

More Than Platforms Needed to Tell Parties Apart in Legislature

Party Documents Say Almost Same Thing On Many Questions, Comparison Reveals

By LOUIS ARMSTRONG

It is strange to note how much Democrat and Republican state legislators have in common.

Although they are of opposite political faiths they still go hand-in-hand along many paths.

Both parties have made firm statements of their intentions on many legislative matters. They have backed these up by the pledges in their party platforms.

But how often the Republican and Democratic policies go arm in arm can only be seen when the two parties' platforms are placed side-by-side.

For example, both GOP and Democrat pledged a bonus and the only controversy is over how to finance the gift to ex-service men.

Accuse Each Other At the same time the two parties energetically point accusing fingers at each other over the vets.

Says the GOP platform, "We condemn the bungling of Democratic Administration in veterans' housing projects."

Answers the Democrat platform, "We deplore the apathy and lack of interest (naturally on the part of the Republican Party) in veterans' affairs, and its failure to pass legislation to relieve the shortage of veterans' housing."

In labor matters, the Democrat platform "recognizes the right of labor to organize and to bargain collectively." While the Republican platform declares, "Labor's right to organize must be respected and collective bargaining must be encouraged."

Democratic Pledges However, the Democrats have pledged to liberalize the Workmen's Compensation Law, enact an Indiana Wage and Hour Law and a Labor Relations Law and repeal the utilities anti-strike law passed by the Republican dominated 1947 General Assembly.

Both parties have pledged support to the aged.

The Democrats promise "continued interest and support of payments of old age assistance and aid to dependent, dependent children and the blind."

At the same time, Republicans have promised liberalization of the statutory limitations for "old age assistance, aid to dependent children and aid to the blind to provide reasonable subsistence for those entitled to it."

Decry Centralization Both parties have been particularly outspoken on their plans to return government to the people. Both decry centralization of government.

Republican platforms blame: "Enormous centralization of government functions in Washington now constitutes a great danger to freedom. We demand that states and local communities be permitted to resume the greatest degree of responsibility of which they are capable."

"Pooh, pooh!" about the Democrats and add, "We believe the problems of the individual local government can best be solved by the people of the community themselves and we are unalterably opposed to the policy of the

Tax Lobbyists Prove Eager Helpers To State Legislators Here



Lobbyists barged into the House and Senate floors at the earliest opportunity as the 86th General Assembly opened last week. First on the scene was the tax squad which even elbowed the railroad lobbyist out of the way. Here Frank J. Murray, Indiana Tax Assessment League (left), and Robert Long, his assistant, advise Rep. Homer Froman (D. Monticello) what the people want. Rep. Froman (facing camera) can't seem to dodge these eager helpers. Rep. William F. Dentlinger (D. Connersville) is seated in the foreground and appears to be listening.

The Senate didn't escape the biennial visit of the tax squad either. Walter Horn, Indiana Taxpayers' Association (left), has buttonholed Sen. Roy Conard (R. Monticello), on the subject of economy in government. A movement to exclude lobbyists from the floor at all times is under consideration by Democrats. That is not likely to come to pass. Legislators depend on the tax boys to tell them the score on detailed finance bills.

Schricker Labors Over Message

Contents Are Secret To Assembly Leaders

Governor-elect Schricker was locked up today with his first message to the General Assembly, a message which seems to be as much a mystery to legislative leaders as to anybody else.

Most of his staff planned to work right through the day in the pre-inauguration "little state house" on the third floor of the Claypool Hotel. They doubted anything on the message would come out from behind the closed office door, and suspected that Mr. Schricker would lock him self up again right after inauguration tomorrow and stay with it almost up to delivery time.

Meanwhile, the wheels of legislative progress were at a standstill as far as Democrats were concerned.

Under the direction of House Speaker Robert Heller of Decatur and Senate Minority Leader Walter Vermillion of Anderson, they have prepared bills covering most of the Democratic platform promises.

Bills Held Back But, Mr. Heller pointed out late yesterday, many plans in the platform can be interpreted in various ways. He said Democrats would hold up the entire bundle of platform bills until after Mr. Schricker's first message.

His announcement was interpreted by Statehouse observers as an indication there was little or no liaison between the executive and the legislators so far. It also confirmed that Mr. Schricker's word will be law for the legislative leadership and that they will take no chances on introducing a policy bill which might not conform with Mr. Schricker's attitude.

