

NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS

By PAUL MALLON

VOTERS INCREASE IN MANY CENTERS

WASHINGTON. — Mr. Roosevelt's voice vibrated with what sounded like patriotic fervor when he urged his party workers to get the vote registered and recorded this year as never before.

He made it seem almost non-partisan patriotism the way he put it, reminding all citizens of their duty. Most observers wrote it down as the same old political line most candidates use on election eve, this time delivered earlier.

But he must have spoken from inner knowledge of a condition which may decide the election—and more.

This campaign so far has been almost entirely centered upon undercover organization by both sides to get out their vote. Unfortunately, no political authorities here, Republican or Democratic, keep close tab on national results of this dominating phase of the campaign. Yet here and there facts are coming to the surface, as, for instance, in Baltimore.

There registration has increased 10 per cent over 1942. Of the 32,000 additional voters in that steel, aircraft, war-worker port, 22,000 were Democratic, only 8,000 Republican (odd figures and independent voters apparently accounting for the missing 2,000.) Nearly one-sixth of the whole city registration was Negro (335,380 white and 61,365 Negro.)

The greatest rush of registrants was in a 10-day period before the time limit, indicating clearly someone was doing an extraordinary job along Mr. R's line, in fact, enough to swing the entire state of Maryland in a close election.

From Ohio and Indiana, however, congressmen have brought reports that the local Democratic organizations in some counties are not functioning at all.

Whether they are silently resentful or just hopeless the reporting congressmen do not know. They are, however, convinced Democratic organizing is not up to standard.

NOT IN PARTY OFFICES

Up to now no labor organization has taken over the local machinery of either major political party. In many cases labor votes have dominated districts and controlled the party politicians, but union men were not in party offices.

I believe CIO tried to get its men into the Democratic organization in Michigan a year or so back, but failed. The most authentic national reports available—as a whole—thus indicate CIO's efforts have been spotty so far.

In war working centers they failed in their campaign to bring the voting booths into the factories, thus to provide greater voting facilities for their people than citizens generally enjoy, but they have been able to edge themselves toward positions usually handled by Democratic leaders (many of whom are away to war this year.) In most midwest counties there apparently is no CIO activity, or signs of success.

G.O.P. HAS EDGE

The Republicans, of course, have their 26 governors and Dewey has worked out with them, and with the Republican congressmen, an extraordinarily close cooperative system which he expects to produce the registering and voting results for his party.

Mr. Roosevelt may have spoken, therefore, less patriotically than from a troubled heart. Some of his associates are even more troubled at the prospect that CIO may move in to take county chairmanships after this campaign.

It may not be enough then that he repudiate the Communists on his coat tails. They are digging into the lining and the seams. There is a commonly prevailing notion the Republicans will win congress even if Governor Dewey loses.

This is an easy assumption which takes the fullest possible liberties with the inner facts of the situation. A careful check suggests rather that the election of Dewey is essential to bring both houses of congress into the Republican column, or rather it is, unless the voters go in for an unprecedented amount of ticket-splitting and turn entirely away from the Democratic list after checking Mr. Roosevelt.

The Republicans have their best chance in the house. There the line-up today is: Republican 212, Democrat 216, vacancies 3, other parties 4. Without the aid of a pencil, a glancing observer might conclude the house to be certainly Republican as only six more seats are needed. Maybe—but the unnoticed fact inside the matter is that the Republicans already fully hold the congressional field outside the cities. They may logically figure to pick up a seat in Seattle.

The Washington MERRY-GO-ROUND

By DREW PEARSON

New Orleans, La.

BRITISH AWARE OF CONGRESS
Although the average Britisher will be amazed if FDR is not elected to a fourth term, recent weeks have seen the British press and public far more aware of the possibility of Republican victory.

When Governor Dewey began his recent speaking tour, he rated about one paragraph per speech in most London papers, with an editorial tending to deprecate the GOP standard-bearer. Enthusiastic Republican Representative Karl Mundt of South Dakota remarked that when he arrived in London, early in September, he needed a magnifying glass to find any reference to Dewey—always referred to by the British as "Governor Tom Dewey."

However, the challenger's space in the London press gradually increased during September, culminating in double-column headlines on the front pages the night after his Oklahoma City speech.

Chatting one day with a member of the British House of Commons, Congressman Mundt was asked about Dewey's chances. He replied that he thought they were excellent and that Dewey might very well go into the White House next year. The member of parliament, off guard, answered: "What a pity."

Mundt mentioned the incident later to Churchill's minister of information, Brendan Bracken, who apologized:

"I thought we had them better trained than that."

PARLIAMENT NOTICES CONGRESS

An important result of the U. S. political uncertainty is the determination on the part of the British government to work with this country on the legislative as well as the executive level. The British are becoming more and more aware of the importance of the American congress, admit they should never have overlooked it after they saw the trouncing Wilson got after the last armistice.

