

Labor Merger Finds GOP Confused, Unable to Come Up With Suitable Plan

Party Disharmony Evident as Ideas Being Discussed

By LYLE C. WILSON
United Press Correspondent
Washington—(U.P.)—The AFL and CIO merger finds the Republican party confused and unable to come up with a plan for living with the new giant. Some would welcome a little guidance from Jack-the-Giant-Killer.

Top level

Republicans are playing it by ear, each more or less on his own. There is considerable disharmony. President Eisenhower told the merger convention this week that AFL-CIO had a right to play politics but also a responsibility to protect the rights of union members who disagreed with the leaders' party line.

Sen. Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.) said last Sunday that the AFL-CIO had "no right" to endorse a presidential candidate. Sen. William F. Knowland (R-Calif.) said recently that some leaders in the new combine hope to take over the Democratic Party.

Harold E. Stassen, a top man on Mr. Eisenhower's personal staff, sees a "dangerous trend for the future well-being of the workers and the nation." Republican National Chairman Leonard W. Hall recently charged that "power-hungry labor bosses control the Democratic party." Goldwater and others in the party's right wing accuse labor leaders of conspiring on a national scale to control the 1956 presidential election.

Some in Party Disagree

The party's comparative left wingers disagree. Sen. Clifford Case, (R-N.J.), recently said such attacks on union political activity were hysterical. And so it goes, with Mr. Eisenhower apparently determined to walk a middle road between his disputing fellow Republicans.

The charge that some labor leaders hope to take over the Democratic party is one often and hotly denied. Time will tell about that. It does appear that the CIO has become a partner in Michigan's revitalized Democratic party. In near-by Minnesota there is an active labor partnership with the Democrats on a somewhat different basis. The official name in Minnesota, by court order is: Democratic-Farmer Labor party.

John L. Lewis has been able in some states to vote his United Mine Workers almost en bloc, sometimes one way, sometimes another. In any industrial state the organized labor vote is a powerhouse when it can be delivered, which is not always. The AFL-CIO reply to Republican charges came Thursday in a convention resolution calling for expanded political activity by the 16,000,000 member organization.

Odds are Heavy

The odds are at least 1000-to-1 that most of this political activity will be for Democratic candidates and against Republicans. Small wonder that Republican statesmen are alarmed. That the AFL-CIO will in one way or another go all out for next year's Democratic presidential candidate is a practical certainty. There's a sound reason for that.

Whether labor does or does not take over the Democratic Party, it can and does exercise a solid veto in Democratic national conventions. It was during the 1944 national convention that Arthur Krock of the New York Times broke the story of President Roosevelt's instructions to his national committee chairman who represented him there. "Clear it with Sidney," Byrnes Vetoed as Nominee.

Sidney Hillman then was the labor leader closest to FDR. Labor, through Hillman, vetoed James F. Byrnes as a vice-presidential nominee. In 1952 a labor squeeze compelled Sen. Richard B. Russell (D-Ga.), to rise high above principle in an effort to make himself acceptable as a Democratic presidential nominee. Even so, labor would have none of him. And it was that same year, too, that

4-H Club News

Sis-Q 4-H Club

The Sis-Q 4-H club met Nov. 30 at Bellview Grange. The meeting was called to order by Roxy Sisemore. We discussed the name for the club and decided on Sis-Q.

There will be a Christmas party on Dec. 28 at 7:30 p.m. and those attending are to bring a gift costing not more than 25 cents. The smaller clubs broke up into groups and organized. John James Reporter.

labor broke Vice-President Alben W. Barkley's heart by crushing his bid for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Portlander Elected NAM Vice President

New York—(U.P.)—The National Association of Manufacturers yesterday elected Ernest G. Swigert, president of the Hyster company in Portland, as national vice-president.

The office puts the Portland industrialist in line for election to the presidency of the NAM next year. Swigert is the first Oregon man ever honored with a top office of the NAM.

Three Oregon representatives to the board of directors were reelected at the 60th annual congress of the NAM. They are Thomas W. Deizell, chairman of

Jury Deliberating Death of Socialite

Santa Monica, Calif.—(U.P.)—A Superior Court jury of eight housewives and four men today resumed deliberations at the murder trial of John R. Crooker Jr., 31, accused of slaying pretty Socialite Mrs. Norma T. McCauley, 33.

