

Hoosiers in Washington—

IS ELWOOD NATIVE CLOSEST TO F.D.R.?

Lowell Mellett Credited by Some Writers With Having Drafted All Five of President's 'Political' Talks; May Be 'Creel' in Case of War.

By DANIEL M. KIDNEY
Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON, Nov. 23.—Eastern newspapers are crediting a mild-mannered Hoosier in Washington with much of the success of the third-term campaign. Oddly enough, he is a native of Elwood, the birthplace of Wendell L. Willkie.

His name is Lowell Mellett.

A Baltimore Sun writer says he is the closest political adviser to President Roosevelt since the late Louis Howe.

But Mr. Mellett doesn't live at the White House as Mr. Howe did and Harry L. Hopkins does.

He has a quiet country place on Quaker Lane in nearby historic Alexandria, Va. Here the former newspaper man plays golf on his own course, overlooking the Potomac, and thinks up new ideas to help Mr. Roosevelt.

That he has been highly successful was shown by the returns. Since the slight gray, soft-spoken Mr. Mellett is not the type to take credit for himself, it is difficult to learn exactly just what his contributions were.

May Have Drafted Talks

Some say that his handiwork fashioned the first rough draft of each of the five "political" speeches which the President made. It is known that he was at least a principal consultant. Often he sat grim and serious when he felt there was important work to be done and others were inclined to jest.

Yet a jester might say in truth that "Lowell Mellett is more of a New Dealer than the President himself."

When Mr. Willkie termed the campaign a "crusade," Mr. Mellett could well agree. But he would disagree violently as to who were the real crusaders.

It was this zealotry which took him into the Roosevelt Government after nearly a lifetime of newspaper work. His first assignment was as NEC director. When the National Emergency Council became the Office of Government Reports, under reorganization orders, Mr. Mellett remained in charge.

An Anonymous Assistant

Later President Roosevelt drew him even closer into the White House family circle. He appointed him one of his administration assistants "with a passion for anonymity."

Meanwhile, Mr. Mellett has built up the Administration's information service with his own key men in the important posts. So it is under his direction that the expert New Deal publicity job is done.

Should war come, it is likely that he would be the George Creel of the Roosevelt regime. He would have all the powers, or maybe more, than the Creel Board had in the World War under Woodrow Wilson.

Right now Mr. Mellett is rated as "one of the finest newspaper men closest to the President" by Charles C. Ross writing in The Washington Sunday-Star.

Christmas Too?

Claude A. Mahoney, White House correspondent for The Wall Street Journal, is a Hoosier from DePauw, as are most Wall Street Journal journalists.

Each morning Secretary Stephen Early holds a White House press conference after seeing the President. One day this week he began reading a Presidential statement of good neighbor greeting to one of the South American republics. It sounded like a proclamation and began something like this:

"It has been brought to my attention that Dec. 17 . . ."

Right at that point Mr. Mahoney put in:

"For goodness sake, Steve, you're not going to tell us that your President has been re-elected he is going to have Christmas come a week early, too!"

Even Steve laughed.

2% Action Approved

Governor-elect Henry L. Schricker's announcement of the abolition of the Two Per Cent Club found great favor with Senator Frederick VanNuys.

"Nobody in my office ever contributed to the Two Per Cent Club and I am glad to learn that the State House has come to see that we were right," he commented.

"All money should go into the regular party coffers and not be kept outside the corrupt practice law and no accounting required. I have high hopes for Governor Schricker's regime because of his honesty and forthrightness."

FARMER ACQUITTED IN NEIGHBOR'S DEATH

CRAWFORDSVILLE, Ind., Nov. 23 (U. P.).—Edison W. Bratton, 68-year-old Montgomery County farmer, was free today following acquittal in Circuit Court on a manslaughter charge in connection with the fatal shooting, Sept. 27, 1939, of his neighbor, Harlow H. Ford, 49.

The jury returned the verdict yesterday after an hour and 15 minutes deliberation.

Earlier in his own defense that Ford died of the gun wounds 12 days after the affair and Bratton was indicted for manslaughter shortly afterward.

