

BUTLER BRANDS HOOVER TACTICS AS 'REPUGNANT'

Assails President's Use of Patronage to Control G. O. P. Convention.

BY FORREST DAVIES
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NEW YORK, June 20.—Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, fresh from the defeat by White House patronage of the repeal movement at Chicago, predicted today that the Republican party will "over the dam" in November unless state conventions in wet, industrialized New England and the middle Atlantic states repudiate the wet-dry prohibition plank.

Granted such official disavowals—unprecedented in the G. O. P. history—President Hoover may, in his opinion, have a sporting chance of re-election. Otherwise not.

Moreover, Dr. Butler intends actively to lead a crusade to bring about repudiation by states.

In one of his rare interviews, Dr. Butler recapitulated for the Scripps-Howard Newspapers his views on the Chicago convention, the repeal fight, the caliber of presidential candidates, and the autumnal political prospects generally.

Plays "Steam Roller"

He regards the prohibition plank—"every word of which was passed upon by the President"—as a "political blunder of the first magnitude." It committed the Republican party, as Dr. Butler sees it, to indirect acceptance and endorsement of nationwide prohibition under federal control.

The administration steam roller, piloted by Ogden L. Mills, treasury secretary, and a host of federal officeholders, provided the "most shocking" exhibition of patronage control of a convention since 1872, when Ulysses S. Grant won his second nomination.

Dr. Butler sternly condemned the use of the patronage whip to steer the convention, most of whose delegates he contends were for repeal, into endorsement of a plank which he terms the "worst proposal" with one exception, ever offered to remedy the liquor reform dilemma.

"Repugnant to Traditions"

"I was told," he said, "that six cabinet members were at the convention, that thirty-seven of the ninety-seven delegates from New York, and upward of 400 of the convention's membership were of the same.

"That is repugnant to Republican traditions. In 1904, Roosevelt declared against the election of federal office-holders as delegates. And in 1924, Mr. Coolidge made a statement deplored the sending of postmasters and other office-holders to the convention which nominated him."

"But this year, the postmasters actually were whipped up by the postoffice department, as we saw by that scandalous incident in Missouri." He referred to a bold appeal in behalf of Mr. Hoover's candidacy by an assistant postmaster general at a postmasters' convention.

Landis Democratic Timber

Dr. Butler asserted that his plank, embodied in the Bingham minority report, would have won had the convention "been let alone."

Dr. Butler suspects that millions of nominal Republicans are prepared to desert the Hoover ticket on the prohibition issue. Declining to specify his own intentions in November, he did not close the door on a personal bolt to the Democratic nominee, provided the prohibition plank of that party is honest.

The Democrats, he observed, have a virtual monopoly of presidential timber. It is their duty to submerge "private" feuds and nominate their wisest man.

Praises Al Smith

Alfred E. Smith is "the best public servant this country has produced since Theodore Roosevelt; broad-gauged, honest and highly capable."

Owen D. Young is "a natural-born statesman, with a broad, calm, unprejudiced vision."

Newton D. Baker, with "wide political experience in Ohio and Washington, has a very fine mind and a very great gift of speech and appeal."

Governor Albert C. Ritchie is "a cultivated gentleman and a scholar."

Melvin A. Tryon, Chicago banker, "has a fine position in Chicago and his native state, Kentucky and has an international point of view."

Senator Cordell Hull of Tennessee is an able leader whose recent speeches on the tariff recalled the great debating days in the senate."

A wealth of material, he finds in the Democratic party and a dearth in his own.

He did not refer to Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt, leading Democratic candidate in point of pledged delegates. He refused to discuss the Governor when the omission was pointed out.

"Franklin and I are friends, his father and mother and my father and mother were friends. He is the Governor of our state and I prefer not to discuss him in this category," said Dr. Butler.

TWO INJURED IN CRASH

United Press Writer and Companion Seriously Hurt.

Fred H. Lockwood, United Press correspondent in the Indianapolis bureau, and Joseph Lafferty, Muncie, were injured seriously near Muncie Sunday, when the auto in which they were riding collided with another machine and overturned. The crash occurred on Road 67, while they were en route to Indianapolis.

Lockwood, who came to the hospital here a month ago from the Chicago United Press bureau, is a nephew of the late George Lockwood, Muncie, former national Republican committeeman.

8-A Graduates of School 73



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