

Voting Blocs in U. S. Comprised Of Veterans, Farmers and Labor Unions

By ROBERT E. GEIGER

WASHINGTON—How powerful are voting "blocs" in the United States?

First of all, what is a bloc? Simply stated, it is a group of citizens with strong common interests. The United States has three such major groups, and many lesser ones. They are the veterans, now numbering about 19,000,000; about 16,000,000 farm people of voting age; and about 50,000,000 in the non-farm labor force, about 16,000,000 belonging to the labor unions.

These total around 85,000,000, so there is obviously much overlapping. There are only an estimated 95,000,000 people of voting age in the U. S. all told.

If a bloc, or a great majority of its members, should decide to vote for the same candidate, it could hold the balance of power in an election. The reason is that in recent presidential elections only slightly more than half of

the eligible voters have cast a ballot.

But bloc voting has never been known to happen. The way it works out, the candidate's job is to try and settle each issue to the satisfaction of each bloc, without antagonizing other blocs, or to convince the majority of voters his proposed solution to a key issue is the best one possible

for the country as a whole. An instance right now is the farm price support program. Both came out for supports, but some organizations have been claiming supports are partly responsible for high food prices.

If voters considered this one issue the most important of the campaign, it could have aligned two powerful groups, the farmers and the city people, into voting blocs.

But there are other important issues like the U. S. foreign policy and the housing shortage.

Blocs Within Blocs

So the big blocs broke down. There are blocs within blocs. Some housewives, irritated by high prices and inflation, nevertheless believe the foreign situation more important. And so they are considering all the issues and deciding which candidate has the best solution for all of them.

So it goes with all blocs when many important issues are up. A voter may simply be a lifelong member of a political party, willing to vote a party ticket regardless of whether he agrees with the proposed party solution for all issues. Or he may be both a farmer and businessman, or a farmer and a veteran. If an issue places both these interests in conflict, he has to make a choice. Racial and religious issues also

have been important in the past. Labor Also Divides

Neither the CIO nor the AFL organizations have been claiming presidential candidate. But some officials of each organization have come out for one or the other. One group of workers has endorsed one candidate; another group another. So the labor bloc has been divided. Even so, it is difficult to say how far an individual union member will follow the sentiments of his leaders.

Nobody knows exactly how strongly the blocs have held together in past elections, because ballots are secrets. Public opinion polls have attempted to get the answer.

There is one bloc toward which the politicians are beginning to cock a more attentive ear, however. That's the feminine bloc. Women are becoming better educated. They are doing more and more of their own thinking. But they are in business or they are veterans, or they are housewives. If some politician could contrive to weld them into one solid voting group he would have an election clincher. Because women now outnumber the men in the United States. The latest census estimate is that there are about 1,669,000 more women of voting age than men.

Bullets Fly in Coal Strike



Striking coal miners carry wounded comrade away after he was injured by gunfire at Cambefort pithead near Firminy, France, where two strikers were killed and 50 injured. The government ordered Mobile Guards to shoot strikers if necessary.

Radioactivity Poison Reveals Delayed Effect

OAK RIDGE, Tenn. —(AP)—Proof that the harm done to heredity by radioactivity can lie dormant many generations, and then act like poison, has been found here in the Biology Division of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory. This happened, in parametia, slipper-shaped, single-cell creatures that live in fresh water ponds. Parametia differ from men by reproducing for 30 generations or more without mating.

In this mateless period, a parametium simply divides into two to reproduce. After a score or more such generations, the slipper-shaped animals pair off and mate. X-rays were given to the parametia during the mateless period. These rays have the same effect as those of radioactive atoms. All during the no-mating generations, nothing happened.

After mating it was different. The parametia in the succeeding generations were less vigorous. This loss of vigor was permanent. It appeared even though only one parametium among the ancestors had been given only one shot of x-rays. This delayed poisoning is like the harm expected in human beings, never yet found though known in certain animals and plants. In human beings the theory is that radioactive damage to heredity will not show up until after mating, and probably not until after many generations.

Eating Out Often Good For Wives, Assn. Told

OKLAHOMA CITY, Oct. 28.—(AP)—Wives should eat out more often.

That's the advice George L. Wenzel, Austin, Tex., food expert, has for husbands.

Wenzel is in Oklahoma City to give pointers to the Oklahoma Restaurant Association at its annual convention.

He says eating out provides an inspiration for women to become better cooks.

He also believes that painting pictures and modeling clay is a good idea for the wife. He says this develops a creative talent which is needed if one is to be a good cook.

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Quiz About BOTTLED GAS

Q. Is bottled gas REALLY safe?

A. Safe as any other fuel—Extensive surveys point out that bottled gas accidents are no more prevalent than from any other fuel. Bottled gas installations and appliances are made as near fool proof as physically possible. Yes, bottled gas is safe.

Q. Won't the tank explode in case of fire?

A. No. Automatic pop-off valves take care of that.

Q. Is bottled gas poisonous?

A. No. Old fashioned city gas is—but not bottled gas. In fact an odor is manufactured INTO bottled gas.

Q. Will gas deposit soot and film on walls and ceilings?

A. Absolutely not—gas is c-l-e-a-n. No smoke, either.

Q. How about waste?

A. Bottled gas leaves practically no waste. Most efficient fuel we know.

Q. Isn't gas expensive?

A. Actually, no. Because it burns so completely you aren't paying for wasted smoke or ashes.

Q. Are gas appliances expensive to buy and install?

A. Heavens no, gas ranges sell for much less than other types of ranges and the same is generally true of water heaters, space heaters, furnaces, etc. Cost of installation depends on the building naturally but it is a relatively simple, inexpensive and fast operation.

Q. Will I have to keep checking my supply of gas to see I don't run out?

A. No. We periodically check ALL our customer's tanks and refill them when necessary.

Q. Where is a good place to buy gas and gas appliances?

A. All dealers in bottled gas and gas appliances handle much the same basic items. We at Northwest Gas have long experience in our field and we feel we offer exceptionally good service. Service, promptness, courtesy and sale terms are the outstanding differences between dealers. Some dealers stock different brands of appliances and the native merits of these may aid you in choosing your gas dealer. Here again we feel we are outstanding because all appliances we offer are of high quality.

SIMPLY PHONE 1196-J FOR MORE COMPLETE DETAILS ABOUT BOTTLED GAS

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