

'Soapy' Williams Target of GOP In Michigan's Race for Governor

Editor's note: This is another in a series of dispatches on the most important and interesting election contests.

BY LEE LINDBERG
United Press Correspondent
Detroit (UPI)—"Arizona Al" is out to unseat "Soapy" as governor of Michigan next month in what is probably the top billed state election contest any place in the nation.

Arizona Al is Detroit Mayor Albert E. Cobo, so dubbed by Democrats because he owns property in the Southwest and plans to move there when he retires from public life. Soapy is Gov. G. Mennen Williams, so called by Democrats and Republicans alike because he is heir to the Mennen talc and lotion fortune.

Williams, 45, familiar to TV viewers for his prominent roles at the last two conventions, is seeking an unprecedented fifth

term. The rumor mill says that in two years he will seek the seat now occupied by U. S. Sen. Charles Potter, a Republican, and in time shoot for the presidency.

Drafted By GOP

Cobo, 62, Detroit's "non-partisan" mayor since 1949, was drafted by GOP leaders. They admit he is the only candidate with a chance of teaching the "fairhaired boy of Michigan politics" a lesson at the polls. They count particularly on his strength in Detroit where Democrats usually get a big edge.

Bucking the Democrats and Walter Reuther's powerful United Auto Workers is no easy chore in the nation's motor city. But if Cobo retains enough support from Democrats who helped elect him mayor, a close Cobo-Williams battle will result.

The two men are of opposite appearance, temperament, personality and political technique.

The bow-tie trademarked Williams is the indefatigable hand shaker and square dance caller. Donning a Dutch costume and joining in the street scrubbing ceremony at the Holland, Mich., Tulip Festival is his apparent delight. He works well at grass roots level.

Stocky and bespectacled, an expert on financial matters, Cobo moves across the state with a most businesslike air. Promising to bring cooperation between the governor's office and the Legislature is one of his main points as he lambasts Williams for the "mess" in the capitol at Lansing. Williams shrugs off criticism—such as the charge he is "bossed" by Reuther. Cobo has a lower boiling point. GOP leaders said they were afraid the mayor was going to "blow his stack" when a partisan crowd at Cadillac Square booed him when he appeared as official greeter to Adlai Stevenson on Labor Day.

Bids for Women's Vote

Williams is making a special bid for the women's vote. His blonde and statuesque wife, Nancy, is almost always at his side. Another supporter is Jane Hart, wife of Michigan's lieutenant

governor. She is an airplane enthusiast who competes each year in the "Powder Puff Derby."

But Williams gets his strongest support from the giant auto union and its Political Action Committee which enlists members to ring doorbells over a three-county Detroit-area.

Cobo is personally very popular and he hopes to cash in on President Eisenhower's popularity, too. "He deserves Michigan's best," the GOP billboards read.

One of the main issues is highway construction. Republicans blame Williams for lack of progress in road building. Democrats reply that there is a GOP Legislature and Michigan has had a Republican highway commissioner for nearly two decades.

Cobo points to Detroit's mushrooming expressway system. Democrats say the Detroit projects were planned long before Cobo became mayor.

As governor and mayor, Williams and Cobo occasionally find themselves together at public functions. They shake hands and chat, but their hearts aren't in it.

Egypt Hopes To Enlist Western 'Know-How'

Cairo (UPI)—Egypt hopes to enlist Western know-how to ensure constant and efficient operation of the Suez Canal, but insists that operation of the canal remain in Egyptian hands, informed sources said today.

Suez Canal company sources said President Gamal Abdel Nasser's plans for running the canal had three major parts:

1. Overall control of the canal and its management would be strictly in Egypt's hands.
2. Contracting European firms would undertake maintenance and dredging of the canal.
3. Contracting major Western oil companies would undertake projects for improvement and enlarging of the waterway.

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Program to Feature History of Grange

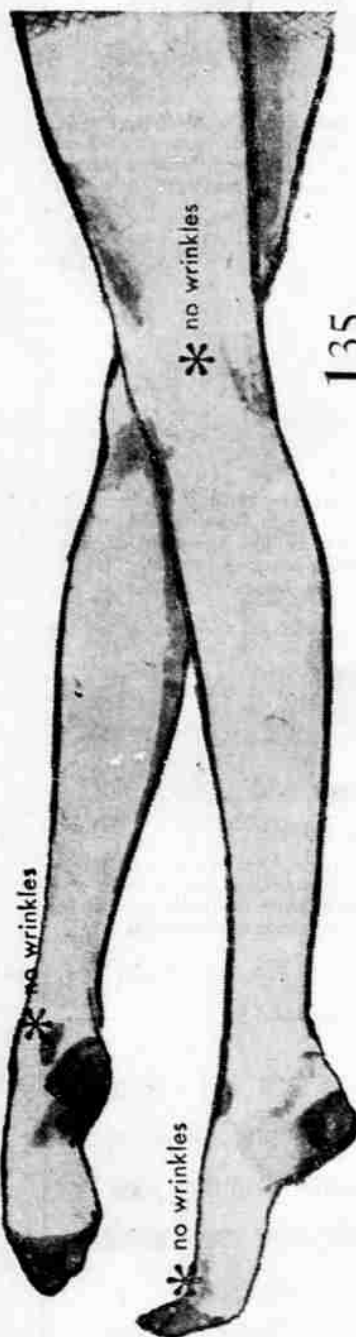
Eagle Point — Farmers from throughout the country, and others interested, are invited to hear a special program devoted to local Grange history to be presented here Saturday evening.

The event will be in connection with "Boosters night" of the Eagle Point Grange, starting at 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 13, at the Eagle Point Grange hall.

Elmer McClure, master of the Oregon State grange, will be a special guest at the meeting, and will be the principal speaker.

One feature of the evening will be the reading of excerpts from the minutes of early-day Grange meetings, dated 1874 and 1875, showing the activities of the Grange in Jackson county in those days. The minutes are taken from historic records that recently were located and among other things tell how the Grange was instrumental in the building of a mountain wagon road between the valley and Ft. Klamath.

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