

Better Hurry, Son, Time's A-Wastin'!

Who Are the Candidates? -1

Taft Seeks GOP OK In 1952's Election

Read, Think, Vote

Why don't more Americans vote? One of the answers probably is that a lot of Americans are just too lazy. You'll probably never be able to get some of them off to the polls.

Another reason—and it's probably the best one—is that a lot of Americans just don't understand what all the shouting's about come election time.

When the field of presidential candidates is narrowed down to two after the conventions, a lot of Americans will know their names, but probably nothing else about them. Few voters have a clear idea of what a party primary is; how the electoral college works.

On the local level, few know how the county primary system works, or who is running for district attorney and why.

How can these voters expect to have a smooth-running, sensible government? In fact, how can you hope to get voters to the polls if they just plain don't understand "politics?"

We think that misty word "politics" is one of the reasons that only 52 percent of American voters bothered to go to the polls in the presidential election of 1948. We hope that in the next few months before the national election, this newspaper will be able to strip some of the mystery off American politics.

On the Courier and Freeman editorial page during this summer and fall we plan to run profiles of the major candidates of each party. There'll be features about how presidents are elected. There will be comments by prominent local and national figures about the importance of informed voting. We plan to reprint factual comments like the one below on national politics.

Except in this editorial column where we reserve the right to tell you what we believe about politics, we intend to give you a completely unbiased, factual view of candidates, issues and the American political system.

If this nation is going to survive, politics must be your business—and it can't be your business unless you understand it.

READ your newspapers. Keep up on the changing political scene in the Potsdam area as well as in the national arena. If you don't understand about politics, ask questions until you find out.

THINK about the issues, the candidates and their views. Join a political discussion group like the School of Politics being run by the Potsdam Woman's Republican Club the second Monday of every month.

VOTE in the national elections and in the local elections with self-assurance, knowing that you have picked the candidate who will do what you believe is right.

Choosing Your Party

With considerable trepidation we are going to try to answer a letter, a reader's plea for information that will help her choose a party. An adequate answer would require more space and more knowledge than we have but from a place outside both parties we may be able to provide an independent "layman's summary" that will shed some light.

It is no wonder that multitudes of Americans find it difficult to understand the difference between their major political parties. For each party is a giant coalition, containing many diverse and even contrary elements. The voter has to judge the total effect of each combination.

Traditionally there has been a real difference of fiscal policies. The Democratic Party has most often spoken for low income or debtor groups in the community, the Republican Party for investing and business elements. The Democrats have been freer spenders, favoring cheaper money. The Republicans have been "hard money" people, more inclined to emphasize economy. The Democrats have advocated freer trade, the Republicans tariff protection. In some degree these attitudes persist.

Comparison of platforms discloses differences measured chiefly in nuances. In 1948 both parties opposed Communism and high prices, favored tax cuts, adequate defense, social security, civil rights, aid for farmers, veterans, and foreign allies. The Republicans backed the Taft Hartley act. The Democrats appeared slightly more ready to use federal funds for aid to education, housing, and farm prices.

What the parties are likely to do in future is easier to judge by their past voting records and by the major sources of their strength.

Today the Democrats find most of their strength among industrial workers, and in large cities and the south. The middle west and the middle class are the Republican strongholds.

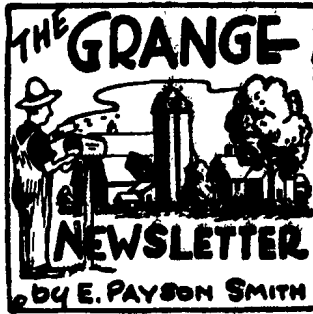
The Democratic national party organization has been dominated by the big northern city machines, largely dependent on racial voting blocs. But in domestic legislation that party has for 10 years been curbed by its own southern wing. The Republican organization draws financial support and some direction from business leaders. It has had much farmer and middle-class support for restraints on labor unions and spending projects.

Largely united on domestic affairs, the Republicans have been divided on foreign affairs, with half the party in Congress supporting most of the Democratic policies. Depending on the Republican candidate, the Democrats will be more or less under attack for failure to foresee and prevent Soviet gains. At the same time they will be claiming credit for building defenses against the Reds. This year the corruption issue puts extra edge on the Republicans "time-for-a-change" cry, while Democrats point to "prosperity."

On the whole we should say that the Republicans lean more toward conservative policies, opposing centralized government and spending. With exceptions (as for the southern wing), the Democrats appear more ready for experimental social legislation, controls, and close cooperation with allies.

These seem to us the major and simplest differences. Others will put more emphasis on one issue or another and of course this oversimplified division will be modified by local conditions and particular candidates. In the end each individual must choose his party for himself.