A. F. L. SESSION RUNS INTO SNAG ON LABOR PEACE

Formula Lacking for Unity With C. I. O.; May Founder On Criminal Purge.

By RICHARD LAMB
Times Staff Writer

NEW ORLEANS, Nov. 23.—The American Federation of Labor stands a good chance of adjourning its 60th annual convention next week without taking concrete action on either of two major objectives—labor peace and purge of criminals.

Both subjects will be aired, when the committees considering them report to the convention, but, barring the possibility of fireworks on the Dubinsky anti-racketeer resolution, indications are that both will be dispatched with a pious parade of "whereases."

William Green sought in advance to placate public opinion on the question of peace with the C. I. O. by announcing that the A. F. of L. committee would make new overtures to the C. I. O. committee upon the conclusion of the convention.

Tobin on Committee

On the A. F. of L. committee are Daniel J. Tobin, of the teamsters; Matthew Woll, of the photo-engravers, and Harry C. Bates, of the bricklayers, all vice presidents of the Federation. John L. Lewis, Sidney Hillman and Philip Murray comprise the C. I. O. negotiating board.

That all of them, in their hearts, fervently wish for peace there can be no doubt. But it will take more than the wish to bring them together. Both sides must yield something. But through three years of intermittent pseudo-negotiations it has become clear that neither will compromise.

Between them lie two theaters of war—jurisdiction and craft autonomy.

Since the split in 1935, the C. I. O. has moved into the mass-production industries, organizing into plant-wide and industry-wide unions men of every degree of skill from the common laborer up, including hundreds of thousands of men who never before had been asked to join a union.

Formula Not Found

If absorbed into the A. F. of L. these industrial unions would be added, the C. I. O. argues, by old-established craft unions, the carpenters, the bricklayers, the machinists and the plumbers—and the unskilled workers would be left to stand on their own.

Attempts to arrive at a formula which would leave these industrial unions intact in a reunited labor organization have been futile.

Thus, to satisfy the C. I. O., the A. F. of L. must pledge that the new industrial unions in the steel, automotive, electrical manufacturing and rubber industries will not be molested.

Jurisdictionally, the area of discord is equally vast. The A. F. of L. Teamsters Union looks down its nose at the C. I. O. Transport Workers Union, which, in the eyes of the A. F. of L., is invading the jurisdiction of both the teamsters and the street railway employees.

However much the latter organizations might welcome the dues payments of the transport workers, entrenched in New York's subway, motor-coach and surface-car system, both are afraid of the Communist influence said to dominate the transport workers.

Barriers Difficult

Or take the A. F. of L. Electrical Workers, a powerful union with firm financial resources, and the C. I. O. United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers. The A. F. of L. union is composed largely of journeymen electricians, while the C. I. O. embraces thousands of unskilled factory hands. To admit these to voting status would be unthinkable to the A. F. of L. union.

These barriers must be broken down before peace can be achieved. David Dubinsky's crusade for a cleanup of criminals, racketeers and traitors now holding office in A. F. of L. unions is expected to founder on the rock of autonomy.

Some delegates are advocating an impartial commission, on which the public would be represented, to review charges against any person accused of unfitness to hold union office. Such a commission would be empowered to hold public hearings, thus bringing the force of publicity to bear on the labor skate. It would not possess summary powers of expulsion.

So far this proposal has found few sympathizers among the bosses of the A. F. of L.

KEY WEST TO GET SUBS

KEY WEST, Fla., Nov. 23 (U. P.).—Three submarines and four more destroyers will be assigned to the Key West Naval Station next month, it was disclosed today. It will be the first time since the World War that undersea craft have been based here. The submarines will arrive Dec. 15. The destroyers are to be assigned here Dec. 1.

PLAN TAX CONFERENCE

GREENWOOD, Miss., Nov. 23 (U. P.).—Senator Pat Harrison (D. Miss.) was to leave today for Washington for a conference with President Roosevelt and House leaders on tax legislation. The purpose of the conference, to be held Nov. 29, is to draft a tax program for consideration at the next regular session of Congress.

