

Unions' Waning Influence With Politicos Bared at Conventions Of Major Parties in Philadelphia

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PHILADELPHIA—(NEA)—If any doubts remain about times having changed, a look at the role of the labor unions in major party political conventions here in Philadelphia should remove the uncertainty.

At the Chicago conventions in 1944, union leaders threw their weight around considerably. Even the Republican convention welcomed such labor leaders as Arthur Hays Sulzberger, who was producing the war effort, and the GOP platform of 1944 condemned arbitrary wage freezing by government agencies, the manipulation of the Department of Labor and the perversion of the Wagner act by the wicked few Dealers.

At the Democratic convention four years ago, Phil Murray and the late Sidney Hillman of CIO, Political Action Committee took their first beatings in 12 years. Their political fortunes have been going down ever since.

With the death of Hillman, the IO-PAC mantle of leadership

fell on Jack Kroll, but the movement just hasn't had any oomph. The Citizens' PAC changed its name to PCA—Progressive Citizens of America and branched off to back Wallace, taking the left-wing unions along.

Passage of the Taft-Hartley act completed the debacle. Phil Murray did a whale of a job in fighting the Taft-Hartley ban on political activity by union newspapers, winning a Supreme Court decision that this section of the law is unconstitutional. The more conservative CIO leadership under Murray has also done wonders in subjugating the Communists within their ranks.

The record of the first 10 months under the Taft-Hartley law seems to indicate that labor unions are having no trouble in



U.S. CADETS ON TOUR—U. S. Coast Guard cadets go aloft for better view of London as their training ship, the three-masted barque Eagle, docks in Shadwell Basin. Visit is part of their annual training cruise.

getting wage increases, in spite of injunctions and other curbs. Nevertheless, repeal of the T.H. law and defeat of all Republican or Democratic congressmen who voted for it are still the primary political goals of the labor unions.

Half-a-dozen new outfits have been founded to carry on this fight. They can still do a job in getting out the vote for the November election. But up to the time of the conventions they just had not made any impression on the electorate.

Given Brushoff
At the Philadelphia conventions, both CIO and AFL spokesmen appeared before the resolutions committees, drafting the party platforms. Usually the glad hand is extended to the labor "boys," but this year they have been given a pretty nasty brush-off.

Van A. Bittner of the steelworkers, speaking for the CIO, recalled to the Republicans their platform promises of 1944 and charged the GOP with breach of its labor planks.

William Green spoke for the fore both conventions. He asked for a long bill of particulars, including repeal of the T.H. law, curbs on inflation, aid to education, housing, more social security. Green got such rough treatment from the Republicans that when he returned to Washington, his first act was to beat it over to the White House to see Truman and say he would never support Dewey.

James B. Carey of CIO talked to the Democratic convention. He asked for Truman's Civil Rights program and Roosevelt's old Bill of Economic Rights.

All these were pretty futile performances. The cocky Republicans feel that they don't need the labor vote. The Democrats need it, but are so divided between conservative and liberal elements that they can't seem to get it. Union labor is so indifferent to the Democratic cause this year that its leaders won't even accept invitations to speak at its convention.

Which is a far cry indeed from 1944.

Character Indicated By Auto Color, Survey Shows

BALTIMORE—(AP)—The color you choose for your car gives an inkling of your character, a nationwide survey made by three automobile associations purports to show. That is, if you're lucky enough to be able to decide what color car you want.

According to the color poll, "intellectual people prefer blue, athletes, red; egotists, yellow, and extroverts, orange."

The poll was conducted by members of the Used Car Dealers Association, the Automobile Man-

ufacturers Association and the National Automobile Dealers Association.

The survey also shows that color preferences vary by regions. In the southwest, vivid colors are preferred. On the Pacific coast, light pastel tints are chosen. In New England, subdued blues, maroons, greens and grays are favorites.



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