At the same time, it was believed likely that Mr. Schricker, concerned over the possibility of a drop in state revenues, might back away from some Democratic platform promises in his message.

The platform, which was adopted by the convention last June before Mr. Schricker was nominated, contained a number of contradictions. In his message, Mr. Schricker is expected to sort these out, take a stand one way or the other and let it go.

See Economy Urged He also is expected to tone down some of the spending clauses in the platform and make his speech one urging the legislature to proceed cautiously and keep a weather eye on the budget.

Republican legislators, on the other hand, made it clear they would rely on their own and not party leadership to determine policy. Already Republican senators who control the upper house have turned down a suggestion that a liaison man be appointed to keep them in touch with the GOP state committee.

Anti-Capital Punishment Bill Looms In Assembly

Darwin Society Sponsors Proposal; South Bend Attorney Lobbies for Measure

By PHILIP F. CLIFFORD JR.

A bill to outlaw capital punishment in Indiana is expected to be tossed into the hopper of the 86th General Assembly within a few days.

Meanwhile, legislators were back on their home grounds today in recess until tomorrow at 10 a. m. After the first two days of the session they adjourned Friday after putting only a slight crease in their new legislative chairs.

The anti-capital punishment bill is sponsored by the Darwin Society, a national organization for the abolition of capital punishment; the bill is being lobbied in the legislature by Mansel Haggerty, South Bend attorney.

The Darwins were founded in 1938, and named in memory of the late Clarence Darwin, famed Chicago criminal lawyer who saved two young Chicago scions from the death penalty more than 30 years ago. They had been arrested and convicted for the "thrill slaying" of youthful Bobby Franks.

Mr. Haggerty, who said the bill is now being drawn for presentation to Hoosier lawmakers, believes that while the measure might possibly face plenty of stormy opposition, it still has enough sympathizers to get "a good ride" through either or both houses, and might even become law.

Although he denied knowing who will introduce the bill, or when, the Darwin lobbyist said it would be introduced during the current legislative session.

Obviously anxious to get the bill passed, Mr. Haggerty's own comment on the subject was terse. "The death penalty," he charged, "does not prevent murder. It is a form of cruelty unnecessary in a civilized state."

The Darwins, Mr. Haggerty pointed out, is a non-profit group. It is prohibited by charter, he added, from even accepting donations to help foster their aim of abolishing capital punishment on a national scale.

Frames Legislation Among the famous sponsors of the idea of outlawing the death penalty, Mr. Haggerty said, is Dr. Karl Menninger, Topeka, Kas., famous psychiatrist and author of "The Human Mind."

Another, he added, was the late Lewis E. Lawes, one time warden of New York's Sing Sing prison, and author of "Twenty Thousand Years in Sing Sing."

While only a token interest was shown by Hoosier lawmakers during the first two days of the session, the real show expected to get under way when both the House and Senate convene tomorrow.

Rep. Carrol M. Dennis (D. Beech Grove), a member of Marion County's delegation, said he was framing several important pieces of legislation which "believe will have far-reaching effect not only on Marion County but the state in general." The bill, he said, will be presented to the House "sometime" early this week.

IN INDIANAPOLIS

MARRIAGE LICENSES
 Elmer Lee Garrison, 22, 837 Harrison; Dorothy Jean Messer, 18, 914 Highland; Virgil P. Morris, 21, 490 N. Central; Rose Marie Perkins, 20, 1002 N. Missouri; Charles E. Kline, 28, R. 2, Box 571-A; Helen Marie LeMay, 19, 702 N. Indiana; Paul E. Frost, 24, 5022 W. Raymond; Rachel Onetta Hale, 16, 1217 E. 24th; Richard A. Ashby, 29, 601 Warren; Kathryn Ashby, 28, 2208 E. 28th; Gladys Williams, 17, 1008 Madison; Robert E. Hurr, 21, 1023 River; Kathleen L. Clement, 21, 1023 River; Vera Orsham, 20, 2124 Brookside; Otha M. Taylor, 19, 1138 Vandermere; Linda M. Korschick, 19, 236 Prospect; Donald M. Douglas, 20, 2123 Oakley; Dorothy L. Wright, 19, 3012 Ave. 24th; Richard Vaughn, 23, 538 E. Calhoun; Evelyn R. Smith, 20, 1151 Fletcher; John J. Hoffman, 21, 1008 Madison; Virginia; Florence B. Henley, 17, Westfield; Charles Foster, 18, 2270 Hillside; Elmer E. Harvey, 17, 2009 N. Oxford; Allan Young, 21, 9013 Rockville Rd.; Ross L. Jean, 20, 2124 Brookside; Carl M. Montgomery, 21, 2228 E. Keystone; Beverly J. Berkamp, 17, 1115 N. Oliver; Verlin E. Osborn, 21, 1008 Madison; Rose T. Hader, 21, 3011 W. Tenth; Russell E. Walker, 21, 1354 W. Michigan; Marcella Eaton, 17, 309 N. Bellevue; William R. Harvey, 17, 2009 N. Oxford; Ross L. Jean, 20, 2124 Brookside; Lela; Mary J. Kasper, 22, Shelbyville; Francis G. Hiesinger, 20, Huntington; Helen J. Ryland, 20, 440 Mass.;

