

DEVISING PLATFORM SEEN AS HARD TASK FOR G. O. P.

FOUR GROUPS WITH DIFFERENT APPROACHES WILL ASSIST IN FORMING POLICY, FLYNN SAYS

Constitutional Amendment Clamor, Backed by White and Fish, Changes Color of Republican Picture.

BY JOHN T. FLYNN

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CLEVELAND, June 8.—The men tackling the job of building a platform for the Republican candidate to stand on are having one of the most difficult tasks that ever faced a G. O. P. convention.

For instance, only a few weeks ago the Constitution was the floating log in the stream to which all factions of the party seemed to be able to cling. Senator Borah and Senator Dickinson seemed to be able to get together on defending the Ark of the Covenant of the Republic against the artfully concealed schemes of Roosevelt to amend the Constitution. But suddenly a demand—a demand supported by powerful voices such as those of William Allen White and Hamilton Fish—takes shape to have the Republicans attempt to beat the Democrats to a clamor for constitutional amendment.

The decision of the Supreme Court outlawing the New York minimum wage law may be a turning point, if not in this election, at least in American party policy. Republicans have been denouncing Roosevelt for attempting to set up a powerful central government controlling subjects which belong to the states. Then the Supreme Court says that even a state can not regulate or protect the lives and health of its women in industry. Many Republicans are demanding that the convention beat the Democrats to a demand for a constitutional change which will correct this. Nothing may come of it. But it illustrates well the formless, indefinable state of party policy out of which these platform carpenters have to fashion a party.

Four Groups Present

On the whole there are four groups here with differing approaches to the platform. One is the Borah element which wants some forthright declarations about big business, the money power, the utility interests and the Constitution. The other might be called the Vandenberg element which, while taking the traditional Republican position, is for a fair division of progressive measures.

The third is the extreme Old Guard position of the Senator Dickinson type which would blame the New Deal for everything from bad weather to the rise of the Davis Cup matches. The Landon crowd represents the fourth, and it is to be led by the practical minds of the Old Guard. This element is for generalities as far as possible and as few commitments as possible. It is not improbable that in its final content this group will have its way.

The difficulties of the platform committee make this a normal escape. Take, for instance, the agricultural problem. The Democrats have practically stolen all of the thunder of the Republicans.

Face Difficult Decision

The AAA act was in reality little more than a collection of various Republican devices offered at different times, including subsidies to offset tariff differences between the farmers and the factory, and crop restriction. It will be difficult to denounce all these things without also denouncing ancient Republican beliefs.

The platform probably will resort to two things in the farm field. One will be a promise of a subsidy, say about 42 cents on wheat, though the amount will not be named, to protect the farmer from which he must pay on what he buys. The other will be a denunciation of the New Deal's "betrayal of the farmer" and a demand that his problem be dealt with by "constitutional" methods.

This will satisfy the angry East and will enable the Western congressmen who are forced to be for the AAA to explain that the Republicans will do as much for the farmers as the Democrats, only they will do it "constitutionally."

It also will call for a restoration of the foreign markets of the farmer. How this will be accomplished will not be suggested.

Democrats Steal Thunder

The tariff offers another thorny subject. For in 1932 the Democratic platform raised the wind against the wicked "Hawley-Smoot" tariff which was destroying our foreign trade. But the Democrats did nothing about this tariff after they got in.

Instead they added a few more courses of brick to our tariff walls. One was the devaluation of the dollar, which amounted to a 40 per cent increase in duties. The other was the adoption of the nationalist theory in toto with the NRA and the AAA.

This forces the Republicans to adopt the slogan of "revive foreign trade." Hoover first swung to that idea when he decided that the depression was due to foreign influences—depressions abroad and the collapse of our foreign trade with its repercussions here. It has been a hard idea.

Also the large banking interests are for the development of foreign trade since that is essential if we are to revive foreign financing.

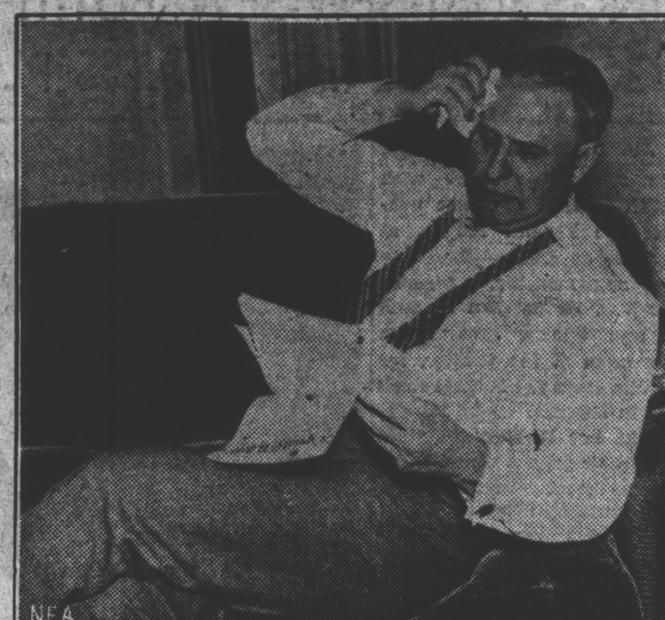
All groups, of course, favor the "balance-the-budget" plank and this will be given great importance. Hoover's failure to balance the budget will be blamed on the Democrats in Congress. And Roosevelt will be roundly denounced for his attack on the nation's credit by building a great national debt. However, Landon's backers may force a little modification into this. Landon keeps saying that he favors balancing the budget "as quickly as possible." But how quickly does he mean?

