

'Middle Interest' Goup Has Key To U.S. Political Power

By **KAYMOND MOLEY**

(Ninth of a series of 12 articles of a condensed "How News Our Liberty: A Program for Political Action," by Raymond Moley.)

FOR various reasons which I described in my previous article, 45,000,000 or nearly half of the eligible voters of this country, have expressed their lack of interest in the two parties by the simple but dangerous and ominous method of staying away from the polls in the primary elections. If the two parties still remain the proper way to register the will of the sovereign people.

The problem therefore is to move citizens in all walks of life to assume the onerous job of getting these lagards in the polls in support of those candidates who seem most likely to restore and sustain the liberty of this country. The remaining articles in this series will consider ways and means of accomplishing that end.

At a beginning let us consider where the center and mass of economic and political power is in this country. This is sometimes called the "hard core" of political strength. That power is not, as is commonly assumed, in a few minority pressure groups either economic or sectional or racial or religious. It is in that immense mass of people which is associated with what I choose to call "the middle interest." I choose that term rather than the British term "middle class" because the idea of class is something that Americans must avoid, because in truth this group is not a class at all but the essential talking element in our population.

HARD TO DEFINE

In defining this group I would be adopting the basic fallacy of the socialists if I were to attempt a hard and fast definition based upon economic status.

The most common bases for defining a middle-class are either income or property ownership. If I adopt those criteria we find a group of people of very diverse and very large individual or family income or ownership. The broad picture of our society is a small fringe at either end, with the vast mass in the middle. The superficial impression is that of great inequality. In fact, the middle interest suffices for my purpose to describe the middle group in economic interest. The people of terms are commonly known as average means. The interests of this group are the interests of the vast middle interest. The property of



There—Now We'll Fix Up The Inside Of The Hall'

Letters should be brief. The writer's name and address must be given, but we can withhold from publication in the discretion of the Editor. The News reserves the right to check.

CONGRESS STANDS FIRM AGAINST SEIZURE

APARENTLY the Congress is going to stand firm in its opposition to Federal seizure as a means of restoring production in the vital steel industry. That puts President Truman in the unhappy position of having to use the Taft-Hartley labor injunction to force the workers to return to their jobs.

The President's reluctance to use Taft-Hartley at this late date is quite understandable. Taft-Hartley provides (1) a method of finding the facts in a labor dispute, and (2) a means of postponing a strike for 80 days. The facts have already been found by the Wage Stabilization Board (a truth admitted by Senator Taft when he said yesterday that the fact-finding procedure could be completed in three days). And the steelworkers have already postponed their strike, originally set for Dec. 31 of last year, for the 80-day period set forth in the law. It may be legal to use Taft-Hartley now, but it is hardly fair to the steelworkers.

Were principle the only thing involved, we would prefer for the strike to continue until the private pressure of management and labor become so great that each would make the concessions necessary for an agreement. We would prefer that government stay out of the picture entirely.

But the President who has access to information about the defense program that is

People's Platform

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One Vote Against Kefauver
CHARLOTTE
 Editors, Tax News:
I FOR one would vote for a "Black Republican" before I would vote for the traitor.
—WILLIAM L. JOHNSON

The GOP And Civil Rights
BELMONT
 Editors, Tax News:
BEFORE some of the Democrats in the South go Republican, let me remind them that were the Republicans who wrote a civil rights plank back in 1936. The plank, urged upon William Allen White, the platform committee chairman, said "I favor equal opportunity for our colored citizens, we pledge our protection of their economic status and personal safety, we will do our best to further their employment in the gainfully occupied field of America, particularly in private industry, agriculture, emergency agencies, and the Civil Service."
—JAMES K. ALEXANDER

CAMPAIGN COSTS BROUGHT INTO OPEN

IT IS AN OPEN secret that running for public office is expensive. Now, thanks to a law passed in 1951, the people of North Carolina are beginning to find out just how expensive.

Prior to 1951, state law had placed a ceiling of \$12,000 for candidates for the governorship. Another \$6,000 was allowed for the second primary. The law was technically obsolete, but candidates scrupulously kept the reported receipts and expenditures within the ceilings. In fact, it was flagrantly violated. Thus the law served no useful purpose. The General Assembly took the lid off campaign costs.

Last week, the victorious Democratic candidate, William Umstead, made his report. He said he spent \$46,513 and received \$42,374.88 in campaign contributions, including \$2,900 of his own money.

This week, the losing candidate, Hubert F. Olive, took his tale of woe. Mr. Olive spent

Ho-Ho-Ho, Hee-Hee-Hee

It Sure Is Fun To Write

BY ROBERT C. RUARK

NEW YORK
YOU understand, of course, that I am not an amateur when I write for my own amusement and to keep my fingers agile. I have written for many years and by all for some of these days when the tax man cometh I shall need witses.

I hate to bother you with my troubles, but having just read that Miss Kathleen Winogr got a \$28,132.19 rebate from the Internal Revenue Service, her famous book, "Forever Amber", was written primarily for her own amusement. I got to work on it right after that. The cost of amusement is fun.