STORAGE MOVING HOGAN

TRANSFER & STORAGE CORPORATION

Murray, New C. I. O. Head, Is Scholarly Scot, Whose Interests Are Centered in Unionism and Not in Politics

By KERMIT McFARLAND
Times Staff Writer

PITTSBURGH, Nov. 23.—A scholarly Scotsman, whose devotion to organized labor permits only a lukewarm interest in politics, is the new leader of the Congress of Industrial Organizations.

In this industrial center, of which Philip Murray is one of the most respected citizens, he is still known personally to a relative few. He could walk down the street almost unnoticed, although he has lived here most of his life since emigrating from Scotland.

For one thing, Mr. Murray, an international vice president of the United Mine Workers for the last 20 years, has kept his nose to the grindstone. For another, his duties have required long absences from home.

While he keeps frequent speaking engagements in the Pittsburgh district, he seldom addresses a meeting open to the public. Most of his speeches are delivered to labor groups.

When he does address a public meeting, he sometimes "steals the show," as he did at a recent campaign rally which featured Henry A. Wallace, or as he did when he addressed the Democratic National Convention in Chicago last July.

UNLIKE his predecessor, John L. Lewis, Mr. Murray dislikes politics.

He was a delegate-at-large at the last Democratic convention, but this was not his own doing and privately he showed a distaste for it.

While he has endorsed a candidate here and there and made an occasional political speech to miner groups, he really plunged into politics in only one campaign.

That was the primary campaign of 1938 when Pennsylvania Democrats, for a few weeks, headed by Lewis' behest, took a leading part in the unsuccessful effort to nominate Thomas Kennedy, secretary-treasurer of the United Mine Workers, for governor.

For a few weeks, headquarters of the Steel Workers Organizing Committee, of which Mr. Murray has been chairman, became a political office.

He never would admit it openly, but he disapproved of injecting the C. I. O. per se into a political campaign in that manner.

He was glad when the campaign was over.

Throughout his career, Mr. Murray has subordinated himself to Mr. Lewis. Scores of times he thoroughly disapproved of Mr. Lewis' actions but he clings to a rigid belief in a united front.

At no time did he openly criticize Mr. Lewis. Even his intimate, daily associates could get no more than a hint of his attitude. Yet everyone of them knew he fervently opposed some of Mr. Lewis' ventures—such as his refusal to clean out Communist elements in the C. I. O.

His support of Wendell L. Willkie for President, his appearance before the Republican Platform Committee at Philadelphia, his prediction at Columbus of "ignominious defeat" for President Roosevelt.

When Mr. Lewis delivered his famous speech for Mr. Willkie, Mr. Murray went on supporting the President but said never a word about Mr. Lewis.

In his home community, Mr. Murray is regarded almost unanimously as trustworthy—even by labor-union haters. The bitterest

of the Lewis haters have a pleasant word for him.

For 21 years he has been a member of the Pittsburgh Board of Education, by appointment of Common Pleas Court, but in recent years he almost never attends the meetings.

Mr. Murray is 54. He was born in Lanarkshire, Scotland, and came to the United States with his family on Christmas morning, 1902.

The 16-year-old boy already had had six years experience in the coal mines of his native country, working as his father's assistant for 80 cents a day.

The family—father, mother, six daughters and four sons, of whom Phil was the eldest—headed straight for Irwin, Pa., near here, after leaving their steeple accommodations in New York.

There they joined relatives, and father and eldest son went to work for the Keystone Coal & Coke Co.

TWO years later young Phil lost his temper one day while complaining to a weighmaster that he was being shortweighed. He smacked the weighmaster and got fired.

The 600 other miners promptly walked out, organized a strike and made young Phil president of a new local of the United Mine Workers.

But the strike blew up after a month and young Murray was hustled out of town by deputy sheriffs.

Within a year Mr. Murray was president of another U. M. W. local, and from there began his climb as a labor leader. In 1912 he was elected to the International Executive Board of the U. M. W. and in 1920 became international vice president.

He lives in a middle-class Pittsburgh residential district with his wife and one son. His low-priced car is usually piloted by the son.

