

Many Farm Belt Spokesmen Believe Religion To Be Key in Election

Benson Strangely Forgotten Man as Race Grows Warm

By DAVID SMOTHERS
Chicago - UPI - When it comes to politics - Missouri brand - Richard R. Nacy is a man worth listening to.

Nacy is a Jefferson City banker, a former temporary chairman of the Democratic National Committee, and - it so happens - a Roman Catholic.

This year, Nacy believes, "the only issue" in the presidential election so far as Missouri is concerned is religion.

Nacy made that statement recently at a meeting of Missouri's Democratic state committee and his language was stronger than that favored by most top politicians in the Midwest farm belt.

But there are respected spokesmen in other Middle West states ready to admit - both on and off the record - that Democratic nominee John F. Kennedy's religion could determine the way a lot of votes are cast next November.

So will the feelings about Agriculture Secretary Ezra T. Benson. But Benson, the favorite stalking horse of Midwest Democrats these past five years, seemed to be a strangely forgotten man as the presidential year races warmed up.



TO CARE FOR ONE PATIENT - Doctors, illustrate how many persons are involved nurses, technicians and other employees in the treatment and maintenance of one line up behind a patient on the roof of patient in the hospital. Wesley Memorial hospital in Chicago to (UPI Telephoto)

Play Major Roles
Undoubtedly, Benson and his farm policies will continue to play major roles in the Midwest campaigning, with 10 states and 21 per cent of the national vote at stake.

Both candidates have hammered away at farm issues in the enthusiastic bidding for the Corn Belt plum. Vice President Richard M. Nixon devoted 38 per cent of his early campaign schedule to the Midwest. Kennedy, after assigning 19 per cent of his first campaign stops to the farm belt, was expected to step up the ratio.

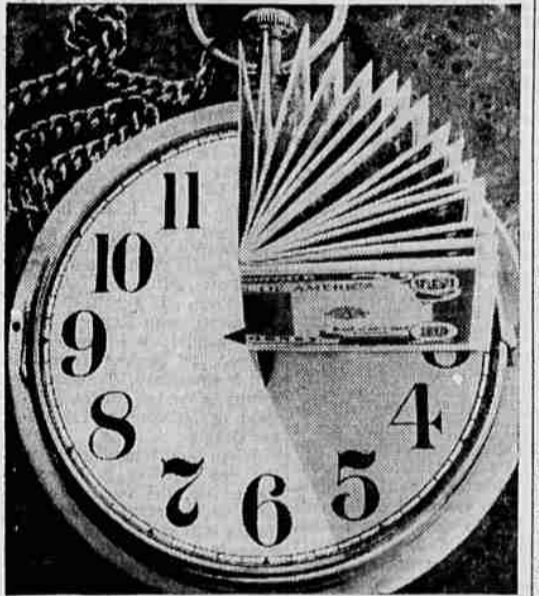
Reaction in such prairie states as Iowa and Nebraska has been of the "show me" variety so far. Political analysts said an unusual number of Midwesterners were still sitting on the fence, unsold as yet on either candidate's farm programs. In the tall Corn State of Iowa, some of the

farmers appeared to be more interested in world peace and international affairs than the price of hogs.

Traditionally, the Middle West is predominantly Republican and concerned with the "gut issues" of how much farmers are getting at the market place. Democrats were used to the role of underdogs.

But there's been a change in the political weather across the farm belt and this year the Democrats, for a change are fighting hard to hold on to what they've got.

On Victory Streak
A new brand of Democrats, capitalizing on youth, enthusiasm, and farm discontent, have taken charge in statehouses where the Republicans once seemed to hold permanent leases. The Democratic victory banner has been hoisted for the first time in years in such rockhard Republican states as Wisconsin, Kansas,



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Making Oil Stake in Alaska Still Possible for Speculator

By HENRY J. BECHTOLD
UPI Financial Editor
New York - UPI - With a little backing and a lot of luck you can still make an oil stake in Alaska.

There has not yet been a successful independent well in our 49th state but one is expected to come in very soon.

Henry J. Bechtold

And when it does it will start a new oil rush, according to the president of Alaska Oil & Mineral Co.

Theodore A. Zappa said there are many leases that an independent can pick up reasonably. Of course they are not on the Kenai Peninsula or more speculative operator still stands to make a stake, he added.

Economically, Zappa stated, the significance of a new onrush of independents to Alaska would be considerable. Areas of the state ignored until now by the major firms would be explored and drilled.

Independent action, he said,

combined with the work of the major companies, will make Alaska one of the most important oil producing regions in the world in 1961.

He noted that by the middle of next year production on the Kenai Peninsula alone should top 20,000 barrels daily from 18 to 20 wells.

Increasing Finds
In 1959, \$30 million was spent by 26 oil companies in Alaska. More impressive is the fact that 16 wells were spudded last year against four in 1958.

The Kenai Peninsula is the location of the most extensive oil activity in our new northern state. The historic Richfield strike in 1957, which triggered the modern Alaska oil rush was in this oil rich basin.

Richfield and Standard Oil Co. of California, in partnership, have been highly successful, having dug 10 producing wells and two dry holes in the Swanson River area of the peninsula. The worldwide ratio is only one producer to nine dry holes in exploratory drilling.

Union Oil of California and Ohio Oil have discovered a huge gas field in the same

area. The discovery well produces 31 million cubic feet of gas per day and will be able to supply the cities of Anchorage and Spenard as well as two nearby military installations with all their gas requirements for the next 20 years, it was pointed out.