HE WRITES FOR FUN

I am pleased to know this, just read your article and I always write for fun. Since the war I have written approximately 1,750 columns in my very restrained "Gone With the Wind" and "The Hobo's Heehee". I never dreamed, dear diary, that someone would pay me for writing for my childlike chatter. I am surprised every time the armored car drive up with my weekly \$13.20-25.00 check. I am pleased to be in it.

Hoboho. Heehee hahs. You must pardon my right to be a little free. I am just having so darned much good, clean fun writing this thing for my own amusement that I am

THE SHAME OF KOJE

THE hard core of prisoner resistance has apparently broken on Kojima Island. The Rev. who watched U. S. Army officers who permitted the Kojima situation to deteriorate so incredibly.

Surely it was an incompetent combination of blundering ineptitude and naivete that permitted a system under which the prisoners forged spears, knives and swords in blacksmith shops, collected gasoline for Molotov cocktails, and were allowed to trade with natives, organized communications systems among compounds, seized a general, a system which threw men, women and children prisoners together, had its own kangaroo courts, dealing death to non-Communists.

Reduction in grade for two officers, a reprimand in the files of a third, do not correct such matters. The sickening Kojima incident is a gross incompetence in our Army, the type of administration which cannot do what the U. S. must do in Asia—maintain its authority, but also be respectful of imprisoned humanity.

OUT OF TIME AND OBSCURITY

WHEN General Douglas MacArthur landed in San Francisco on April 17 of last year, he disavowed any political aspirations. "The only politics I have in contained in the phrase 'I shall do my all day, God bless America,'" he said.

The General's resolution weakened rapidly. Though he still wore his uniform and drew his retirement pay, he began making political speeches. At first, his addresses attracted national attention. Gradually, as with all politicians who play on the same note, the General found himself moved to the inside pages.

Since he began fading away, MacArthur has had only occasional notice—such as his intervention in behalf of Senator Taft in the South Dakota primary, for example.

It seems passed so far for this year that the Presidential nominating process will be when he had an active bid for the job in 1948. The General has been selected as keynote for the Republican National convention next month.

FORGIVE US DEMOCRATIC SINNERS TOO

PRESBYTERIANS debated in their General Assembly the correct wording of the Lord's Prayer.

Some churches now use the word "trespassers" in the passage: "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us."

Other churches, among them the Presbyterian, use "debts."

Scholars at the assembly insisted that the original word was translated incorrectly. They declare it means "sin."

The debate grew acrimonious and one pastor from Philadelphia protested vigorously: "As a Republican I consider it a serious invasion of private rights to tell me how to pray."

Couldn't this Republican divine stretch a point and include us Democrats?

Drew Pearson's Merry-Gou-Round

IT looks as if Herbert Hoover, ex-President of the United States, is not nearly as influential with Congress as Pan Am.

A professor says there are over 200,000 letters passed by Hoover to the House each day. We don't know how accurate this count is, but we'd be willing to bet the public will hear every one of them from the political candidates this Summer—Greenville (S. C.) Piedmont.

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There Are Two Big Issues

PITTSBORO
I LIKE you, I find myself in agreement with most of the things Eisenhower has so far said. However, I have a good beginning doubt as to his success in the campaign. There are many hurdles ahead that Eisenhower has to take. I still have my fingers crossed.

I am not enamored of the idea of having an ex-top brass as president of the United States. Normally, there is nothing in the training and experience of a professional soldier that qualifies him for the chief magistracy of the nation. Yet, in a spirit of fairness, I confess that Eisenhower's experience has been wholly that of the typical soldier. He has had purely administrative jobs. His last experience has been administrative as much as military leadership. He has not been in the field of leadership. He has not been in the field of leadership. He has not been in the field of leadership.

Although I am leaning your way, I want to register dissent to your statement that "the threat to our personal liberty and to the stability of the national economy is a direct result of international communism." Admittedly, you were taking a stand between two issues: "liberty vs. socialism," as proclaimed by the progressive members who favor the war; and "security vs. personal safety," as proclaimed by the conservative members who favor the peace.

Now, I think we can and most likely would have

Pan Am Wins Fight For \$175 Million Subsidy

WASHINGTON
 Pan Am's victory in the fight for a \$175 million subsidy to offset the cost of air transportation to the Hawaiian Islands was announced today.

The House Committee on Commerce and Finance voted 18-10 to approve the subsidy. The bill was introduced by Representative Charles McNary (D-Or.) and is expected to pass the House within a few days.

The subsidy would be used to offset the cost of air transportation to the Hawaiian Islands, which is a major expense for Pan Am. The subsidy would be used to offset the cost of air transportation to the Hawaiian Islands, which is a major expense for Pan Am.

How The Lobby Worked

THE cost-plus bill was introduced in 1949 by two Massachusetts Congressmen—John Kennedy, Democrat, and John Heston, Republican. It was passed by the committee, the Pan Am lobby got busy. It pulled strings in the Senate with GOP Senator Owen Brewster of Maine and Brian Maloney of Massachusetts, both Democrats, Colorado, both Democrats. They were able to stymie the bill.

Influencing The Politicians

THE chairman of the House committee, Congressman Robert Crosser of Cleveland, Ohio, has always backed the Kennedy-Heston bill. He also has always backed Cleveland's own newspaper, the Plain Dealer. Crosser has always backed the Kennedy-Heston bill. He also has always backed Cleveland's own newspaper, the Plain Dealer.