DIVORCE SUITS FILED
 Vera W. vs. Artye S. Jones; Mildred Marie vs. Robert Edward Tinsley; Betty Lou Ford vs. George William Ford; Dorothy D. Alexander vs. Alexander; Marion Thomas vs. R. W. Thomas; Anna Lane vs. Hubert Lane; Eliza J. Albright vs. William R. Albright;

55 Legislators Sure to Push GI Bonus

Ex-Servicemen Pledge 'Good' Bill

By IRVING LEIBOWITZ
 Soldier's bonus will march proudly through Indiana's 86th General Assembly with the help of 55 legislators who served in the nation's armed forces.

Forty-one members of the House of Representatives are either veterans of World War I or World War II and 14 members of the Senate are also former servicemen.

Each of the former servicemen-legislators has pledged aid in putting through a "good" bonus bill. Their proposals, however, are as varied as they are many.

Sure to Pass Sen. Walter Vermillion, colorful minority leader of the Republican controlled Senate, said during a recess the "soldier's bonus" is a mandate from the people. He added that even if there wasn't one legislator in the assembly who served in the war, the bonus bill was sure to pass.

Many of the leaders in the current Assembly are members of organizations pledged to help the passage of the soldier's bonus. Sen. John W. VanNess, President Pro Tem. of the Senate, is an active official of the American Legion.

In the House, Rep. W. O. Hughes (R. Ft. Wayne) minority floor leader, is a member of the Officers' Reserve Association.

Objections Appear Scattered objections to the proposed veterans' bonus bill have cropped up in various sections of the state.

In Indianapolis, members of the Melvin-Kothe Post 153, American Legion, have voted to send letters to the Indiana Legislature urging defeat of any proposal to pay veterans a bonus.

The Master Barbers Chapter 270 of Evansville has forwarded a demand to the legislature opposing any form of bonus for veterans.

However, Sen. William Bates, (R. New Albany), chairman of the all important committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, said that all this opposition comes "a little too late."

On the Senate floor, the rotund Clark County farmer told his colleagues: "It's a helluva time to start opposing the bonus bill."

WOMEN WIN EQUALITY
 SANTIAGO, Chile, Jan. 8 (UP)—President Gabriel Gonzalez Videla today signed into law a bill granting women full political equality with men.

Mrs. Afflis Made Probation Head

Unsuccessful Candidate for Congress from Indiana's Second District in 1946, today was named by Gov. Ellet H. Schricker as secretary and director of the Indiana State Probation Board.

Mrs. Afflis, a past president of the P-T-A and state probation director during Mr. Schricker's first administration, will take over the job next Monday. She now is a member of the National Probation Association Professional Council.

She also has served as a Deer Creek Township trustee in Carroll County and was a member of the Delphi School Board. She was vice president of the Indiana State Teachers Retirement Fund from 1933 to 1941. She is the widow of William Afflis, a Delphi businessman, and has one son, William Franklin Jr.

Cincinnati Man Named Kingan & Co. Director

W. H. Mooney of Cincinnati has been elected a director of Kingan & Co. filling the vacancy created by the resignation of Clarence Keehn late last year.

Mr. Mooney is president of the American Oak Leather Co. and a director of the Indianapolis Power and Light Co., the American National Bank of Indianapolis, and the Fifth-Third Union Trust Co. of Cincinnati. He is a former president of the Indianapolis Abattoir Corp.

Mr. Keehn retired after 61 years of continuous service.

Assessor Named

Victor R. Jose, Marion County assessor, announced yesterday he had appointed Ronald T. Roberts as Lawrence Township assessor.

Mr. Roberts has been in the real estate and insurance business in Lawrence for many years. He is a resident of that community.

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