The committee will be a unit on

Republican Leaders Reach Cleveland for Convention



Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg, left, who has announced that he would not accept the vice presidency, with the intimation that only the presidential nomination would be satisfactory, is shown in a gay mood as he confers with George F. Getz, treasurer of the Republican National Committee, in Cleveland.



Senator Frederick Steiner of Oregon in his hotel room in Cleveland putting the finishing touches on the speech he will deliver as keynoter of the Republican national convention. He is prominently mentioned as a possible choice for the vice presidency.

CONSTITUTION IN LANDON'S PATH

Followers Demand Change at Risk of Wrecking Party 'Issue'

(Continued from Page One)

ing out the plans, heedless of their parodied campaign song.

"Alf Landon learned a thing or two, he knows the right solution.

"And in the White House he will stay, within the Constitution."

The Kansas men's reasoning is that if Landon is nominated, and they are confident of it, he ought to have a Kansas platform. The Prairie Staters feel that the Liberty League's "Save the Constitution" issue will bring no answering heart-throbs in the farmer's breast. And on the other hand, without Federal co-operation and direction, such an amendment would be only a remote danger to industrialists who contribute to the party and hate government interference in their business.

The platform makers are going to have trouble on the money planks. Of course the party of sound money will be for sound money. But there are silver states to be placated and some of them are states which are sorely needed. The platform, of course, can not call for a revaluation of the dollar in its old terms. It will therefore demand immediate steps to stabilize the dollar.

Will it call for a resumption of gold redemption? This is certainly a hot one to handle. Here again the difficulties may be side-stepped by some generalities about an American dollar worth its full face.

The anti-trust law is one which will bring trouble. Here is another Republican position which Mr. Roosevelt has made off with. The NRA gave to business the modification of the anti-trust laws they wanted. The Guffey Act did the same.

The politicians may make faces about it but the fact remains that self-rule in industry is one of those things big business wanted and the Republicans have smiled upon. Now Roosevelt has almost wiped out the anti-trust act. Landon will clamor for undiluted phrases about this.

But the East will want to get a few weasle words into this declaration.

And there will probably be a plank about social security for the Kansans, it was reported.

There is thus presented the strange spectacle of Rep. Bert Snell, House Republican leader and ex-power magnate, Senator Jim Davis of Pennsylvania, the ex-steel pugil, and young Teddy Roosevelt, all plodding for an amendment that has not yet been defined. Some of them are not saying whether they are for minimum wages for women only, or for all persons.

Now the anti-Landon groups, led by Borah, Vandenberg and Steiner, are wild-eyed radicals on economic matters as compared with Bert Snell. They smell a rat. Their opposition to Landon has been solidified noticeably since White and his amendment showed up. There is promise of a bitter battle here. Borah may choose it for his own version of "Custer's Last Stand" against the marauding Kansans.

Senators As Democratic Weapon

These people feel that Landon is offering a strong weapon to the Roosevelt Democrats. For one thing, the Democrats would say:

"Who's attacking the Supreme Court now?"

If the Democrats could persuade the voters that the proposed amendment wouldn't meet the situation, the kickback might be disastrous.

For another, the way would be wide open for the Democrats to propose an amendment like this:

To authorize both state and Federal legislation covering the specific points needed to be covered—probably labor laws, farm and factory regulation within specified limits, and social security—with the Federal government empowered only to set a bottom standard below which no state might slash in competing with its neighbors.

The Landontes are due for a jolt when the A. F. of L. hits town. The A. F. of L. is on record for a constitutional amendment to authorize both state and Federal legislation on minimum wages and maximum hours, and is virtually certain to oppose the White plan when the resolutions committee holds hearings tomorrow and Wednesday. President William Green and an A. F. of L. committee plan to submit a constitutional amendment at that time.

Charges Kidnapping

Mr. Kaufman charged he was kidnapped and beaten earlier in the week by three men, one of whom he charged then was also in a policeman's uniform, were Sol Larks, Federal secretary of the Communist Party, and Herbert Kaufman, 31, temporary chairman of the Vigo County chapter of the party.

Following Kaufman's charges last week, the American Civil Liberties Union protested to Mayor Samuel Borah of Terre Haute.

Police Chief James C. Yates of Terre Haute scoffed at the new slugging charges today and said his department had received no official report of the occurrence.

"My patrolmen don't go around beating people up," he said. "If we want to take a man in we arrest him. They're circulating those stories because they know how I feel about agitators and radicals."

Mr. Zinkin said today that he believed the alleged sluggings were instigated by some Terre Haute business men and city officials.

WAR DEBT REMINDER

BRINGS BRITISH REPLY

U. S. Is Told Situation at Present Unsatisfactory for Settlement.

By United Press

LONDON, June 8.—Great Britain has replied to the recent reminder from the United States of the war debt payment due June 15, reaffirming the British view that the circumstances do not warrant the presentation of proposals for a settlement at present.

However, it was understood the note reiterated Britain's willingness to resume discussions as soon as the situation is suitable.

Files Bankruptcy Papers

A petition of voluntary bankruptcy was filed today in Federal Court by George Fandell, 1701 N. Capitol av., who formerly operated a florist shop at 54 Monument Circle. Fandell's assets were listed at \$517 and his liabilities at \$500.

Sunrise 4:16 | Sunset 7:12

TEMPERATURE

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