

Kennedy Runs Like FDR; Always On Offense

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Democrats have come up with another break-away runner in the image of their all-time all-American, FDR!

Sen. John F. Kennedy ran for president in the Roosevelt tradition. Not only did he take the big cities in the big states with their great clusters of electoral votes.

Kennedy also blasted smaller communities off their Republican foundations. Batavia and Rome, N.Y., for example, small cities with Republican traditions like that of an old time Union League club.

An aging staff officer of the original New Deal forces summed it up a fortnight before polling day after Kennedy's imperial progress through the city of New York.

"That fella," said the old New Dealer, "can't be beat. We've got another Roosevelt. He smiles out of the back of his head. We're back in the White House for sure."

Republicans will blame their candidate for a massive party defeat. Some GOP strategists were complaining in September and early October that Vice President Richard M. Nixon's campaign was too soft. Some of them continued to complain of too little and too late after Nixon went all out in the stretch drive.

From the campaign sidelines it appeared to this observer that Nixon lost this presidential election in deference to the solid sports maxim that the best defense is not enough to win the ball game. The offensive team gets the scores.

Circumstances and fancy Democratic strategy put Nixon on the defensive in this campaign. There were other factors. In the tidal wave of election news there were bits and pieces suggesting that there was in fact a massive Roman Catholic support of candidate Kennedy in the North and East. Precise analysis of returns from many areas shortly will answer the question which plagued the candidate. Did the religious issue help or hurt and where?

The TV confrontations—debates, so-called—must be put down now by Nixon and his friends as a ghastly mistake. No. 1 apparently disposed of a big Republican issue: that Kennedy was a boy sent by the Democrats to do a man's job.

Nixon was acclaimed by his supporters as a skilled debater, a master of the hard-hitting campaign. Nixon's enemies called it differently. They said Nixon had an instinct for the jugular.

However that may be, the defensive fighter must back away so long as he is on the defensive. And Nixon backed. Kennedy chose to attack the Eisenhower administration. Nixon chose to defend.

The blockbuster issue which proved to be indefensible was the issue of prestige. Nixon must have been aware of that when he insisted and sought to prove that United States prestige was never higher in the world. The vice president was the first and for some time the only top member of the Eisenhower administration to warn the nation of the international impact of the first Communist Sputnik.

The counter-issue Nixon might have developed, but did not, was that if United States prestige had slipped, the slippage was not wholly nor, perhaps, even half the responsibility of the Eisenhower administration. There were many facets to the question of prestige.

A slippage in U.S. prestige,

however, seemed to fit the pattern of world events. And while the vice president and Henry Cabot Lodge were making their all-out defense, Eisenhower administration underlings leaked to Kennedy headquarters reports of government polls which certified that U.S. prestige had, indeed, slipped.

These polls and the evidence of the day by day news seemed to support wholly Kennedy's charges and to impeach Nixon's defense. Nixon might have met and mastered the prestige issue from a different tack.

On most other fronts Kennedy out-manuevered his Republican opposition with promises to outperform the Eisenhower administration over the whole range of government. Nixon sturdily challenged that President Eisenhower had done well and that Kennedy could not do better but would do worse. Nixon did not, however, pin the Democrats on the fact that Kennedy was vague, minus detail, on how he would accomplish his wonders.



PIE IN THE AISLE — About four hundred and twenty blackbirds could fit into this huge pie viewed by a shopper in a Kansas City, Mo., market. The apple pie is five feet across.

Protestant States Give Kennedy Their Vote Too

WASHINGTON (AP) — States in the United States, which now have a percentage of 21.6 per cent baptized Catholics.

Kennedy was the first Roman Catholic to seek the White House since Alfred E. Smith made his bid for the presidency in 1928 against Herbert Hoover.

Smith went down to a crashing defeat. He carried only eight states, to Hoover's 40. He got only 87 electoral votes to Hoover's 444, and received only 15 million popular votes to 21 million for Hoover.

Outside the South—and until then, the South had been solid for Democrats since reconstruction days—the popular New York governor won only Massachusetts and Rhode Island, both states with heavy Catholic populations. He lost such Southern states as Florida, North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia.

Nobody will ever know how many Protestants voted against Kennedy because of his religion, or how many Catholics voted for him because of his faith. Both Kennedy and Vice President Richard M. Nixon said they wanted religious issue stirred deep feelings no votes for religious reasons.