Although his formal education stopped at the sixth grade, Mr. Murray is considered an authority on economics. Jointly with Morris L. Cooke, prominent engineer, he recently published a book called, "Organized Labor and Production."

The new C. I. O. boss speaks with a marked Scottish burr, but he has a splendid command of clear, grammatical English and he uses it with clarity and force.

Pledges Defense Co-operation

Pledging co-operation in national defense and opposition to subversive influences, the C. I. O. under Mr. Murray's leadership embarked on what the new president described as the "greatest organizational campaign in history."

Unionization of the Ford Motor Co. and "little steel," comprising Bethlehem, Republic, Weirton, and Youngstown Sheet and Tube companies, were described as major objectives.

In his acceptance speech yesterday, Mr. Murray denounced the Communists with a moral fervor bordering on the mystical. In his own steel union he had aggressively cleared them out of the leadership.

Mr. Lewis had permitted the Communists and the pro-Communists to infiltrate into the C. I. O. In recent times he became their darling, giving them aid and comfort at every opportunity.

Hillman Points Way

Up until three days ago the C. I. O. appeared ready to fall apart. Mr. Lewis, plainly embittered, seemed to be doing everything possible to encourage disruption. The left-wingers, ostensibly but (as it turned out later) not actually in control, were bent on forcing out the more conservative textile and clothing unions, as well as their leader, Mr. Hillman. It looked as if they had Mr. Lewis' support.

Then Mr. Hillman made his speech of conciliation. That showed the miners, the most powerful delegation, that he wasn't batting around their leader, Mr. Lewis. And it gave the heretofore inarticulate auto workers and the other groups the unity which the left-wing unions had from the start.

More than anything else, that speech saved the C. I. O. If John L. Lewis started the C. I. O., Sidney Hillman and Phil Murray held it together. Today Mr. Hillman and Mr. Murray are the C. I. O.



Phil Murray . . . even union haters trust him.

ments in the C. I. O., his support of Wendell L. Willkie for President, his appearance before the Republican Platform Committee at Philadelphia, his prediction at Columbus of "ignominious defeat" for President Roosevelt.

When Mr. Lewis delivered his famous speech for Mr. Willkie, Mr. Murray went on supporting the President but said never a word about Mr. Lewis.

In his home community, Mr. Murray is regarded almost unanimously as trustworthy—even by labor-union haters. The bitterest

of the Lewis haters have a pleasant word for him.

For 21 years he has been a member of the Pittsburgh Board of Education, by appointment of Common Pleas Court, but in recent years he almost never attends the meetings.

Mr. Murray is 54. He was born in Lanarkshire, Scotland, and came to the United States with his family on Christmas morning, 1902.

The 16-year-old boy already had had six years experience in the coal mines of his native country, working as his father's assistant for 80 cents a day.

The family—father, mother, six daughters and four sons, of whom Phil was the eldest—headed straight for Irwin, Pa., near here, after leaving their steeple accommodations in New York.

There they joined relatives, and father and eldest son went to work for the Keystone Coal & Coke Co.

TWO years later young Phil lost his temper one day while complaining to a weighmaster that he was being shortweighed. He smacked the weighmaster and got fired.

The 600 other miners promptly walked out, organized a strike and made young Phil president of a new local of the United Mine Workers.

But the strike blew up after a month and young Murray was hustled out of town by deputy sheriffs.

Within a year Mr. Murray was president of another U. M. W. local, and from there began his climb as a labor leader. In 1912 he was elected to the International Executive Board of the U. M. W. and in 1920 became international vice president.

He lives in a middle-class Pittsburgh residential district with his wife and one son. His low-priced car is usually piloted by the son.

Although his formal education stopped at the sixth grade, Mr. Murray is considered an authority on economics. Jointly with Morris L. Cooke, prominent engineer, he recently published a book called, "Organized Labor and Production."

The new C. I. O. boss speaks with a marked Scottish burr, but he has a splendid command of clear, grammatical English and he uses it with clarity and force.

