

POLITICS... By Robert Bloom

Holder Pulls Old Trick For Capehart-Jacobs Debate

Fights Cadle Tabernacle Site, Prefers 'Phone Booth' Size

GOP CHAIRMAN Cape Holder's efforts to hold the Capehart-Jacobs debate in a phone booth may seem a little peculiar but think nothing of it. Such odd behavior is quite common among politicians, particularly Republicans.

They like to make their rip-roaringest Republican speeches before predominant Republican audiences. They never convince anybody that way who isn't already convinced but, boy, do they get lots of applause!

Generally speaking, Democrats in recent years have been more inclined to the less pleasant but more productive procedure of carrying their political ideas to the general public. One prominent Democrat has discovered he can even coax a stray Republican into his camp now and then.

MR. HOLDER has remained grimly opposed to the use of Cadle Tabernacle for the Dec. 12 debate here. He will settle for any place smaller and the smaller the place is the better he will like it.

Mr. Holder figures the Democrats will muster up every city

and state employee who isn't sick in bed that night to attend the debate. He also expects these Democrats to be reinforced by a sizable labor crowd.

What it really amounts to, Mr. Holder says, is that the meeting will be a Democratic rally. If his debater, Sen. Capehart, has to speak before an organized Democratic rally, the GOP chairman says, it's going to be as small a Democratic rally as possible.

Republicans, he apparently believes, will stay home and listen to the debate on the radio if at all. He's positive that very few persons will show up just because they're interested.

Democrats, who have both city and state administrations, can herd partisans like sheep. Republicans haven't got anybody they can herd in around Indianapolis.

IF SEN. CAPEHART goes along with Mr. Holder's ideas, he will win about as many votes in the coming debates as he would in a speech to the Republican state committee.

It would seem to make more sense if the Senator took exactly the opposite view. For example, in a house packed with Democrats, Congressman Jacobs couldn't win a vote. He's got those Democratic voters already. Sen. Capehart, on the other hand, would have nothing to lose and everything to gain. If one single member of such an audience changed his mind, it would have to be in favor of the Republican Senator.

As for the size of the hall, it seems logical that the bigger it is the harder it would be to pack with partisans.

AS FOR UNION officials whipping up a big labor turn-

out, how can Sen. Capehart lose by that? Union leaders are pretty solidly committed to a drive to mass the union vote against him. Every rank-and-file union member he gets a chance to talk to is at least an outside chance to win a vote.

The Senator, himself, appears to see the point of all this. He seems willing enough to meet a neutral or even a hostile audience if it will help his re-election campaign.

Mr. Jacobs, on the other hand, probably is far less concerned with having a partisan audience than Mr. Holder thinks.

The situation looks like a chance for Sen. Capehart to jar a little of the dust off the GOP. If he rushes in where Mr. Holder apparently fears to tread, he might even start other Republicans making speeches to win votes instead of to win applause.

IT LOOKS AS though there won't be as much talk about "slave labor" in the 1950 campaign in Indiana as there was in 1948. Certain unions are beginning to feel that the Utility Anti-Strike law passed in 1947 is not as bad as it was painted during the last election campaign.

What's more, some utilities that favored the law when it was passed aren't so sure any more that it's a good one. In other words, the situation is reversed.

The unions that bitterly denounced the act as "Indiana's little Taft-Hartley law" are faring as well as unions that can strike.

Here and there a few of the public utility boys are beginning to realize that sometimes management gets hurt less in a strike than in an arbitration. Compulsory arbitration pro-

ceedings under the law are much more frequently sought by unions than by utilities. The unions haven't always gotten all they wanted, but they usually get something.

Wages are a major part of the cost of many public utility operations. If wages go up too sharply, especially in small utilities, the result is sometimes an increase in utility rates.

Since strikes are unlawful in utility wage disputes in Indiana, deadlocked negotiations bring arbitration instead of walkouts. In arbitration public opinion seldom comes to bear as it does in strikes.

A FEW UTILITY men are beginning to realize that while a strike by their employees might leave the public without essential services for a few

days, the public would likely turn the heat on the strikers. Under the Indiana anti-strike law, however, it works the other way. The employees stay on the job, the wage question is settled by arbitration.

But if the settlement forces the utility to seek increased rates from the Public Service Commission, then it's the utility that catches the blast of public opinion.

It is doubtful that Republicans who helped pass the law will come around to suggesting its repeal. However, don't be surprised when the 1951 General Assembly rolls around if the GOP legislators have lost interest in opposing repeal.

And don't be surprised, either, if Democrats and union leaders seem to have lost interest in getting rid of the "dastardly slave labor law."