—The Christian Science Monitor



READ THINK VOTE

Potsdam Preview

(Each week the Courier and Freeman will print in this space notices of meetings and other occurrences of interest in Potsdam residents. Organizations wishing to list an event should send in the name of the group and the date, time and place of the meeting. Deadline for these items is Monday noon of each week.)

THURSDAY, JUNE 12

Potsdam Country Club holds men's night, golf and dinner.

FRIDAY, JUNE 13

Vega Chapter 98, Order of the Eastern Star, meets in the Masonic Temple at 8 p.m.

MONDAY, JUNE 16

Village Board of Trustees meets in the board room of the civic center at 7:30 p.m.

St. Lawrence Court, Order of Amaranth, meets in the Masonic Temple, Canton, at 8 p.m.

Frank Barclay Post 74, American Legion and Auxiliary, meets in the legion rooms of the civic center at 7:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, JUNE 17

Potsdam Lions Club meets at 6:15 p.m. at the Knotty Pine Lodge.

Excelsior Lodge 548, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, meets in the IOOF hall, Market St., at 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18

Potsdam Rotary Club meets at the Arlington Inn at 12:15 p.m.

THURSDAY, JUNE 19

Potsdam Country Club holds men's night with golf and dinner.

Racket River Lodge 213, Free and Accepted Masons, meets in the Masonic Temple at 7:45 p.m.

MONDAY, JUNE 23

Roy D. Graves Post 1194, Veterans of Foreign Wars, meets in VFW clubhouse, Main St., at 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, JUNE 24

Marsh Woman's Relief Corps 91 meets in the civic center at 2:30 p.m.

Potsdam Lions Club meets at the Knotty Pine Lodge at 6:15 p.m.

Potsdam's B's Home Bureau Unit meets for a business meeting in the civic center at 7:30 p.m.

Knights of Columbus meets in K of C hall, Elm St. at 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25

Potsdam Rotary Club meets at the Arlington Inn at 12:15 p.m.

Potsdam Grange meets at the civic center at 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 27

Vega Chapter 98, Order of the Eastern Star, meets in the Masonic Temple, Elm St., at 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, JULY 1

Potsdam Lions Club meets at the Knotty Pine Lodge, Potsdam-Canton road, at 6:30 p.m.

IN DAYS OF YORE Turning Back the Clock

One Year Ago

June 4, 1951

A two-way fight for the Republican nomination for the job of clerk of the Town of Potsdam shaped up this week as Miss Gladys McGee, deputy town clerk, announced that she would seek the nomination in the August primaries. The only other avowed candidate for the post is Edward G. McCarthy, who announced his candidacy several weeks ago.

Potsdam State Teachers College awarded degrees to 185 persons in commencement exercises Sunday in the Potsdam Civic Center. Graduates heard the main speaker of the afternoon, Dr. Herman Hooper, executive dean for teacher education of the State University of New York, call for a reaffirmation of the basic principles of American life.

Tri Theta Rho girls club entertained Rebekahs and mothers of the members following the regular meeting Thursday night, June 7, in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Temple.

10 Years Ago

June 10, 1942

The Potsdam Town Board held its regular meeting Saturday afternoon, June 6, at which time Franklin C. Lytle was named highway superintendent to serve at the pleasure of the board.

The members of Roy D. Graves Post, V.F.W., voted at their regular meeting held Monday evening, to make a generous contribution toward the purchase of training planes for aviation cadets.

25 Years Ago

June 15, 1927

There will be a clinic for the removal of tonsils and adenoids for children of this section at the Normal building on Thursday and Friday, June 23rd and 24th. These clinics have been held at this time for several years now.

The annual alumni luncheon of the Normal school graduates was held in the Normal gymnasium Saturday at 1 o'clock. The affair proved fully as popular as last year as upward of 250 graduates returned for the occasion.

Nathan Frank's Sons—Ogdensburg's Finest and Foremost Free Department Store—Offer FREE \$100.00 in Gold during Suburban Week.

50 Years Ago

June 11, 1902

Miss Ethel E. Keenon will give a recital in "Uncle Josh" tomorrow night, entitled "The College Oil Cans." This is her first appearance before a Potsdam audience since her graduation from Emerson College of Oratory of Boston this spring. Let us give her a cordial welcome.

On Tuesday, June 24th, the voters of Potsdam (except those who reside in the villages of Potsdam or Norwood who own no land outside) will have an opportunity to put our town among the other progressive towns that have adopted the money system of highway improvement. A special town meeting has been called for that date to vote upon the question of changing from the labor system to the money system.

