

Strange Political Storm May Influence 1960 Presidential Race

Editor's note. When the voters elect a governor and a senator in California this fall they may be altering the course of presidential politics in 1960. Merriman Smith, veteran Washington reporter for United Press International, has been in the state examining this volatile political scene and interviewing most of the principals. Here is a special report on the personalities and issues that will face the voters in November.

By MERRIMAN SMITH
United Press International
SAN FRANCISCO (UPI) — A strange political storm is brewing in California and it may have a profound effect on the presidential campaign in 1960.

Republicans and Democrats are far from unified within their own parties as they approach one of the nation's most important off-year elections this November. Their only point of interparty agreement seems to be that a Democratic victory in the state this fall could well impair the chances of Vice President Richard M. Nixon, a native son, to win the presidency in 1960; a Republican victory would help him.

The issues are complicated. Organized labor is riled up over a proposal to outlaw the closed shop, a proposal strongly supported by Republican William F. Knowland who is giving up his seat in the Senate to run for governor.

Knowland's position on the proposed right to work law poses the question: Can Nixon, with his eye on the White House, come into his native state this fall and support Knowland?

Knowland is running against Edmund G. Brown, Democratic attorney general who drew 600,000 more votes than the Republican senator in last month's primary.

Seeking Knowland's vacated senate seat are the Republican governor, Goodwin J. Knight, and Rep. Clair Engle, a doctory six-term Democratic congressman. Engle, under California's cross-filing system got 514,225 more votes than Knight in the primary, but another Republican, George Christopher, piled up a primary total of 787,372 votes and presumably the larger share of these will

shift over to Knight in the general election.

Without saying whether they have been advised from Washington, the top Republicans here seem convinced that Adams, because of his relationship with Boston industrialist Bernard Gold-

line, has become a political liability and will voluntarily step down from his powerful role at the White House.

The basic impression from talking individually with Knight, Brown and Engle in California this week (Knowland was in

Washington) was that the California election this fall will be a matter of every man for himself.

Engle is less than enthusiastic about the way Pat Brown siphoned off the best Democratic contributors in the primary, but he realizes Brown is the stronger Democratic candidate today.

Engle said he did not think Adams would be an issue between candidates, but he thought the matter would "make voters for the Democrats as it now stands."

"Adams has hurt the image of the Republican party," Engle said. "If I were in their shoes, I'd fire him."

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Team Union Faces Reform

WASHINGTON (AP) — Court-named monitors have started a major crackdown to reform James R. Hoffa's scandal-ridden Teamsters Union.

The drive is being steered by Martin F. O'Donoghue, a veteran labor lawyer who for a time last fall represented the Teamsters in a suit against the union. He told a reporter: "I'm going to call 'em as I see 'em. If they don't like it, let them blow their tops."

O'Donoghue and two fellow monitors issued cleanup orders yesterday aimed at Teamsters locals in New York, Philadelphia and Springfield, Mo. The monitors also disclosed they are checking surety bonds of Teamsters officials all over the country to weed out convicted hoodlums.

Hoffa, Teamsters president just acquitted in New York on wire-tapping conspiracy charges, has called a meeting of the national union's executive board here next Monday. The union's top bosses will have to decide whether to go along with O'Donoghue or buck him.

Two members of the 15-man executive board are involved in the New York and Philadelphia locals subject to monitor orders. But it is indicated that if O'Donoghue meets opposition he will complain directly to U. S. District Court Judge F. Dickinson Lettis, who appointed him.

Working with O'Donoghue as court-appointed monitors are Godfrey Schmidt of New York and L. N. D. Wells of Dallas.

19 Injured In Bus, Car Mishap

WICHITA, Kan. (AP) — Two Wichita Bus Co. buses and an auto collided yesterday, injuring 19 passengers on the buses.

A chartered bus, carrying student nurses, crashed into the rear of a scheduled bus at a street intersection, police said. The impact knocked the scheduled bus into an auto.

Elias Ruiz, driver of the chartered bus, told police his brakes failed.



"I'm afraid unification will seriously impair our fighting spirit—with no battles among ourselves for appropriations!"

Solon Satisfied That Top Brass May Testify Frankly

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Richard B. Russell (D-Ga.) said today he is satisfied with new assurances that top military officials may testify frankly before congressional committees.

Secretary of Defense McElroy apparently settled a two-day feud with a formal letter to Russell saying that "officials of the department, when testifying before Congress, should give their personal judgments and opinions asked for them."

"There should not, in my opinion, be any question of retaliation or penalty for such testimony," With that assurance, Russell said he will ask Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor, Army chief of staff, and Gen. Randolph M. Pate, Marine Corps commandant, to testify sometime next week on a pending defense reorganization bill.

Russell, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, had canceled their scheduled testimony earlier this week after McElroy told newsmen he was disappointed at testimony on the bill by Adm. Arleigh A. Burke, chief of naval operations.

McElroy promptly insisted that he had not rebuked the admiral and planned no retaliation. The Armed Services Committee is hearing testimony on restrictions on the defense reorganization plan added by the House and opposed by the President and McElroy.

These would require advance notice to Congress of any major changes in the present armed services or their functions, with a chance for Congress to halt them.

They also would assure any secretary or professional head of the separate armed services of a direct appeal to Congress in case of a dispute within the Pentagon or Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Otto L. Nelson Jr., testifying for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, urged elimination of the restrictions.

He said the secretary of defense "must have clear authority to adjust promptly to changing conditions and the needs of any threat to our national security."

Retired Pay Boost Slated

WASHINGTON (AP) — Some 232,000 retired federal workers will start getting bigger pension checks in September.

President Eisenhower yesterday signed a bill providing pension increases of about 10 per cent for persons who started drawing their benefits before Oct. 1, 1956. The bill sets a top limit of \$504 a year on individual boosts.

The bigger pensions become effective Aug. 1. The Civil Service Commission said the increases will be reflected in checks due in September.

Also benefiting from the bill are about 12,000 widows who were ruled ineligible under previous law.

Employees who retired after Oct. 1, 1956, draw their benefits under a different and more liberal pension schedule. They are not affected by the new law.

Travel Pals Meet At Intersection

CORVALLIS, Ore. (AP) — In the last two summers the families of Harold W. Shuler and Hugh B. Wayt — both of Frankfort, Ind. — have gone on summer vacations together. And in 10,000 miles of driving, neither car had gotten a scratch.

Tuesday Harold, 45, had to stop quickly for a traffic light here. Suddenly, his car was jolted from behind.

He leaped out of his own car and ran back to investigate. At the wheel of the other vehicle was Hugh.

WILL BENEFITS UNCLE SAM

TRENTON, N.J. (UPI) — Spanish-American War veteran Alfred Houser of Clinton Twp. will get \$10,833 from the U.S. government "in appreciation of all that the United States of America has done for me as a veteran."

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