. It cheered the crowd enormously and made everybody smile. Perhaps it was a crowd which wanted some proof that man comes before the machine, even in our time. You could see the people on the sidewalk being reassured even about atomic energy by what they were witnessing.
A Merry Christmas to all who know exactly how to save the world. May a healing touch of doubt as to their formulas and pet procedures occur to them during this holiday season. Armed with humility, may they then go forward after New Year's Day, perhaps even to save the world.
A MERRY CHRISTMAS to all leathery characters who make a great commercial to-do of the

Gossip of the Nation:-- Walter Winchell

NEW YORK, Dec. 23. THE Woonsocket-Call (in Rhode Island) has a fine idea: Every Christmas Day the gazette omits all news of crime and violence from its front pages. Only items having to do with Christmas appear on page one. News stories are relegated to inside pages.
Last Christmas Eve only one officer remained on duty at Camp Kilmer. His name: Capt. Sammy Klaus.
Christmas makes this classic tale propitious: An agnostic once challenged a 9-year-old: "I will give you an orange if you will tell me where the Lord is." The youngster replied: "I will give you two oranges if you will tell me where He is not."

JOHN BARRYMORE had many difficulties with one ornery B'way producer. Barrymore described him thus: "He's the kind of a man, who, if he said Merry Christmas to you—you'd want to hit him!"
Probably the most memorable Yuletide wordage is the beloved poem, "A Visit From St. Nicholas." It was written by Clement C. Moore, who taught Hebrew.
They would have you believe that it happened to a reporter for the anti-New Deal Chicago Tribune. During Christmas Week he was assigned to interview a popular clergyman who was an ardent FDR admirer. The newsmen began the interview with: "Merry Christmas, Father. I am a reporter for the Chicago Tribune."
The clergyman intoned: "That is forgiven. Now what other sins do you have to confess?"
When Woodrow Wilson was asked what's the best way to prove the greatness of Christianity, he said simply: "Try it."

A COMMON greeting the world over (at this time of year) is the cheery: "Merry Christmas!" but in Miami, Fla., a family uses the phrase all year. The family name is Christmas. When Mama calls, "Merry-Merry Christmas!" she's calling her 27-month-old daughter.
Santa Claus is the real name of a preacher in Marshall, Mo. Every year he gets hundreds of letters and answers them all.
Novelist Mary Ellen Chase penned this tale: "My grandmother waited for a fortnight or longer after Christmas before she proffered her gifts to family, neighbors and friends. By early January, she concluded, expectation would have vanished and the rapture of sudden surprise would again be abroad in the world."
A Don Marquis wrote: "The exchange of Christmas gifts should be reciprocal rather than retaliatory."

SOME of these Dutch Marines who parachuted into Indonesia were trained at Quantico and Parris Island by our own Marine Corps. . . American oil interests are pulling out of Colombia, where the good neighbor policy isn't working too well and the oil isn't so good, either . . . Princess Elizabeth's first official public appearance since the baby's arrival will be at Edinburgh University, where she will receive an honorary law degree next month.
The hardest-working lobby in Washington is trying to land the Secretary of Commerce job for Floyd Oulum, Atlas Holding Corp. Julius Kruger, present secretary, will be one of the first to bow out of Truman's cabinet . . . Democratic liberals in the House of Representatives are laying plans to seize control of the powerful Rules Committee. If they succeed, the skills will be under the Un-American Activities Committee.
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Gossip of the Nation:-- Walter Winchell

NEW YORK, Dec. 23. THE Woonsocket-Call (in Rhode Island) has a fine idea: Every Christmas Day the gazette omits all news of crime and violence from its front pages. Only items having to do with Christmas appear on page one. News stories are relegated to inside pages.
Last Christmas Eve only one officer remained on duty at Camp Kilmer. His name: Capt. Sammy Klaus.
Christmas makes this classic tale propitious: An agnostic once challenged a 9-year-old: "I will give you an orange if you will tell me where the Lord is." The youngster replied: "I will give you two oranges if you will tell me where He is not."

JOHN BARRYMORE had many difficulties with one ornery B'way producer. Barrymore described him thus: "He's the kind of a man, who, if he said Merry Christmas to you—you'd want to hit him!"
Probably the most memorable Yulet