75 Years Ago

June 14, 1877

Information is wanted by his brother of one Michael Froeske, who left his home, Wongovitz, Great Posen, Prussia, a year and a half since and took up residence in this village.

Miss Ettie Crane, daughter of S. C. Crane Esq. of this village, is teacher of music in the Normal School at Shippensburg, Pa. On Decoration Day, the scholars under her charge furnished the music for the public exercises at that place and the local paper says that, "aside from its appropriateness it was exceedingly well rendered."



SEN. ROBERT A. TAFT

by ED CREAUGH

Robert Alphonso Taft is the tall, sober son of a fat, jovial father who became president of the United States. The son has long aspired to follow in his father's footsteps.

Senior senator from Ohio, and chairman of the Senate's Republican Policy Committee, the son of William Howard Taft twice before has been within striking distance of his party's presidential nomination. In two other presidential years he has been "among those mentioned."

He's been a national figure for more than a decade.

A sometimes impatient man, with a quiet sense of humor, Taft has often taken the unpopular side of a question—has risked "political suicide" more than once—with the calm assertion that time will prove him right. He also has been known to change his position on occasion.

Taft backers are offering him to the voters as plain "Bob" Taft. They haven't tried to make a glamor candidate out of him.

At 62, Taft bulges slightly about the middle and is partly bald. His voice is starchy but incisive. He wears rimless spectacles.

A movie director might cast him as the vicepresident of a bank, a man who passes the collection plate in church on Sunday.

Politics is in the senator's blood. It was at the White House that Taft met his future wife, Martha Wheaton Bowers, daughter of his father's solicitor general.

Vivacious, witty Martha Taft is one of the best-known women in Washington. She's regarded as a shrewd politician in her own right but has not been well for more than a year. She and the senator, who are financially well off, are the parents of four sons.

Taft has been in the presidential picture for 15 years. He was Ohio's "favorite son" candidate in the 1936 GOP nominating convention, and in 1940 was one of three leading candidates swept aside by the successful nomination drive of the late Wendell L. Wilkie.

In 1944 Taft stepped aside in favor of John W. Bricker, now junior senator from Ohio. Bricker ran for vicepresident as the running mate of Gov. Dewey.

Taft made his strongest bid at the convention in Philadelphia four years ago. The Dewey forces were in command, however, and the nomination went to the New Yorker on the second ballot.

Taft was the chief architect of the Republican-dominated 80th Congress. To many—including President Truman—he, rather than Dewey, personified opposition to the "fair deals" domestic and foreign policies alike.

Taft was educated in his uncle Horace Taft's private school in Connecticut, at Yale—he was head of the class of 1910 and at Harvard Law School. He was in private law practice in his home town, Cincinnati, when World War I came. He volunteered for the Army, was turned down for nearsightedness and took a legal post with Herbert Hoover's U.S. Food Commission.

Taft returned to private law practice in 1922. He also went into active politics, winning election to the Ohio State Legislature. He served until 1932. In 1938 Taft ran for the U.S. Senate and was elected with a plurality of 172,000 votes over a staunchly "new deal" opponent. Those were the years leading up to World War 2. Taft voted first for, later against, repeal of this country's neutrality laws. He also was an opponent of Selective Service and Lend-Lease. Almost from the first, he was a leading foe of most of the "new deal" domestic program. Re-elected in 1944, Taft steadily increased in legislative influence. His was one of the decisive voices in the quick repeal of price control and similar emergency legislation after World War 2.

He sponsored three principal social measures of his own, to give federal aid to housing, education and health services. But his most controversial piece of legislation, passed over President Truman's veto, was the Taft-Hartley Act, a labor-management relations law.

This brought Taft the enmity of many union leaders, but it solidified his support among certain business and other elements. In 1950, when he sought election to a third Senate term, most big labor unions united in an all-out effort to beat him.

Taft confounded his detractors by rolling up a huge plurality—more than 400,000—over his labor-backed Democratic opponent, State Auditor Joseph J. Ferguson.

Taft's stand on the great questions of the day is sometimes forthright, sometimes half to state in a few words.

He has consistently opposed "lavish" government spending and what he regards as "socialistic" programs of all kinds.

Yet he has sponsored legislation giving federal aid in fields—housing, for instance—where he feels private enterprise can't do the job.

Taft has backed foreign aid proposals, although on a far smaller scale than the Truman administration has proposed. He declared his support of U. S. intervention in Korea, once it was an accomplished fact, although he declared that the President had no power to use troops for that purpose.

In the year's "great debate" on foreign policy last year, Taft took sides with Gen. Douglas MacArthur and favored more aggressive conduct of the war. He opposed the sending of new ground troops to Europe on the theory that it was more likely to provoke war with Russia than to make Western Europe safe from aggression.

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