Pledges Defense Co-operation

Pledging co-operation in national defense and opposition to subversive influences, the C. I. O. under Mr. Murray's leadership embarked on what the new president described as the "greatest organizational campaign in history."

Unionization of the Ford Motor Co. and "little steel," comprising Bethlehem, Republic, Weirton, and Youngstown Sheet and Tube companies, were described as major objectives.

In his acceptance speech yesterday, Mr. Murray denounced the Communists with a moral fervor bordering on the mystical. In his own steel union he had aggressively cleared them out of the leadership.

Mr. Lewis had permitted the Communists and the pro-Communists to infiltrate into the C. I. O. In recent times he became their darling, giving them aid and comfort at every opportunity.

Hillman Points Way

Up until three days ago the C. I. O. appeared ready to fall apart. Mr. Lewis, plainly embittered, seemed to be doing everything possible to encourage disruption. The left-wingers, ostensibly but (as it turned out later) not actually in control, were bent on forcing out the more conservative textile and clothing unions, as well as their leader, Mr. Hillman. It looked as if they had Mr. Lewis' support.

Then Mr. Hillman made his speech of conciliation. That showed the miners, the most powerful delegation, that he wasn't batting around their leader, Mr. Lewis. And it gave the heretofore inarticulate auto workers and the other groups the unity which the left-wing unions had from the start.

More than anything else, that speech saved the C. I. O. If John L. Lewis started the C. I. O., Sidney Hillman and Phil Murray held it together. Today Mr. Hillman and Mr. Murray are the C. I. O.

FBI PROBE OF VOTES IN 1 COUNTY ASKED

MADISON, Ind., Nov. 23 (U. P.).—Harry E. Nichols, newly-elected Republican judge of the Jefferson-Switzerland Circuit Court, has petitioned the FBI at Washington for an investigation of alleged ballot tampering in Switzerland County.

Mr. Nichols was declared winner in the Nov. 5 election by 77 votes over the Democratic incumbent, Curtis Marshall.

Mr. Marshall, however, filed a petition Nov. 12 asking for a recount of votes, a move countered two days later by Mr. Nichols with a petition that Switzerland County votes be impounded.

Under the second petition, County ballots were brought here and received by Marston V. Shepherd, Jefferson County clerk, who discovered that seals on 25 ballot packages and envelopes had been broken.

Mr. Nichols has asked the court to defer the recount action until an FBI investigation is made.

INCREASE GUARD IN RESTAURANTS

Police Watch Stouffer Chain After Blast in Cleveland.

CLEVELAND, Nov. 23 (U. P.).—Police today asked authorities in four other cities to provide special protection for properties of the Stouffer Corp., a chain restaurant company, after a bomb explosion in one restaurant here injured one employee slightly and caused minor damage to equipment.

The explosion here early this morning followed by 24 hours another in one of the company's restaurants in Philadelphia and Safety Director Elliot J. Ness said black powder bombs were used in both instances.

The Stouffer company also has restaurants in New York, Pittsburgh, Detroit and Chicago and police in those cities were asked to take special precautions against bombing outbreaks.

"There is marked similarity between this bombing and the one in Philadelphia," Director Ness said. "Both appear to be acts of terrorism, not that of a real desire to destroy the place."

Vernoy B. Stouffer, president of the restaurant company, said he had had no labor trouble.

WARNER TO ADDRESS STATE GUARD CHIEFS

Milo J. Warner, new national commander of the American Legion, will speak at the annual mid-winter dinner-meeting of the Indiana National Guard Association Saturday, Nov. 30.

His address is scheduled for 8 p. m. at the Indianapolis Athletic Club where the annual business meeting and banquet are to be held. The business meeting will be held at 4 p. m.

The annual election of association officers, and plans for continuing association activities after the Indiana Guard goes into active training at Camp Shelby, Miss., are on the agenda.

Lieut. Col. Robert J. Axtell, general arrangements chairman, expects more than 350 Guard officers to attend.

BLAZE THREATENS M-G-M SOUND STAGES

HOLLYWOOD, Nov. 23 (U. P.).—A spectacular fire threatened the million-dollar sound stages at Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer last night, but firemen backed their pumper trucks up to a movie lagoon and put out the blaze before it could spread.

