

# Democrats' 1948 Chances Uncertain

## Truman's Popularity Grows But Party Itself Is Shaky

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(This follows a series on the men most talked about as candidates for the Republican presidential nomination.)

WASHINGTON.—One Sunday last month, a friend and I watched President Truman unveil a plaque on Covenant First Presbyterian church. The occasion was a ceremony establishing the church as a national house of worship for Presbyterians.

Just previously, a wreath had been laid on the nearby statue of John Witherspoon, Presbyterian clergyman, signer of the Declaration of Independence, and one-time president of what is now Princeton university.

"There never was a time," President Truman said, in paying tribute to John Witherspoon, "when we needed more of the backing of those people who believe in the Golden Rule, and who believe in the teachings of Jesus Christ."

The President was, of course, speaking of moral support, but he had reason to be rather cheerful because of another kind of backing which he had just learned he had—the kind measured by Dr. Gallup's polls. Gallup called it "one of the most dramatic reversals of political sentiment in history."



Baukhage

On October 16 of last year, the poll reported Democratic party strength at its lowest point in 16 years. Three weeks later, the survey was confirmed at the polls with election of a Republican congress.

But today, Mr. Truman's popularity is way up. A year ago the score was 53 to 47 in favor of the Republicans; in the last count it was 56 to 44 in favor of the Democrats.

On the question: "Do you approve or disapprove of the way Mr. Truman is handling his job as President?" the scoreboard said: Approve—53 per cent Disapprove—29 per cent. The rest expressed no opinion.

Much water has flowed over the dam since the two polls were taken. More will flow; and, at any rate, no poll can measure the imperceptible changes facing the Democrats. They have been going through a whole cycle of hopes and fears. The October poll may have been almost as surprising as pleasing to party leaders. They know there must be an end to all things, and it is pretty hard to prove that the stream has not been crossed and that the voters who used, sometimes, to elect Republican presidents, still shudder at the danger of changing horses.

The one biggest abstract obstacle to the election of the Democratic president is the fact that the Democrats have just been around too long. Undoubtedly the biggest concrete threat is General Eisenhower. When that atomic boom first threatened to break, the President was on the high seas, but the details were reported to him blow by blow—and it was quite a blow.

Probably the next biggest headache is the internal condition of the party. After long delay and much dissatisfaction, a new national chairman, Sen. Howard McGrath (Dem., R. I.) was selected, and welcomed in most quarters. He has a job cut out for him because the Democratic machine has grown very rusty in the last years, and it is not only rusty which has corrupted.

Nor is it the machine alone that creaks. Will-o-the-wisp Wallace with his constant threat of a third party is a threat to the Democratic party itself. Nobody believes that a third party candidate could possibly be elected as things stand now.

But did you ever see that traffic-safety slogan: "Don't try to guess what a child will do?" Democratic leaders are up against the same thing. They don't dare guess what that problem child, Henry Wallace, will do. He is quite capable of going ahead and starting a third party with the full knowledge that it couldn't accomplish anything but the election of a Republican president.

A third party would have not merely a nuisance-value, but Wallace might dream up a long-range scheme of leading a political labor movement like Britain's. After many defeats, that turned into a political party which finally attained power and put a socialistic impress on the whole British national economy. So the Wallace threat is a very definite one.

And what about the labor vote? It has long been a theory, iterated by former AFL boss Gompers, and (until passage of the Taft-Hartley act) reiterated by his successor, Mr. Green, that there was no such animal.

Franklin Roosevelt claimed there was no labor vote, as such. Former Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins said there was none, and in those days, there wasn't, despite the existence of the American Labor party in New York City.

I doubt that there is a "labor vote" now, despite the AFL's new "Education and Public Relations" unit, and the CIO-PAC, and their threats to punish supporters of the Taft-Hartley law. As a matter of fact, I understand opposition to the law is cooling, except where fires are being artificially fanned, and old-timers tell me it will (a) be modified and (b) be forgotten.

The fall congressional election in the eighth Pennsylvania district where such Herculean efforts were put forth to make the bill an issue, didn't prove too much either way, except that the highly-organized CIO campaign did NOT defeat the Republican candidate.

### Party Machinery Has Deteriorated

Democratic party machinery has deteriorated rapidly since 1938 when it was discovered that Roosevelt's coat-tails were no longer strong enough to put local candidates into office. Gradually, precinct, city, county and state organizations began to take far more interest in electing local officers than they were in working together as a unit for the national candidate. In Roosevelt's case, that was hardly necessary. And the White House got into the habit of thinking it wasn't necessary to do much for the local people either. So the gulf widened.

It is true that real bell-ringing was carried on by the left wing organized around the CIO-PAC, but in some cases this support proved the kiss of death. The Democratic machine will have to work for the co-operation of Wallace and the present offshoots of CIO-PAC because it cannot afford to alienate that type of support. Gallup a month or so ago reported in a survey of political orientation that 50 per cent of the American people favored a middle-of-the-road policy.