Washington Calling—

Mine Operators Believe John L. Can Be Whipped

Present a Solid Front Against 'Able and Willing' Clause

By The Scripps-Howard Newspapers
WASHINGTON, Dec. 3—Can John L. Lewis be licked this time?

Coal operators think so. They say they'll stand together, grant no further money benefits, sign no contracts containing the "able and willing" clause which lets Lewis pull out half a million men any time.

Factors against Lewis:

"Soft spots"—Operators willing to compromise with Lewis—have died or retired. Industry's now under a discipline something like that in miners' union.

Northern and Western operators are now as anti-Lewis as Southern group has always been. U. S. Steel, which once played with Lewis, got its fingers burned, won't do it again.

Lewis has no friends in government to try to save his skin. Also, miners have been on strike nearly a third of normal time this year, have greatly reduced incomes. United Mine Workers, though it's one of the wealthiest unions, with \$15 million in banks, plus the welfare fund, pays no strike benefits.

Factors favoring Lewis:

Miners do what he tells them. It's one industry where strike-breaking is never attempted.

Miners remember many benefits Lewis has won for them. Also, Lewis operates a secret police, in case loyalty wavers. Strong-arm men who don't shrink from physical combat work for him in all the coal fields.

He shifts them around wherever trouble seems likely. These squads put fear of mayhem, even death, into miners and their wives. No man works in the mines if Lewis says no. So miners fear to talk openly against union leadership.

Lewis will try for separate agreement with anthracite operators in talks starting Tuesday. Some of them may deal with him, since anthracite is used chiefly for heating eastern homes, and operators fear conversions to oil or gas, permanent loss of markets. But settlement here is not likely to crack solid front of soft coal operators, who employ 400,000 UMW members.

Pass a new law? Neither war labor disputes nor Taft-Hartley has broken Lewis' grip on coal industry. Many Congressmen want to make anti-trust laws apply to union monopolistic practices. But all labor organizations would fight that idea tooth and nail.

Ward Faces Delay
DON'T EXPECT Angus Ward party to be an American-occupied soil before another week or more has elapsed.

Ward and his consular staff will leave Mukden Tuesday at latest. Meanwhile, State Department must choose among American ship lines having vessels due to call at Taku Bar, Tientsin port area, soon after Ward's arrival there.

Difficulty lies in rearranging schedules so that ship chosen can make direct run to South Korea or Japan, normally a two-day trip.

Ward's train trip from Mukden to Tientsin will take two to four days, with another delay of possibly two to four days at Taku while ship is discharging and taking on cargo.

Housing Still Needed
ONE MILLION new housing units in 1949 tops country's previous record—937,000 units in 1925. It's more than government officials predicted at start of year.

But officials aren't satisfied. They point out there are 35 million more people to be housed than in 1925.

What's more, Bureau of Labor Statistics and Commerce Department predict only 900,000 units in 1950, including both public and private housing.

This means big drop in privately-built homes for sale. Housing and home finance agency says we need 1.5 million new units a year for 10 years.

Economic Adviser Keyserling asks average of 1,750,000 units a year till 1960.

Authorities all agree market for homes for middle-income families hasn't been scratched, won't be till prices come down. But building supplies still stand at 205 per cent of 1929 price level, down only 8.5 points from all-time high. Production of supplies was off 10 per cent this year, which helped keep prices up.

New federal housing rules to eliminate racial discrimination do not cover low-rent public housing. That's up to local de-termination, public housing officials say.

New rules mean only that FHA in future will not guarantee mortgages on privately financed homes and apartments where racial restrictive covenant has been recorded.

World Report—

Unheralded Policy That Costs Each Taxpayer a Dime Builds Rich Reservoir of Good Will for U. S. in China

\$5 Million Set Aside on Farm Reforms Points Way to Help Undeveloped Areas

By GORDON CUMMING
Compiled from the White House news agency, observers in the Far East reported today, may lay in a little known American investment of \$5 million in China.

Little known because the Communist triumphs have squeezed it out of the news. Even though it has paid off it may prove to have been too little and too late.

And it was done with finesse. In a manner of speaking, for every Chinese family affected by land reforms alone cost each American taxpayer about 10 cents.

Congress passed the China Act in 1948. ECA was given \$275 million to spend. But Congress provided that 10 per cent of it must be spent on rural reconstruction. It covered non-Communist areas.

Eighty per cent of China's population, it must be borne in mind, live on the land—till it, in other words, for a living. But for the most part they do not hold title to the soil they work. The vast majority, in short, are tenants.

Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalist government wrote a land reform law in 1926, designed to break up large estates. But little came of it for the landlords were too powerful in the Kuomintang Party, Chiang's political vehicle.

Reds Make Hay
The Communists have made great political capital of that. "Land to the man who farms it," sums up the Red program.

That is where the \$5 million American investment comes in. It was administered by a commission of Chinese and American specialists whose purpose was to "give the Chinese farmer a better break."

And it is not just another bureau. Fact is, from top to bottom its personnel numbers less than 160.

The commission has concentrated on: Improved seeds, better hogs, pesticides, chemical fertilizers, veterinary services, rural industries, strengthening co-operatives and marketing unions, irrigation and flood control, mass education and land reforms.

And to its credit it has these substantial achievements. ONE: A considerable contribution to the welfare of the estimated 80 million people in Szechuan and Kwangsi provinces and the island of Formosa.

TWO: More fundamental goodwill toward the United States in these areas than produced by any other American aid effort in China since V-J day.

THREE: Some valuable lessons on how to contribute toward the social, economic and political health of the underdeveloped peoples of Asia—and at a relatively small cost.

The Sino-American commission found that China's population pressure gave landowners an advantage over tenants not known in America. And tenancy conditions in China

were worst where the land was richest.

For example, on the Chengtu plain, one of the world's richest farming areas, about 80 per cent of all farmers are tenants. They paid 50 to 90 per cent of their rice crop as rent.

The Struggle to Till
The fierce competition for the privilege of cultivating as little as one or two acres of land left the tenants at the mercy of landowners.

Tenants were usually forced to sign new contracts whenever the landlords chose. In spite of the high rents, tenants paid "deposit money" when they rented land frequently equal to one-fifth of the purchase price of the land.

The deposit was theoretically refundable. But landlords frequently kept it and tenants were helpless in presenting their cases in the landlord-dominated local courts.

But times have changed. On such small grants as \$41,000 and \$60,000 the Sino-American Commission has effected cuts in rents running from 25 per cent to 37.5 per cent.

Moreover, the commission has trained the Chinese farmers in their rights. Wardrobes whose custom it has been to send troops to collect rents on their estates now find that their tenants pay the legal rent and not one cent more.

It is estimated the land reform program cost the American taxpayer less than 10 cents for every Chinese family benefited. At that rate it is probably the cheapest and most widely appreciated gesture the United States ever made toward China.

China
CHINA's reeling Nationalist government appeared today to be preparing for the final flight from the Chinese mainland as fast-moving Red columns moved in for the kill.

Chengtu reports said the government had ordered the evacuation of all "non-essential" workers from that sleepy university town which became, almost overnight, the "refugee capital" of China.

Although the government has ceased publication of military communiques, Communist armies were reported advancing on Chengtu from the Northeast and Southwest. Influential government leaders were reported pressing for a quick retreat to the fortress island of Formosa.

Retired President Chiang Kai-shek was said to favor a further retreat on the mainland.



The Chinese Reds who, striking from Kiangsi (2), took Chungking (1) this week, pressed on today toward Chengtu (3), the new Nationalist capital. Red armies also were driving on Nanchang (4) and Changchow (5). Rolling down the Hankow railroad they already have captured the industrial city of Liuchow (6).

land, arguing that flight to Formosa would make the government "lose face." Other nationalist leaders were reported arguing that they risk losing their heads if they stay on the mainland.

France
THE Cominform's latest meeting—held in a mountainous region of Hungary—was productive of a number of decisions of particular interest to France, reports said today.

Among other things, credible sources disclose, Paris was selected as the latest capital to serve as the center of the Soviet's newest propaganda campaign.

The French Communist Party, it appears, will direct the "peace partisan movement" which the Kremlin has decided is the most effective weapon it can use to counteract the "war" policy of the United States.

A source close to Red party leadership in Paris disclosed that French delegates Jacques Duclos, Etienne Fajon and Georges Cogniot got a severe lecture because of the stagnation of Red action in France the past year.

The French Communists were warned to be on the watch for any sign of Titoist seepage into their ranks and to keep a wary eye on writers and poets of Communist leanings who might feel inclined to follow the lead of writer Jean Cassou. Since his return from Yugoslavia in September, Mr. Cassou has been loud in praise of Tito.

Czechoslovakia
THE country's Roman Catholic bishops disclosed today that Czech Premier Antonin Zapotocky has answered their request for a revision of the church control laws with a blasphemous letter which sounded as if it were addressed to "criminals."

In a reply made available to Western correspondents today, the bishops heatedly denied that they were "criminals" and charged the Communist regime with violating both its own constitution and the laws of God.