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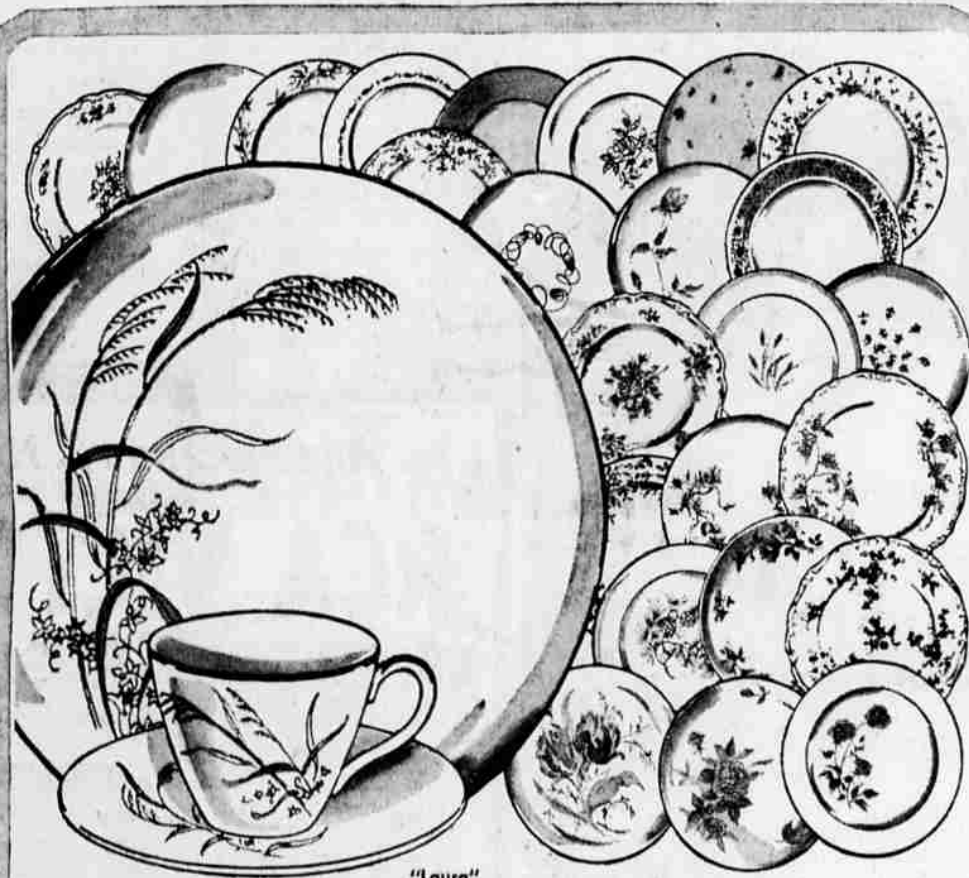
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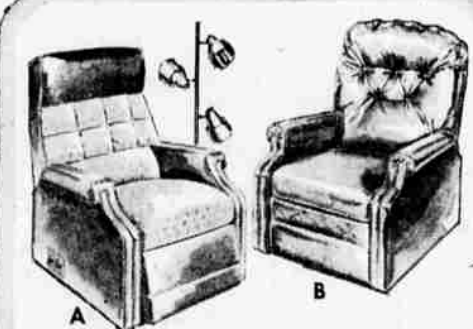
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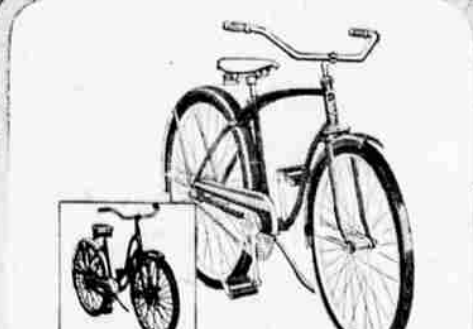
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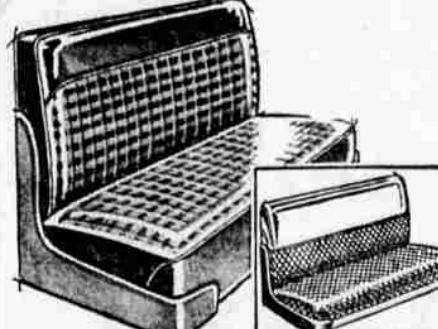
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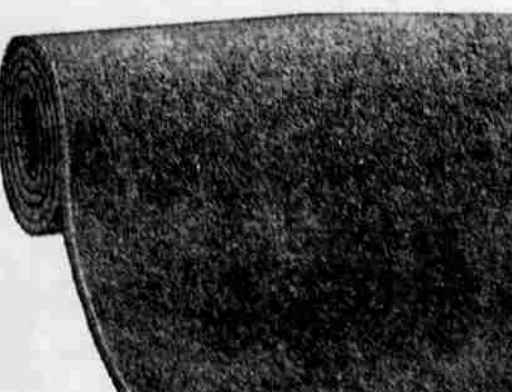
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