Of course, much depends on who becomes the Republican candidate for president. That is the reason that the possibility of an Eisenhower or even a MacArthur on the horizon raises jitters in the executive mansion.

Much also will depend on the strength of the big city bosses. The Kelly machine is pretty weak. Chicago's new Mayor Kennelly is giving the city an administration such as it hasn't had in a long time. But he has weakened, not strengthened, the old Kelly outfit. However, I hear that Sen. Scott Lucas a down-stater, who always fought Kelly until the last time, may run for governor of Illinois. He is strong down-state. This might help Truman with the Illinois delegation.

How strong will the new Kansas City machine be? O'Dwyer is refurbishing Tammany, but the Tiger hasn't its old wallop. How much the greatly-weakened Hague machine in New Jersey can contribute, I don't know. There is one thing to be considered. Almost all the machines (except Crump's Memphis regulars) have been weakened by the growth of power of the labor bosses. What the Democrats may gain by the labor bosses' influence in attracting some of the liberals who made up the Roosevelt following, may be lost in alienating some of the old-line party workers.

### 75,000 WORKERS

## Building U.N. Home Huge Task

The 65 million-dollar job of constructing the United Nations' world capital along the East river in New York City will benefit more than 75,000 workers during the next three years, headquarters planning officials have predicted.

Chief architects of the future skyscraper city of glass and marble estimated that a total of 25,000 persons eventually would be employed in construction and other direct work upon the actual site.

An additional 50,000 workers are expected to contribute indirectly in production of materials and in other outside labor. Labor expense will account for 42 million of the total 65 million dollar construction cost.



FALL IN . . . Harold S. Shields of Columbus, Ohio, a war veteran, won the grand prize (\$1,500) in the newspaper national snapshot awards contest this year with this picture of a baby sparrow in a situation unique among baby sparrows. Shields called it "Fall In."

### NEWS REVIEW

## Meat, Wheat Peril Seen; Get Tough: U.S. Public

#### FOOD PUZZLE

##### Meat vs. Wheat

Domestic food situation in the U. S. is entering a critical stage, with two aspects standing out in sharp opposition to each other:

1. The government, determined to ship 500 million bushels of wheat to Europe by next June, is campaigning to save a major portion of that amount by cutting down on the feed consumption of cattle, hogs and poultry. That line of reasoning holds that smaller flocks and feeding to lighter weights will save more grain than any other single effort.

2. The supply of meat is going to be considerably less than it has been and the demand will be greater. Meat prices are expected to go much higher in 1948. Further curtailment of meat production by saving grain at the feed trough will intensify that already serious situation.

There is no danger of a bread or food shortage of any kind this winter because of the nation's bumper wheat harvest. The pinch, if it comes, will appear after the middle of next year, precipitated by a currently threatening drought and failure of the winter wheat crop. Added to that is the fact that domestic uses, plus exports, will leave from this year's harvest of 1.4 billion bushels only a 100 million-bushel carryover by the time of the next harvest—too small a volume in the event of a short crop.

Meat, which right now is a little cheaper than it has been because more animals are being slaughtered, will continue in great demand next year because consumer buying power will remain high.

The supply, however, will be less. The agriculture department estimates there will be only 21.5 billion pounds of meat produced in 1948, compared to 23.2 billion pounds this year. There will be 4 million fewer cattle on farms next January than last January, smaller hogs will be sent to market and there will be no increase in the stocks of sheep, which are at an 80-year low.

#### PLAGUE:

##### Egypt Stricken

Cholera, the dreaded black plague is spreading so swiftly in Egypt that a total of 6,000 dead has been predicted by year's end.

With many stricken villages isolated by troops, other small communities are ringed with bonfires day and night in the belief that fire will keep out the disease.

Meanwhile, neighboring nations were taking steps to prevent the spread of cholera from the upper Nile valley. Greece, Italy and Palestine have discontinued international traffic, while private shipping lines will bypass Egyptian ports and air travel is diverted away from Egypt.

Outside help in combating the disease is at a minimum in Egypt. Swiss scientists alone were said to be helping local health officers. There is a desperate shortage of vaccines, DDT and medical specialists.

#### GET TOUGH: U. S. Approves

Soviet leaders, who cry "war-monger" every time an American diplomat splits an infinitive, are gravely in error if they suppose there is any major cleavage between the American public's views on Russia and the state department's so-called "tough" policy toward the Soviets.

That conclusion was brought out in a recent Gallup poll which indicated that, actually, the predominant mood of public opinion today



favors an even tougher policy than the state department is following.

Answers to the question, "Do you think that in dealing with Russia and other countries the U. S. is insisting too much on having its own way?" were: Yes, 12 per cent; No, 78 per cent; No opinion, 10 per cent.

Further, 62 per cent of the American people believe that the U. S. is being too soft in its policy toward Russia. Only 6 per cent think it is being too tough, and 24 per cent say our official attitude toward the Soviets is about right.

#### FINAL TOUCHES:

##### Marshall Plan

After caroming from praise to criticism to condemnation for the past few months, the celebrated Marshall plan to help Europe regain its feet is being whipped into final shape under direction of Secretary of State George Marshall, its progenitor.