While observing the British Parliament, Mundt heard a speech by Lord Braithwaite, author of a recent bill inviting American congressmen to England as official guests, call for much closer relations between parliament and congress.

"Our international friendship," said Lord Braithwaite, "cannot be permitted to depend on the slender reed of affection between two individuals separated by a mighty ocean."

GOOD NEIGHBORS PROVIDE COFFEE

The backstage story in regard to the near threat of coffee rationing is that the Good Neighbor policy paid dividends last month. Brazilian friendship enabled us to avert either coffee rationing or a coffee rise in price. The American housewife will be in \$18,000,000 between now and Christmas because of the Good Neighbor policy.

U. S. retail coffee prices here have been frozen since December, 1941, but the cost of producing coffee in Brazil, Colombia, Salvador and Venezuela has not. Growers there have been clamoring for higher prices.

The governments of these four countries have been under constant pressure from powerful coffee interests to get better prices in the United States. In general, the growers of Venezuela, Colombia and Salvador have had partial support from their governments, but the Brazilian government has refused to press for higher prices.

As a result, growers have been tapering off in their acceptance of orders from the U. S. A. Gambling on an early end of the war, they decided to build up stocks for immediate sale to England, Sweden, France and Spain. (Coffee will keep in the bean for as long as five to ten years.)

This refusal of growers to accept new orders led the War Food Administration to recommend rationing to OPA Administrator Chester Bowles last summer. Bowles opposed rationing then, though agreeing with WFA Boss Marvin Jones that we should not raise the price of coffee.

1,000,000 BAGS A MONTH
When brilliant Brazilian minister of finance, Souza Closta, was in Washington last July, he guaranteed us a minimum of 1,000,000 bags of Brazilian coffee for each of the four months from September through December. Costa promised extra large shipments from Brazil, risking the extreme anger of Brazilian growers in the interest of U. S. friendship.

Meanwhile, the administration found itself unable to buy coffee for delivery even next year. The Brazilian guarantee is only for the remainder of this year, and the American people drink more than 1,000,000 bags a month, it has been pointed out.

It was at this point that Marvin Jones and Chester Bowles went to assistant Pres. Jimmy Byrnes with their problem. Byrnes advised immediate rationing. He knew that the threat of renewed rationing would cause plenty of worry among the coffee growers.

Truce Clears Battleground of Civilians



When Dunkirk became the center of operations, Allies and Germans agreed to a truce in order that civilians could leave the city. Views showing them leaving are typical of other cities along the route of the advancing Yanks. Allied headquarters say that the Dunkirk truce plan may not be followed in all other cities. Individual commanders will decide in the future.

Holland in Ruins as War Rages Toward Berlin



Typical of most Holland cities, Nejmegen, hit by German and Allied bombardment and shelling, shows the effect of the war upon that country. American soldiers aid in cleaning up the city as well as take care of snipers left behind by the retreating Nazis. Cooperation of organized Holland underground has made it possible for Allied troops to advance rapidly. Nothing remains standing in wake of Nazi retreat.

Coastguardsmen Cast Ballots



Coastguardsmen at a replacement pool in the South Pacific exercise their right to vote along with millions of American servicemen all over the world. These men are awaiting new assignments to coast-guard fighting ships in the Pacific and will win back the Philippines and carry fighting troops in Japan. Early reports indicate considerable interest on the part of overseas veterans, with considerable soldier, sailor and marine individual campaigners at work.

No Place Like Our Old Home



Even when it is in ruins like this one at Scarperia, near the Gothic line in Italy, there is no place like home. Using a shell hole in the wall for a door, the couple return and lay plans on building a new home without fear of further oppression from the Nazi yolk as was their lot in the past.

Aachen Given Terms



Lieut. William Boehme, New York City, with another officer and a private carried the surrender terms to the besieged Nazi garrison at Aachen, Germany. Boehme was chosen because of his German-American parentage and knowledge of German.

Snite Goes South



Frederick Snite, the "boiler kid," shown in his iron lung, with his daughter, Terese Marie, four years and one month old, as he left his Chicago home for the winter in Florida.

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TURN 'EM IN! ★ ★ ★

When Your Back Hurts -

And Your Strength and Energy Is Below Par
It may be caused by disorder of kidney function that permits poisonous waste to accumulate. For truly many people feel tired, weak and miserable when the kidneys fail to remove excess acids and other waste matter from the blood. You may suffer nagging backache, rheumatic pains, headaches, dizziness, getting up nights, leg pains, swelling. Sometimes frequent and scanty urination with smarting and burning is another sign that something is wrong with the kidneys or bladder. There should be no doubt that prompt treatment is wiser than neglect. Use Doan's Pills. It is better to rely on a medicine that has won countrywide approval than on something less favorably known. Doan's have been tried and tested many years. Are at all drug stores. Get Doan's today.

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