

# Left-Wing Liberals Will Gain Most From Harriman's Warning

By LYLE C. WILSON

Washington—(U.P.)—The left-wing Liberal party stands to gain the most from Gov. Averell Harriman's warning to Democrats that they must hold such offices as New York to elect a President this year.

That was Harriman's challenge to Southern Democrats who take a dim view of his presidential candidacy. He made it at the Atlantic City governor's conference. The liberals are a splinter group in New York state confined largely to New York City. They can deliver well upwards of 260,000 votes of the 5,000,000 or more which New Yorkers generally cast.

It isn't very many, but it is enough. In the present state of New York politics, the Democrats need the liberals to lick the Republicans. It is a tail-wag-the-dog situation, but no less real because of that. For example, take the 1934 returns which elected Harriman governor of New York and put him on the White House trail.

Harriman had a plurality of a scant 11,125 votes in a total poll of 5,161,000. Of the total Harriman vote, 264,093 were cast by liberals who also had nominated him for governor. Harriman would have lost by more than 250,000 votes without the liberal endorsement and Sen. Irving M. Ives would be today the Republican governor of New York.

The Democratic party in New York state under such circumstances is in many ways the captive of a small, left-wing splinter party which has the balance of power. The Democratic party in New York state must shape its policies very much to meet liberal party standards or lose liberal support. That goes, too, for Harriman as candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination. The liberal party, therefore, looms mighty big in the Democratic picture. Its ideas may have considerable effect on the Democratic platform.

This would be much less than the situation if New York stood alone in that relationship between the Democratic party and left-wing elements. It is not alone, however. Way back in the Roosevelt administration there was a legal merger in Minnesota of the comparatively radical Farmer Labor party with the Democratic party. There is no mere Democratic party in Minnesota now, nor has there been for some years.

Mr. Roosevelt's strategy shifted Minnesota from its Republican moorings, apparently for keeps. There was the beginning this week of something similar in North Dakota. There the Non-partisan League abandoned its old Republican ties and threw in with the Democrats.

Minnesota and North Dakota will be standing with New York at the Democratic national convention pressing for the kind of platform which conservative Southerners do not want but upon which northern Democrats and their left-wing allies will insist.

Those three are the only states in which the Democratic

alliance with well-organized left-wing elements is so plainly in view. In Michigan, however, the alliance is no less perfect between the Democratic party as led by Gov. G. Mennen (Soapy) Williams and Walter Reuther's CIO Men and Women.

Reuther's principal political objective appears to be a national left-wing party supported by farmers and laborers. His alliance with the Democrats in Michigan is already that in many ways, and it is a state-wide powerhouse. These states are not alone, but they are notable among the northern Democratic alliances with the left.

All of this raises disturbing questions for Southern Democrats who, politically speaking, don't want to go so far so fast.

## State GOP Treasurer Won't Be Candidate

Portland—(U.P.)—Henry Buchner, Republican State Central Committee treasurer, said today he would not be a candidate for reelection when the committee holds its organizational meeting here July 14.

Buchner said the press of personal business and other political activities made it seem advisable for him not to seek reelection. Walter Evans Jr., a precinct committeeman, announced he would be a candidate for the position.

Other officers will be candidates to succeed themselves. They include Wendell Wyatt, Astoria, chairman; Mrs. Margaret von Lubken, Portland, vice chairman, and Mrs. Frederic W. Young, secretary.

## Famed Oregon Woman Pilot Dies in Texas

Corpus Christi—(U.P.)—Edith Foltz Stearns, the first woman in the Northwest to receive a commercial pilot's license and one of Oregon's most famous women fliers died here yesterday, following a short illness.

Mrs. Stearns had been serving as a link trainer instructor for the Navy here until she was taken ill.

She was the fifth woman in the nation to obtain a commercial pilot's license and the first woman to fly airliners commercially.

During World War II she served with the Air Transport Auxiliary for 42 months in England, ferrying unarmed bombers from factories to bases.

She was winner of national air races in 1929, 1930, 1931 and 1932 and had logged more than 5000 hours in the air.



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