

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 newspaperman plays golf on his "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 anomaly."

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 half-dozen men closest to the President" by Charles G. Ross writing in The Washington Sunday Star.

Christmas Too?

Claude A. Mahoney, White House correspondent for The Wall Street Journal, is 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 sakes, Steve, you're not going to tell us that now the President has been re-elected he is going to make Christmas come a week early, too!"

Even Steve laughed.

2% Action Approved

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"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

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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 Special 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 dispensed with a plauso 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

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 some thing. 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 units 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 raided, the C. I. O. argues, by the 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 big new industrial unions in the steel, automotive, electrical manufacturing and timber 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 union.

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

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 journeyman electricians, while the C. I. O. embraces thousands of unskilled factory hands. To merge these 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 betrayers 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 slate. 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.

There are 400 of these guests putting up at the Severin and 325 of them are caravans. The rest are other kinds of birds.

They are here to attend the Indianapolis Cage Bird Club Exhibits. Money received from people who want to visit the birds will be given to the Indianapolis Camp Fire Girls.

If you'd like to pay a visit, just tell the elevator attendant to take you to the bird floor any time today and until 4 p.m. tomorrow.

The birds have come here from all over the country. But perhaps the most unusual feathered creature in the lot is a bugle bird owned by Mrs. George Kanouse, 316 W. 30th St. This bird, called the American troupial by those who know, is named Scarlett as in Scarlett O'Hara.

Scarlett is black, white and rufous and likes flies if someone else will swat them and serve 'em up.

Send Up Some Poppy Seed, 400 Severin Guests Chorus

Hotel Severin bell-hops were all a-twitter today, seeing to the needs of some of the strangest bathtub singers ever to sign the register.

Ginger ale and cracked ice were running poor second to poppy seed and plain water.

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LEGION'S WORK FULLY MAPPED

Executives Look Forward to Getting Congress Action On Objectives.

American Legion executives, with a program built around greater defense and anti-fascist column guards, looked forward today to getting Congress action on their objectives.

The executive committee, representing 58 Legion departments in the United States and its territories, closed its annual meeting here yesterday.

The war abroad and the defense movement here already have brought into being or to the planning stage many of the things the Legion has been proposing for years. Among them are conscription, continuous national defense, a two-ocean Navy and the "biggest air force in the world."

Back "State Guard" Law

National defense resolutions by the Legion also urged all departments to work for a uniform "state guard" law. Home guards will replace the National Guard in January and next month national headquarters will send to each department a model state guard bill.

Committee appointments announced were:

Finance—Sam W. Reynolds, Omaha, Neb., chairman.

Rehabilitation—Lynn U. Stanbaugh, Fargo, N. D., chairman, and Paul G. Armstrong, Chicago, vice chairman.

Child Welfare—Lawrence H. Smith, Racine, Wis., chairman; L. A. Williams, Everett, Wash., vice chairman.

Americanism—James F. O'Neill, Manchester, N. H., chairman; Robert J. Webb, Omaha, Neb., vice chairman.

Boys State—B. A. Brooks, Fayetteville, Ark., chairman.

Atherton Reappointed

National Defense—Warren H. Atherton, Stockton, Cal., reappointed chairman; Frank E. Lowe, Portland, Me., vice chairman.

Phoenix, Ariz., reappointed chairman; Harry P. Johnson, Burlington, Kas., vice chairman.

Americanism—James F. O'Neill, Manchester, N. H., chairman.

Boys State—B. A. Brooks, Fayetteville, Ark., chairman.

Veterans Preference—James Fitzgerald, Chevy Chase, Md., chairman.

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On the recommendation of Mr. Reynolds of the finance committee, the executives voted that Legion staff members deciding to serve in the U. S. armed forces will not suffer financially.

They will be granted one-year leaves and the difference in their Legion salary and that received while in service will be paid them by the Legion.

PURDUE TO LAUNCH 5-YEAR AIR COURSE

LAFAYETTE, Ind., Nov. 23 (U.P.)—President E. C. Elliott of Purdue University announced today the establishment of a new five-year curriculum leading to the degree of bachelor of science in aeronautical engineering.

Elliott said the new course is designed to meet the demand for technically trained engineers in the aeronautics industry.

Students will receive civil, electrical, mechanical and metallurgical training in addition to aeronautical engineering.

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THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

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

By KERMIT MCFARLAND

Times Special 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, as 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.