Superior Judge Stanley Mosk handed the case to the jury at 4:07 p.m. yesterday after delivering his final instructions. Crooker, the victim's former

houseboy, went on trial Nov. 14 on charges he stabbed and strangled the wealthy divorcee in her fashionable Bel-Air home last July 5 because she refused him her love. The defendant repudiated a confession he made shortly after being arrested, charging it was obtained under duress.

DUTCH GET PLANES

Volkel Airbase, Holland—(U.P.)—U. S. Ambassador H. Freeman Matthews today turned over a token force of four F85 Thunderstreak fighter-bombers to the Dutch Air Force, vanguard of 200 to be delivered.

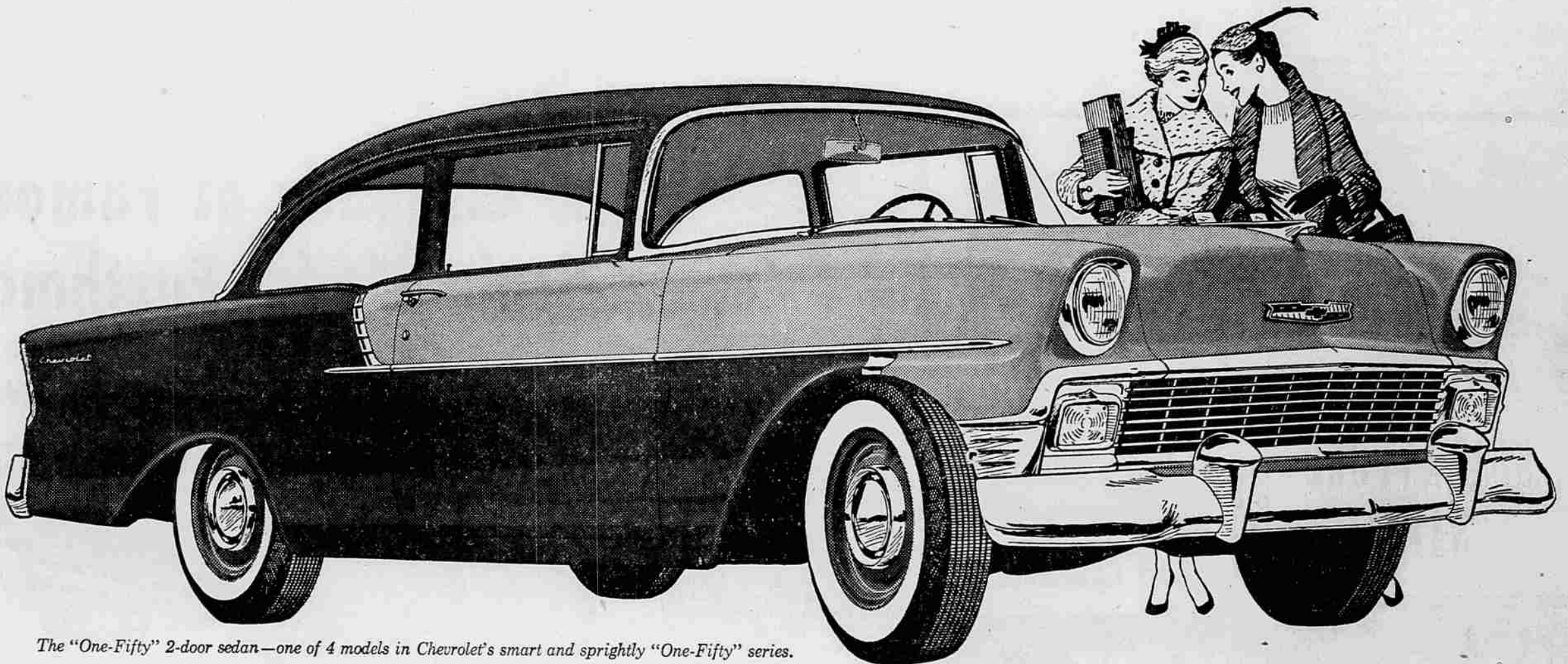
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