MEN AND AFFAIRS AT WASHINGTON

★ National Topics Interpreted by WILLIAM BRUCKART ★

Washington.—I have said in these columns many times that politics is a business. If anybody desires proof of that statement I think I am able now to offer the best possible evidence of the truth of that statement.

Politics Is Business

Lately, W. Forbes Morgan, treasurer of the Democratic national committee, has demonstrated beyond the shadow of a doubt what politics as a business actually means. He did so in the recent announcement that the Democratic national committee would seek to build up a "war chest" of $10,000,000 that the vast New Deal party machinery can go on at top speed; that the momentum gained by the successful Presidential campaign of 1936 can be maintained and that the party can continue to function as a cohesive unit through which millions of voters may speak.

It appears that Mr. Morgan will not succeed in getting anything like $10,000,000 together but it is very significant that he is thinking in terms so large as those mentioned in his announcement. It means simply that the present control of the New Deal party is determined to carry out to the nth degree the theory of its chairman, James A. Farley, only recently reappointed as postmaster general of the United States.

Mr. Farley plays politics in exactly the same manner that he would engage in a business venture. He takes chances when the stakes are high, he knows his men, his workers, and moreover, he knows how to get the best results out of the material he has. His operations are not unlike the functions of a sales manager of a great concern—he sells what he has to the voters and if any salesman fails to function, Mr. Farley looks for replacements.

We might illustrate the Farley methods further by reviewing some of the methods he employed in the last four years. For, when he comes to raising money, the Democratic national committee, under Chairman Farley, is both businesslike and versatile. It will be recalled how whenever the pretext arose, the Democratic national committee sponsored such things as dinners to which the faithful partisans were asked to buy tickets, usually high priced tickets, for an ordinary banquet. It will be recalled also how elaborate programs of the Democratic national convention were sold by the hundreds of thousands; now those programs were loaded to the gunwhales with advertising of concerns that could not well refuse to buy advertising space; how victory dinners were given, and how finally the inaugural ceremony when Mr. Roosevelt took office was turned into a gigantic political rally that spread itself into every hotel in Washington that had space for great dinners and dances. These things are but a few which demonstrated the Farley versatility but they prove to my mind that if the Democratic national committee sets out to build up a real "war chest," it will accomplish exactly its objective.

The committee set-up is the most precentious yet attempted by any political organization. It has a large and exceedingly efficient staff of trained men and women and it runs like the well oiled machine that it is.

It will cost money to keep that machine running at high speed, but Mr. Farley recognizes how elections are won. His philosophy is that the early bird catches the worm and so, although there is not another election for two years, the Democratic national committee is making ready for that election campaign right now. Unless the wise political students around Washington are badly mistaken, Mr. Farley will know pretty well when the congressional and senatorial candidates take to the stump early in 1938 just what the last two years of the Roosevelt administration will be like. It goes without saying that he will be prepared for them.

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G. O. P. Contrast

In contrast to the circumstances I have just related, it must be disheartening to witness the feeble, almost futile, efforts that are shown around Republican headquarters. Of course, old time politicians always say that a winning horse can be financed, never a loser. John D. M. Hamilton, the Republican national chairman, rode a losing horse. He came out of the race saddled with a gigantic deficit. Deficits for losing political parties are not as easily financed as United States Treasury deficits these days and so Mr. Hamilton is having his troubles in that direction as well as finding any enthusiasm among Republican party workers.

But that does not excuse the Republican national committee nor Mr. Hamilton. After all, it is to be remembered that approximately 18,000,000 voters cast their ballots for the Republican presidential nominee, Governor Landon of Kansas. That is not a small number, any way you examine it. It is a powerful segment of the American population but it is powerful only to the extent that its leadership develops enthusiasm for the fight and capacity to take it on the chin when victory goes the other way.

Among the New Dealers who can be classified as sound politicians, there is considerable regret at the failure of the Republican leadership to get going. President Roosevelt, himself, would like to see more opposition because it would make his task much easier and would prevent some of the unsound legislation from seeping through congress on account of a lack of opposition. Furthermore, if there were more Republican fight, there would be less chance of splits in the Democratic ranks in congress. Democratic leaders entertain a very real fear of this possibility.

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Criticize Republicans

From among the corps of political writers in Washington, I hear much criticism of the Republicans who are variously described as being "dead on their feet." They are certainly doing less than nothing. They have allowed the Democratic national committee to carry the ball on every play; they have offered no publicity by way of criticism of New Deal programs and they have developed no plans at all for reviving the Republican organization or restoring life to the party workers.

I am not saying that Mr. Hamilton is wholly to blame for this condition. He must accept responsibility, however, because he is the titular head of the organization. It would seem, therefore, that unless Mr. Hamilton awakens and shows some fight, there will be fewer Republicans in the house or senate after the 1938 elections than there are now. The national chairman of the Republicans, according to all discussion that I hear, sooner or later will have to start cooking or depart from the kitchen. Otherwise, the 18,000,000 voters which the Republican party has as a nucleus upon which to build will become so badly disorganized, so disheartened and discouraged, that it will be impossible to reunite them.