Millions of dollars are being poured into exploration and drilling in Alaska at a time when there is an oil glut on the world market, with U.S. reserves at a new peak.

Alaska Near Market
The reasons for this are many. Alaska oil is probably the most profitable in the free world because of its proximity to major markets, no export quota to the United States and the absence of protesting. The government takes one-eighth royalty in Alaska while arrangements with foreign countries have become increasingly less profitable.

In Envious Position
It also was noted that the over-production of distilled oil products in the United States may well be a short-lived situation. This country uses 60 per cent of all the oil produced in the free world,

Bandon Fisherman Missing in Ocean

Bandon - UPI - A search for Jay Tucker, about 45, Bandon, was launched after his 26-foot fishing boat capsized in heavy surf Saturday night at the entrance to Bandon harbor.

The Coast Guard said Tucker, a part-time fisherman who is also a log truck operator, was presumed drowned.

The boat, the "Alafay," was towed into port here at mid-morning. Tucker apparently was alone on the boat.

The Coast Guard was alerted by Tucker's stepson, Rex Johnson, and the craft was picked up by a beach patrol shortly after 7 a.m.

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Quotes From the News

BY UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL
Glen Cove, N.Y. - Soviet Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev, dismissing the fact that Russia produces only 30,000 autos a year, compared with U.S. production of 7 million: "We could do it tomorrow, but it means freezing out capital. You go ahead and do all that foolishness. It's for our benefit."

London - Dr. A. C. B. Lovell, of the Jodrell Bank radio-telescope tracking station, stating he expects a new Russian space exploit soon: "Although I expect them to get a man in space, I also expect them to embark on some fresh feat of technology connected with the moon or the planets. Which they will do first from the point of view of prestige I don't know."

New York - Manager Casey Stengel, after wrapping up the Yankees' 25th American League pennant: "It gets tougher and tougher to win 'em every year."

Berlin - The Communist newspaper Neues Deutschland, describing the problem posed by a fictional teen-ager who was a good worker but made such errors as complaining that there was no freedom of speech: "The problem was that he might either go to another job, thus shifting our responsibility (to correct him) to the workers there, or he might go to the West, and being directly under dangerous influence might even join the NTAO army."

Iowa, Nebraska and the Dakotas.
But in a presidential year it's problematical whether the new Midwest Democrats can pass on their popularity to the young nominee with the Back Bay accent - or whether they can hold on themselves against resurgent Republicans.

The weather hasn't been much help to Democratic hopes of making hay in the farm belt. It's been good for the crops and farmers. Grumbling has eased off a little.

Missouri and South Dakota ranked high among trouble spots for the Democrats and the religious issue was a major trouble maker in both cases.

The Democrats have had state and congressional offices in Missouri nailed down for two decades. But now the Democrats admit they're worried about the state's south central "Baptist belt." They were encouraged by Kennedy's warm welcome to St. Louis, but suffered a setback with the death of Sen. Thomas C. Hennings Jr. and the challenge of electing a new candidate.

Still Like Johnson
In South Dakota, Democratic leaders were still carrying a torch for Lyndon B. Johnson. Even Republicans admitted Johnson could have carried the state, while top Democrats admitted privately that Kennedy's religion did him no good in an area which is traditionally conservative, Norwegian and Lutheran.

In the state Capitol coffee shop at Pierre, where Democratic Gov. Ralph Heresth is boss, a man remarked gloomily: "If the Democrats lose this election it will set them back 10 years."

His companion, one of the state's top Democrats, corrected him. "Twenty years," he said.

Kennedy's Catholicism could also decide votes in Wisconsin and Indiana - but with different results.

Wisconsin, with one of the strongest of the new Democratic regimes, is also 33 per cent Catholic. Kennedy showed he could draw the Catholic vote in his Wisconsin primary victory. His chances of doing the same in November were rated good.

Conversely, Indiana politi-

cal experts remembered the days when the anti-Catholic Ku Klux Klan was a Hoosier power. Indiana was rated a Nixon state already by most of the experts, who expected the Kennedy vote to trail that of a strong state ticket.

Deplores Religious Issue
Practically all political leaders deplored religion's role in Midwest campaign assessments, and in Minnesota the voters apparently agreed.

Minnesota's 75 per cent Protestant population had already ignored the religious issue by helping to elect Sen. Eugene McCarthy, a Catholic Democrat, in 1958. They were much more concerned this year over how much steam powerhouse Sen. Hubert Humphrey would build up for the ticket in his personal bid for a third term and the comeback bid of former Democratic Rep. Coysa Knutson, who lost out two years ago when her husband begged in a public letter, "Coysa come home."

Bill Dobler, editorial writer and political analyst for the Lincoln Star, summed up the situation for Nebraska by saying "uncertainty is the key word."

"I think it applies to the attitude of voters regarding the historic position of each party and the current candidates," Dobler wrote. "I don't think any of the candidates has gotten what is called a clear-cut image across to the voters. I think the majority decision is yet to be made, from the presidential candidates on down."

No New Leads to Killer of Girl

Eugene - UPI - The Lane county sheriff's office reported today that no new leads or clues have turned up in connection with the death of Alice Louise Lee, 7, Dexter.

The girl's partially-buried body was found Sept. 16 at a bean yard near Trent where she disappeared Aug. 29.

Following the discovery of the girl's body a special three-man investigating team was named to probe into her death, which was apparently caused by strangulation.

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