

Here's One Man Who Knows How to Forecast Elections

By PETER EDSON
NEA Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON—(NEA)—Louis H. Bean, Department of Agriculture economist and statistician, has had the nerve to write a book called "How to Predict Elections," just published by Knopf. He doesn't handle the subject exactly like a mystery story, with the answer on whether it will be Dewey or Truman revealed in the last chapter. Instead, he gives all the clues, charts and tables on past elections and trends. Then he leaves it up to the reader to dope it out for himself.

Twelve years ago, Louis Bean says he fell in love at first sight with a half page of figures—election figures, that is in the World Almanac. These figures have been his hobby ever since. That he is good can be attested by this writer. Two years ago he sought out Dr. Bean for a forecast on the off-year congressional elections. No flat prediction was forthcoming. But after looking over all the factors, Mr. Bean made an estimate that the Republicans would win about twice as many seats as they needed to get control of both Senate

and House. The result was so close that it was uncanny. The GOP needed 26 seats in the House and six in the Senate to gain control. Twice that was 52 and 12. What they won was 55 and 12. **Demo Revival in 50's**
In the last chapter of "How to Predict Elections," Louis Bean now takes a flyer on "1948 and the Incoming Tide."
It is his considered opinion that 1947 marked the end of the downward trend in the New Deal tide, the beginning of a new one. He backs this up with a chart showing two-party power, as measured by Republican and Democratic majorities in the House for 60 years past.

Democratic peaks came in the years 1890-92, 1912-14, 1932-36. Republican peaks, lasting somewhat longer, have come in the years 1894-1904, 1920-28, and 1946 to—well, what's your guess?
Author Bean's guess seems to be that even if the Republicans do win in 1948, the Democrats will be due for a rise in the 1950's. After that, they'd take another dive in the 1960's. For short range forecasters,

Olympic Stature



Joe Depietro, left, four-foot, eight-inch Paterson, N.J., Olympic weightlifter and seven-foot Bob Kurland, Phillips Oilers' basketball star from Bartlesville, Okla., represent the extremes in Olympic stature. Both are champions in their fields and will compete in London.

Bill Proposes \$130 Million Federal Aid to Help Ten Million Illiterates

By ROBERT E. GEIGER

WASHINGTON—Would you know what to do if you saw a sign that said "Explosives—Keep Away"? Or "Poison—For External Use Only"?

Sen. Harley M. Kilgore (D-W. Va.) says the census reveals that slightly over 10,000,000 Americans—one out of every seven adults—wouldn't know. He calls them "sheer or near illiterates." He proposed \$130,000,000 federal aid to help such people learn to read and write. His bill died, but educators say it is sure to come up again.

What is an illiterate? Where do these 10,000,000 illiterates live? Kilgore says the answers to these questions are so amazing the situation can only be described as a national disgrace.

First, he describes illiterates as persons without the equivalent of a fourth grade education. They can't read or, if they can, they can't understand what they read sufficiently well to function as citizens.

Second, he says many of these people—probably the majority of them—don't live far out in the sticks, where an education is hard to come by. And the majority are not foreign born, but native Americans.

He gives these figures: 4,200,000 are white people, born in this country. 3,200,000 are foreign born whites, 2,700,000 are Negroes. He says one-tenth of the 10,000,000 live in New York, 462,000 in Illinois and 385,000 in California. Louisiana has a higher percentage of illiterates among its total population than any other state. Kilgore estimates the number at 36 per cent. Iowa has the lowest, 4.1 per cent. **Democracy Threatened**

There are three times as many illiterates in the country as college graduates, Kilgore adds. He says this weakens democracy because many of these people cannot read the words "freedom" or "peace." Communists are aware of this situation and take full advantage of it by using only the simplest types of propaganda or by making personal contacts, the senator says.

He proposed that \$5,000,000 be given the states in 1949 to teach people to read, write, speak and understand the English language, to perform elementary arithmetical computations and to understand the basic features of U. S. government. He would appropriate \$10,000,000 for the teaching program in 1950, and then \$15,000,000 a year until 1957, decreasing to \$5,000,000 in 1958-59. By that time, he believes, illiteracy would be eliminated in the United States.

4th Grade Dividing Line
One difficulty is that illiteracy apparently hasn't been accurately defined. Most authorities agree that the 10,000,000 estimate may be wide of the true mark, one way or the other. Until 1940 the U. S. census bureau counted illiterates merely by asking people if they could read and write in any language. If they couldn't they were classified as illiterate. Until 1940 the census classified people by their degree of education—number of years they attended school. This is the origin of the estimate that there are 10,000,000

the fourth grade as the dividing line between literary and illiteracy. This was based on the wartime experience of the Army. It found that as a general rule people with less than a fourth grade education couldn't read or obey the simplest sort of orders. Army officials say 350,000 soldiers between 21 and 45 had to "make their mark" with an X because they couldn't write their own names.

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Bean warns that his boiling political pot must be allowed to quiet down before brewing predictions. He himself seems to lean to the belief that the Republican victory of 1946 may be of short duration. He says one result of the third party emergence may be the election of a Republican president and a Democratic Congress.

Other 'Experts' Differ
Other political "experts" have other ideas. Author Bean is fair enough to cite them. Prof. Arthur N. Holcombe is quoted on the theory that whenever a party in power loses control of Congress in off-year elections, it also loses the presidency in the next election. This happened in 1882, 1890, 1894, 1910, 1918, 1930.

Prof. Arthur M. Schlesinger, Sr., of Harvard, is quoted on his theory that periods of liberalism are followed by periods of conservatism, each lasting from 15 to 18 years. Under this theory, the 16-year period of New Deal liberalism lasting from 1931 to 1947 would normally be followed by a period of conservatism lasting from 1947 to approximately 1963.

Assuming no recession comes in 1948 - 49, Statistician Bean charts a possible alternate course to that of Schlesinger. If a depression should hit somewhere about 1952, Bean says that the Democrats—or their equivalents or successors—would dominate the U. S. political scene during the last half of the 1950's.

All this speculation is pretty much of a mental exercise with statistics. Bean says he has given no consideration to personalities. He thereby admits the same kind of error that political bosses do when they talk personalities and political movements without facts and figures.

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and Lock the Door
Monterey Polka

Smiley Burnette
It's My Lazy Day
Hominy Grits

Popular

Kay Kyser
Woody Woodpecker
Song
When Veronica Plays
the Harmonica

Fred Lowery
Indian Love Call
I Love You Truly

Spike Jones
William Tell Overture
Man on the Flying
Trapeze

Classical

Jannsen Symphony of Los Angeles
Theme from "Laura"
Scherzo

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