The fire started on the back lot and for a time it was feared it would sweep the entire west end of the property. Studio firemen and equipment from Culver City and Los Angeles, however, extinguished it before any sound stages had been damaged.

Studio officials fixed the loss at approximately \$1000, since the sets destroyed were dismantled and obsolete properties.

War Moves Today TOLEDO PASTOR IS 2D ON FORUM

By J. W. T. MASON
United Press War Expert

Rumania's signature affixed today in Berlin to the Triple Alliance, added to Hungary's inclusion within the German sphere gives Hitler formal control over a continuous sweep of territory from the German border to the Black Sea. Russia cannot help but look with suspicion and disfavor on this expansion of German paramountcy to the shore of her own southern water boundary.

However, Stalin may possibly be forced to disguise his feelings, for the present, it is impossible to overlook this new menace to Slav influence in the Balkans. Sooner or later, it will be necessary for Russia to make some counter-move or else abandon all Slav ambitions in southeastern Europe.

A glance at the map of Europe will show how Hitler now has uninterrupted strategic command of the center of Europe extending from the North Sea to the Black Sea's northwestern coast line. Hungary and Rumania, as Germany's military vassals, have allowed Hitler to threaten Russia with a southern blockade.

Moscow's denial of a Berlin statement that Russia previously had been informed of the invitation to Hungary to join the Triple Alliance is significant of Stalin's feelings. More pointed is the report from Sofia that Bulgaria is reluctant to follow Hungary and Rumania into Russia's approval. Russian pressure on the Bulgarian Slavs thus may be beginning.

Nevertheless, it still is uncertain how Russia will formulate an immediate policy. Above all else Moscow will desire to avoid an open break with Germany while the German army retains its strength. It may seem advisable to the Kremlin to display outward friendliness for Germany while waiting for the war to continue until weakness develops.

But more than ever before, Russia can now discern Hitler's intention to keep Stalin out of Europe by a policy of envelopment. The German gesture of pointing to Middle Asia as Russia's future area of expansion is being followed by undisguised strategic movements of enforcement. That seems to be the most significant meaning of Rumania's hand placed on Hungary's shoulder, as both fall into the goose step parade.

Secondarily, Rumania's obedience to Berlin has made her oil fields a legitimate target for British and Turkish bombing if Germany starts an offensive movement against the Dardanelles. The Rumanians cannot hide behind a cloak of neutrality, that seems to be the most significant meaning of Rumania's hand placed on Hungary's shoulder, as both fall into the goose step parade.

At present, German troops in Rumania are disguised as military instructors, making their presence

theoretically legitimate. But by formally allying herself with the Germans, Rumania must face the consequences of that military pact if hostilities spread near her boundary.

Should the Germans direct the course of the war in that direction, partial destruction of the Rumanian oil wells might well have a vital effect on the whole course of the conflict. If any weakening of German oil supplies became evident, Russia would be in a position to show her real feelings.

It would seem that some such development is what Russia eagerly awaits, now that the German drive in southeastern Europe is unfolding. The German High Command, of course, must be fully aware of this dangerous factor in the Balkan situation.

Thus, Herr Hitler cannot be quite clear in his mind concerning the possible effects of a drive into the Middle East. The obscurities probably explain Germany's delay in extending the war to the southeast. Much diplomatic preparation still remains to remove obstacles which in the end may prove to be immovable.

KUHN DROPS ACTION AGAINST WARNERS

NEW YORK, Nov. 23 (U. P.).—Fritz Kuhn, former head of the German-American Bund who is serving a prison term for misappropriation of bond funds, yesterday signed a discontinuance of his \$5,000,000 libel action against Warner Brothers Pictures, Inc.

Kuhn had alleged he was damaged through portrayal of a character in the motion picture "Confessions of a Nazi Spy." He signed and mailed the discontinuance without benefit of counsel, and it was recorded yesterday by George J. H. Polimer, chief clerk of Federal Court.

Coming!

A Christmas Comic For Girls and Boys!

"Santa's Secrets"