Part of the Republicans' difficulties are traceable directly to Capitol Hill. I simply cannot understand why Senator McNary of Oregon, continues to serve as Republican leader in the senate when, in the opinion of most observers, he has failed to justify his title in any way. It will be recalled that he did nothing in behalf of Governor Landon's canoidacy against Mr. Roosevelt. Nor has he shown either the capacity or the desire to carry on as an opposition leader should carry on since the new congress convened.

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Signs of Fight

There are much greater signs of fight among the house Republicans. They are trying to make themselves heard, but the preponderance of Democratic strength to the house coupled with the gag rules which have been applied without stint or limit by the Democratic majority, precludes Republican leader Snell and his associates from doing very much for their party in the house. Where senators have the privilege of unlimited debate, house members are allotted time and lately the time allotted to the Republicans has been infinitesimal. That, of course, is one of the spoils of victory.

But the point of it all is that while Democratic Chairman Farley has his team on its toes, full of fight, ready to go, Chairman Hamilton has not even been vocal personally, much less has he been able to stir up fight among his associates. It is a situation from which most anything may emerge. Mr. Hamilton sought and was given a vote of confidence by his own national committee shortly after the election. He cannot say now that his hands are tied insofar as the authority of leadership is concerned. So it is made to appear that unless the present leaders of the Republicans really enter the arena, unless they show their ability to carry the fight to the enemy, it seems rather likely that new leaders will come from the ranks of the Republicans and the present group will become hasbeens.

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Study Anti-Gas Precautions

Students of Budapest university are shown in class, wearing their gas masks during a lecture on anti-gas precautions, a new course included in the varsity curriculum. The picture is illustrative of the fear that permeates every walk of life in Europe as the threat of war becomes more pronounced day by day.

Mother of Our First President

THE girl who was to become the mother of George Washington was something of a belle in her native colony, Virginia. Mary Ball, descended from a good English family, was called "the rose of Epping Forest" in her girlhood, Epping Forest being the name of the Ball homestead. Orphaned early, she had as her guardian George Eskridge, a wealthy Virginia planter.

At twenty - two, Mary Ball married (on March 6, 1730) Augustine Washington, then a widower with two little boys. Her first child she named George after her old family friend. Five other children were born of this marriage, four of whom survived. When Augustine Washington died, she war left with a brood of youngsters to care for. George was then only eleven. Fortunately, however, states a writer in the Indianapolis News, the husband had provided for them amply.

Mary Ball at 22, When She Wed Augustine Washington.

George Washington was still a young boy when he became possessed of a great desire to be a midshipman. His mother had been half-hearted about this plan at all times, but finally (so the story goes) when his sea-chest was being carried down to the wharf by a porter, she refused to let him go. He accepted her decision with good grace, and devoted himself to surveying instead. His activities in the next years often took him far away from her and gradually prepared him for the great role he was to play in American history.

Mary Ball Washington was sixty-eight when the Revolution began. Since communication was then so primitive, she often did not know for months at a time whether her son was alive or dead. Yet she maintained outward calm and courage. One of her sayings was, "The mothers and wives of brave men must be brave women." The members of her household knew, though, that every day she went off by herself with her Bible to a quiet spot called Meditation Rock.

At last Cornwallis surrendered in 1781 and the Revolution was won. Ever mindful of his mother's anxiety for him, Washington sent off a courier at once to bear her the news.

Mary Ball Washington lived to be over eighty, mentally keen and unfailingly cheerful. She died in 1789, the year her son was elected first President of the United States.

Ask Me Another

A General Quiz

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1. What is an incantation?
2. What is an antitoxin?
3. On what island was the labyrinth of the Minataur?
4. What is a locomotive's pilot sometimes called?
5. Does Holy week come before or after Easter?
6. Is Japan north or south of the Philippines?
7. What does "irascible" mean?
8. Who was the first emperor of modern Germany?
9. What was the latest territorial acquisition of the United States?
10. Who wrote "Old Wives' Tale"?
11. What is prunella?
12. What large group of British Islands lie southeast of Florida?

Answers

1. A formula for magical words.
2. A substance neutralizing poison.
3. Crete.
4. The cow-catcher.
5. Before.
6. North.
7. Prone to anger.
8. Wilhelm I.
9. The Virgin Islands (bought from Denmark).
10. Arnold Bennett.
11. A strong cloth.
12. The Bahamas.

Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription is a tonic which has been helping women of all ages for nearly 70 years. Adv.

Healing Time

Great griefs are lulled to sleep by the beatings of the wings of time.—Anon.

Let LUDEN'S Menthol Cough Drops
1. Clear your head
2. Soothe your throat
3. Help build up
YOUR ALKALINE RESERVE
5¢

Good Habits Are Mentors

Good habits are the mentors that regulate our lives.—Van Amburgh.

Up in the Morning
Feeling Fine!
The refreshing relief so many folks say they get by taking Black-Draught for constipation makes them enthusiastic about this famous purely vegetable laxative.
Black-Draught puts the digestive tract in better condition to act regularly, every day, without your continually having to take medicine to move the bowels.
Next time, be sure to try
BLACK-DRAUGHT
A GOOD LAXATIVE

The occasional use of a laxative is necessary to perfect health. Help Nature gently but surely with Wright's INDIAN VEGETABLE Pills
"THE TONIC-LAXATIVE"
25c a box at druggists or Wright's Pill Co., 100 Gold St., N.Y. City.