

Matter of Fact

By Joseph Alsop



TITANS OF THE ELEVENTH Pittsburgh, Pa.—If you want to know what the Democrats mean when they claim they are better organized than the Republicans, this reporter would recommend a trip to the 11th District of Pittsburgh's old Eighth Ward.

I have just spent a long day laboriously polling this district's pleasant, tree-lined blocks of old-fashioned, unpretentious but shabby houses. The 11th's mixed population of working people, white collar families and small businessmen looks, on the surface, like giving Dwight D. Eisenhower about the same majority that they gave him in 1952.

But after a good part of another day given to investigating what makes the 11th district tick, I am not so sure my poll results accurately forecast the outcome. The truth is that this little corner of Pittsburgh, which would be called a precinct in most parts of the country, is the private battleground of local political titans; and they do not battle on equal terms.

TITAN number one is Alderman John Walters, the Democratic district chairman and leader of the whole Eight Ward, who rules his bailiwick from a small, shabby, comfortable old house at 118 South Pacific ave.

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Housewife Mayor Fights City Council

College Springs, Iowa—U.P.—A pistol-carrying housewife mayor planned to call a show-down meeting today with an all-male City Council to vote on a salary for her appointed feminine town marshal.

Mrs. Roy Simpson, who has been trying to "show down the town," appointed Mrs. Harold Bryson a town marshal, the first peace officer in this town of 368 in 22 years.

Although Mrs. Simpson can appoint, the City Council controls the community's pocketbook, and has refused to pay Mrs. Bryson. Enough money for the marshal's bond, which expired Sept. 1, had to be solicited by Mrs. Simpson since the council refused to underwrite the bond.

Mrs. Bryson, with some help from Mrs. Simpson, has been campaigning to stop "reckless driving by young kids" and the "shooting of fire crackers" in the town. They handed out 60 tickets for traffic violations and disturbing the peace during one month.

On South Aiken ave., has no less than 70 inmates; and John Walters' greatest triumph has been to persuade most of its inmates to go to the polls. Mrs. Leonard mutters darkly about senility and unorthodox inducements, but she had never been able to halt the procession of voting cronies and balloting gaffers. In a district that does not cast many more than 700 ballots, a block vote like this of close to 70 persons is a most important factor.

SO THERE you have the equation. Other things being equal, so far as I could learn by polling, Eisenhower ought to carry the 11th District about as he carried it in 1952. But other things are not equal. The Republican organization amounts to the lonely embattled Mrs. Leonard. The Democratic organization of John Walters is very powerful indeed.

Perhaps this superiority of organization was what Pittsburgh's great Democratic chieftain, Mayor David Lawrence, was thinking about, when he told this reporter that this year the Democrats would gain 40,000 votes in Allegheny county, and would therefore carry Pennsylvania. At any rate, the 11th District is a good test of the value of political organization. And the test is immensely significant, because of the great number of states where the Republican organization is disheveled and the Democrats are strongly organized right down to the grass roots.

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In The Day's News

By Frank Jenkins

Senator Morse, who has run always before as a Republican, is campaigning for the U.S. senate this year as a Democrat.

I think any fair-minded person will agree that anyone has perfect right to change his party affiliation at any time he chooses. Indeed, I think we can all agree that one SHOULD change his party whenever he finds himself completely out of sympathy with its beliefs and in full sympathy with the beliefs of another party.

So I don't hold against Senator Morse the fact that he changed his coat. But I do think we have a right to be curious about his REASONS for changing.

The circumstances suggest that he quit the GOP in a fit of temper because he failed to get from it something he wanted. That is hardly what one would call a moral or an ethical reason for a change of party allegiance.

Back in 1946, when he first wore his Republican coat, Senator Morse said in a political address in Des Moines Iowa, as quoted in the Des Moines Register:

"Liberalism is DEAR to the Democratic party, and that party has reverted to its TRADITIONAL role of placing political privilege and corrupt machine politics, a la the Missouri gang, above the general welfare of our people."

SENATOR Morse has always dramatized himself as The Great Liberal. Being a great liberal and feeling that liberalism was DEAD in the Democratic party, how could he change his coat and go over to the Democratic side as a matter of PRINCIPLE?

That, of course, was back in 1946. But in February of 1952 he said in a letter to a North Bend publisher:

"It is my opinion that the welfare of our country demands that we bring to an end the nationwide disunity among our people which this (Democratic) administration has developed. We just CANNOT run the risks which would be entailed in four more years of a Democratic administration."

IN VIEW of these vigorous expressions, extending over a considerable period of time, of his distrust of the Democrats,

his change of political coats could hardly have been the result of a growing conviction on his part that the Democratic party is better for the people of this country than the Republican party. As late as the spring of 1952 he was so distrustful of Democrats that he felt "we just can't run the risks entailed in four more years of a Democratic administration."

So—It seems to me—His change must have been due to a belief on his part (following whatever it was that upset him at the Republican convention in July of 1952) that it would be better for SENATOR MORSE if he became a Democrat than if he remained a Republican.

AT THE hearing on termination of the Klamath Indian reservation held at Klamath Falls the other day by the senate interior and insular affairs committee the management specialists told the committee members they had been advised by lumber experts that dumping this vast tract of timber on the open market would have harmful economic effects not only on the Klamath Basin but on the entire state.

That is true. But something else is equally true. It would have harmful effects on the Klamath Indians. They are the owners of this timber. If, by throwing it on the market at forced sale, the price is forced down materially it is the Klamath Indians who will be the losers.

THEY shouldn't have to be the losers. The Klamath Indian reservation is their patrimony. It came down to them from their ancestors. It is all they have left of the country that belonged to their people for immemorial time.

If anybody benefited from a forced sale of this timber, it would be those who acquired it cheap. Because of acquiring it at a low price, they would have an advantage over their less fortunate competitors. We don't want anything like that to happen. It would be another case of the white man robbing the Indian.

I THINK this hearing contributed quite a little to the solution of the difficult and complicated problem of liquidating the Klamath reservation. Among

Pyrotechnical Poll Shows Ike in Lead

Miami—U.P.—A man with a "different" kind of political poll which he says "never has failed" believes President Eisenhower will be re-elected.

Art Briese, pyrotechnician, based his prediction on his "pyrotechnical poll" in which he has painted pictures of President Eisenhower and Adlai Stevenson in fireworks for state fair crowds across the country.

"Everywhere, Ike's picture has drawn the most applause," he said. Briese said he has conducted it every election since 1916, when the first poll correctly forecast Woodrow Wilson's victory over Charles Evans Hughes.

Driver Gets Award For Record of Safety

Leslie W. Thomas, 430 N. 4th st., Central Point, a driver for the Greyhound Lines, has achieved a 10-year safety record. In recognition of having driven more than 600,000 miles without a preventable accident, Thomas has been awarded a gold watch.

He is on the Medford-Portland run.

Other things, it brought out the fact that termination of federal control of this 2,000-odd square miles of Oregon terrain isn't just a matter of dollars—of settling up an estate and dusting off our hands and saying that's that.

Two thousand human beings are involved in these termination proceedings. The human side of the problem is far graver than the financial side. That fact needed to be brought out—and I think it was brought out at Thursday's hearing.

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CHECK BOUNCES Terrehaute, Ind. — (U.P.) — A used car dealer, Lee Baldwin, complained to police today that a man swindled him out of 11 automobiles by paying him with a \$21,350 check that bounced.

FOX HAS STRANGE DIET Lake Orion, Mich. — (U.P.) — Leon Roach has a pet fox that eats scrambled eggs and bacon for breakfast and potato chips and candy for lunch.

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