Their letter, signed by all Czech and Slovak bishops including Archbishop Josef Beran of Prague, did not reveal what Mr. Zapotocky told them. It said merely that his communication "contained threats."

The bishops letter, charged that Czechoslovakia had less religious freedom than states which do not pretend to guarantee religious freedom.

The 2000-word letter continued, "we demand that the government of the Czechoslovak republic abandon its attempt to enforce a law which can not be fulfilled."

It raked Communist officials for trying to give the new state church office, headed by President Klement Gottwald's son-in-law, Alexej Cepicka, a "spiritual power." The bishops said it was the state, not the church, which was stepping into a sphere in which it did not belong.

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Our Fair City—

Railways May Get Another Fare Hike As a Yule Gift

Action on Increase Awaits End Of PSC Chairman's Holiday

LOOK FOR Public Service Commission to give Christmas present—two-cent transit fare increase—to Indianapolis Railways just before Yule holiday.

Action on "emergency" petition for fare hike may have to wait until PSC Chairman Hugh Abbott returns from vacation. Although hearings are completed, Mr. Abbott says PSC won't act until he takes holiday.

Cops usually dish it out, but sometimes lawmen are turned... Shiny, big car driven by dowager-type matron collided with another at Capitol and Maryland. Officer on corner ordered her to curb for lecture.

Observers saw patrolman's face turn from red to purple as conversation progressed. Reason became apparent when cop strode over to fellow officer and was heard to plead: "Say Jack, you go over and talk to that old hen. If she says one more word to me I'm going to take her right in."



Yugoslavia
The Yugoslav Communist organ Borba last night linked the recent Budapest Cominform resolution calling for revolution inside Yugoslavia with the imminent Sofia trial of Traicho Kostov, former No. 2 Bulgarian Communist.

Sunday's Borba, in a four-column editorial, said that the resolution was merely an attempt to maintain the Kremlin's campaign against Yugoslavia's independence.

The Borba article said the U. S. S. R. has "only its own selfish interests at heart" and was destroying the independence of all the people's democracies and attempting to make "Yugoslavia the culprit."

Comparing the Kostov trial to the recently concluded trial of Lazo Rajk, former No. 2 Hungarian Communist, who was hanged, the article said the same "Budapest recipe is being served up."

It said both Mr. Rajk and Mr. Kostov went to Moscow for "pre-trial treatment" and that the terminology of the indictments was almost identical, indicating that the same hand had written them.

East Germany
MEMBERS of the Schutzstaffel, or SS, Hitler's most ruthless and most dedicated soldiers, were beginning to appear today for the first time since the end of the war among prisoners returning from the Soviet Union.

So far as can be determined, they have never been listed by the Soviet Union among the ordinary prisoners of war, which may account for part of the discrepancy between the Soviet and German prisoner figures. Estimates of the number of SS in Soviet hands have varied from 200,000 to 400,000.

Like other prisoners they were required to take courses in the "Anti-fascist" or "anti-Fascist" schools. Their schooling seems not to have been an outstanding success.

One returning SS man said that Soviet instructors often lost their tempers. Having delivered lengthy lectures, they would ask: "Are there any questions?" There never was any.

West Germany
WALTER REUTHER, president of the CIO United Automobile Workers, charged yesterday that the Americans and the British had put "the same old gang" back into power in the Ruhr.

"The very people who helped Hitler to office and helped him to wage war are running the great Ruhr coal mines now," Mr. Reuther told a press conference.

He termed the Anglo-American action a "threat to democracy in Germany and democracy in the world."

"The mistakes occupation authorities have made were not made willfully but they were made, Reuther said. "Perhaps we wanted to get back to America too fast, so we turned things back to the old owners." Mr. Reuther did not name names.

He criticized the American and British military governments for vetoing the German decision to nationalize the Ruhr mines. This veto should be rescinded, he said.

England's Labor Government
The New Zealand Nationalist Party upset the Laborites on the pledge of their leader, Sidney G. Holland, who will be the new Premier, to reduce taxes, lessen state controls, and promote free enterprise.

That is also the kernel of the Republican platform for 1950 against what President Truman calls his Fair Deal, although the GOP has made little headway with it this year.

While President Roosevelt's New Deal was in the making here in the early 30's New Zealand was passing laws to put Socialism into effect. Australia followed.

England's Labor government took over from Mr. Churchill's Tories in 1945 as Mr. Truman was picking up the pieces of the New Deal and paving the way for the 1948 promise which elected him.

The New Zealand Nationalists, however, promised to retain social security benefits and to keep wages up.