One known fact loomed large in the mind of the American taxpayer: The plan may cost up to 20 billion dollars for the four-year period during which it will be in effect.

Marshall, who abandoned temporarily his debating in the U. N. general assembly, returned to his Washington office to put the finishing touches on his plan, which will be laid before congress when the special session opens November 17. The Marshall plan, subject to late revisions, may be outlined broadly in these main points:

1. U. S. would make available to Europe next year a combination of relief and recovery supplies totaling about six billion dollars. Relief supplies (food) would be free; recovery supplies (machinery) would be financed with loans.

2. Because of shifting conditions, it will be impossible accurately to forecast the amount of help Europe will need beyond the first year.

3. Sums from the U. S. would decrease each year as recovery progress was made.

4. The plan would be administered in the U. S. by a new government agency and in Europe by an organization representing the 16 nations which drew up their estimate of needs at the Paris conference.



THE room was full of smoke, as usual. This happened to be a gathering of football old-timers that could take you back 40 or 50 years, and bring you up to the present hour.

The argument or the debate started as to who should be listed as the real greats of football since 1889, when Walter Camp and Casper Whitney had only Harvard, Yale and Princeton to call on. In the course of a long evening, where hundreds of names were mentioned, I can give you the selected survivors nominated through the years in the college game:

Centers: Germany Schulz, Michigan; Robert Peck, Pittsburgh; Stein of Pitt. (Mel Hein reached his greatness as a pro).

Guards: Pudge Heffelfinger, Yale, outstanding.

Tackles: "Fat" Henry, W. and J., outstanding; Slater, Iowa.

Ends: Stagg, Hinkey, Shevlin, Kilpatrick, Yale; Oosterbaan, Michigan; Hewitt, Michigan; Hutson, Alabama.

Backs: Gipp, Notre Dame; Grange, Illinois; Thorpe, Carlisle; Nagurski, Minnesota; Eckersall, Chicago; Heston, Michigan; Davis, Army.

We could add Coy, Yale; Mahan, Harvard; Nevers, Stanford; Baugh, T. C. U.; Luckman, Columbia; but the latter two reached top stardom with the pros.

It was a smoke-filled evening, rife with the innumerable blend of many voices. Here was one of the final agreements reached concerning the top stars of many universities—the stars who belonged:

Notre Dame: George Gipp. Illinois: Red Grange. Minnesota: Bronko Nagurski. Yale: Pudge Heffelfinger. Michigan: Germany Schultz, Willie Heston. Stanford: Ernie Nevers. Carlisle: Jim Thorpe. N. Y. U.: Ken Strong. Harvard: Eddie Mahan. Army: Glenn Davis. W. and J.: "Fat" Henry. Chicago: Walter Eckersall.

These are the ones that got most of the votes.

#### All-Time All-America

Some years ago, John Sims (Shipwreck) Kelly of Kentucky wrote to 52 coaches asking each to name the greatest player he had ever seen or coached. Only one man got two votes. His name was Jim Thorpe.

In this conclave, it was generally agreed that Bronko Nagurski was the top all-around star, tackle, end or back, and Pudge Heffelfinger the most amazing football player who at the age of 53 was still the best guard in the country. Ask Bo McMillin.

In naming an all-time, college All-America team, there are only a few men who stand out. One is Germany Schulz of Michigan, 6 feet 4, weight 245 pounds, faster than most of his backs, at center. Another is Pudge Heffelfinger of Yale, a star guard in 1921 or 1922, more than 30 years later.

"Fat" Henry of W. and J. is rated by Lou Little and other veterans as the greatest tackle the college game has ever known.

The ends are a problem far beyond our limited range. Hinkey and Shevlin of Yale were two of the greatest defensive ends football has ever known. Hutson and Oosterbaan of Alabama and Michigan were two of the best offensive ends. Don Hutson was undoubtedly the most valuable end that ever walked on a football field. You must start with Hutson. I'll let you pick the other end.

When it comes to the backs, we'll give you three quick names—Bronko Nagurski, Jim Thorpe and Red Grange. For the fourth college spot we can give you Walter Eckersall, Glenn Davis, Ernie Nevers, Dutch Clarke, George Gipp and Ken Strong.

Notre Dame supporters are 100 per cent back of George Gipp, the Far West rolls with Ernie Nevers of Stanford. We'll string along with Ken Strong, one of the best blockers of all time, a great ball carrier, the best kicker we have ever seen and one of the best passers. Also Glenn Davis.

#### The Super Backfield

If we had to pick an all-time college backfield, it would be Grange at quarter, Thorpe and Strong at the halves, Nagurski at fullback. Davis? Yes, we'd want Davis. Our ends, under the modern game, would be Hutson and Hewitt. Outside of Heffelfinger, there has been no outstanding college guard, and outside of Henry there has been no outstanding college tackle.

The two best passers have been Baugh and Luckman, exceptionally good in college, but far better in the pro game. In the college game Friedman and Gornvali were just as good.

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