



Politics and People

By HAROLD H. HARRIS

Hesterberg 'Boom' Stymied; Patronage Trickle to Boro Starts

STUNT—A resurvey of events during last Thursday's hectic, stalemated Democratic meeting called to select a new county leader prompted reports that retiring Boss Kenny Sutherland tried to pull a stunt which didn't come off. Observers say Sutherland used Jim Power as a stalking horse in an attempt to push Al Hesterberg, Flatbush chieftain, on the party throne. But the Jim Mangano forces stymied this maneuver and forced a one-month postponement. Hesterberg has been playing it coy, saying he doesn't want the leadership. However, City Hallers say Hesterberg is being touted for the party crown by Corporation Counsel Adrian Burke, one of Mayor Wagner's brain-trusters. Hesterberg had his name withdrawn from the race at the Thursday meeting because it was ascertained he would have been able to get only a bare majority, including Jim Power's votes. He wanted a sizable majority.

PATRONAGE—City Hall has started to trickle patronage jobs through the Brooklyn Dem organization. Several anti-Sutherland chieftains received direct calls from the City Hall patronage dispensers to submit names for a handful of provisional, small-salary posts. Such jobs are the life-blood of a political organization. Boro Pres. Cashmore is readying for a European voyage with his Edythe. Boro Works Comm. John Lynch also has reservations for a May trip to Rome. . . . Sean Keating, member of Board of Standards and Appeals, may be headed for a bigger post after a warm patty-cake from Hizzoner.



John Cashmore

JUSTICE—At a recent Brooklyn Bar Assn. meeting, Judge Impy was proposed for membership by his pal, Judge Hy Barshay. In his acceptance speech, Impy, who has been on the bench only a few weeks, started off: "I've just come back from a well-earned vacation." Piped up one of the legalites: "The hell he went through waiting for that bench appointment would justify anyone a vacation." . . . A Boro Haller was discussing William J. Heffernan, former Elections Commissioner. "I'm not surprised he was declared incompetent by the courts. Here's a man with a million dollars and he still wanted to be a district leader!"

FAVOR—Reports that City Hall may want a non-district leader to become the County Leader has started a new move in behalf of George Swetnick, a Supreme Court aide. Swetnick is well versed in the political game and is looked upon favorably by Tammany Boss Carmine DeSapio. . . . Nonpareil Club will relocate at 1149 Eastern Parkway. Its membership roster includes the boro's who's what. . . . New York isn't the only state having trouble with horsing racing. Out in Detroit they're encountering the same problems. A Michigan State committee can't even find out who owns the tracks.



George Swetnick

FARCE—We don't blame the Brooklyn Dem chieftains for holding their meetings behind closed doors, with the press barred. If the shenanigans at last Thursday's confab are typical, then the chieftains would be laughed out of office. The meeting could be described as a comedy of errors. . . . Silent Jim Heffernan, who never made a campaign speech when he ran for Congress, really got hot under the collar and pinned the label of "double-crosser" on Sutherland, Frank Sinnott and Jim Power. Heffernan, it's now disclosed, further taunted Sutherland "to be a man and resign right now" as he had promised.

CONFUSED—During the verbal fireworks, one co-leader got up and said: "I don't know what's going on!" . . . Frank Sinnott suggested that a committee be sent to City Hall to get Mayor Wagner's thoughts on a new county boss. But Sutherland quickly put a damper on this plan: "We'll take no dictation from City Hall!" . . . Louis (Congressional statesman) Heller got off a lengthy oration. He even got Adlai Stevenson into the act. . . . Despite the verbal fireworks, one chieftain managed to recoup several lost winks of sleep.

Pope Continues To Gain, Takes All Food Orally

Vatican City, March 13 (U.P.)—Pope Pius XII, who suffered an attack of gastritis seven weeks ago, is consuming with-

out difficulty his new diet of solid and semi-solid foods, Vatican sources said today. The Pope yesterday began to take all his nourishment orally for the first time since he became ill Jan. 25. The Pontiff's personal physician, Dr. Riccardo Galeazzi-Lisi, examined his patient to-

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Shivers Says His Mail Favors Death Penalty for Reds, 3 to 1

Austin, Tex., March 13 (U.P.)—Gov. Allan Shivers, who would like the State Legislature convening Monday to make it lawful to electrocute Communists in Texas, said today he has been receiving letters backing by a 3-to-1 ratio his belief that Communism should be a capital crime.

"I have been getting quite a lot of mail since I suggested capital punishment for Communists," he said.

"As much or more came from outside Texas and it runs about 75 percent favorable and about 25 percent unfavorable."

It did not appear likely, however, that the Legislature will pass a law that will enable juries in Texas to send Communists to the electric chair.

Shivers made it clear today he was not drawing a legislative battle line on the issue of the death penalty for convicted Reds.

"The main thing I would like to see the Legislature do is to outlaw the party and provide suitable punishment—and I'd like it to be as severe as possible."

The Communist-hunting State Industrial Commission has recommended two Communist control bills. One would send convicted Communists to prison for as long as 20 years. The other would set up a loyalty review board.

The Industrial Commission did not disagree in principle with death sentences for Communists. But members took the view that more Communists might escape conviction if the punishment prescribed was the electric chair.

Shivers formally summoned the Legislature into special session by a proclamation issued Thursday and charged it with the Communism issue. Actually, the State lawmakers,

MARTIN WARNS IKE WILL VETO INCOME TAX CUT

Continued from Page 1

recommit the tax bill to write in higher exemptions. Martin expressed confidence, however, that the Democratic proposal will be rejected by the House. President Eisenhower will make a radio-television speech Monday night urging support of his tax program and defeat of the Democratic proposal.

Informed sources said Mr. Eisenhower is still strongly opposed to raising personal exemptions now despite a 384,000 increase in unemployment last month.

The President has said he will reappraise his economic program and consider emergency measures, including further tax cuts, if employment does not pick up this month.

Recorded unemployment now stands at 3,671,000.

Martin said the President's speech will carry great weight with both Republicans and Democrats. G. O. P. leaders look to the President to stem a tide which some feel is now running against them in the tax fight.

who meet regularly only once every two years, were called into a special session primarily to dig up \$23,500,000 a year in new revenues to give Texas school teachers a raise and to find another \$15,000,000 to finance improvements to State institutions.

Shivers said today he had no quarrel with the 20-year sentence proposed by the Industrial Commission for convicted Communists and frankly admitted such a bill might gain faster approval than one assessing punishment up to death.

But the Governor, an "Eisenhower Democrat" in last year's general election, still believes "the words 'Communist' and 'traitor' are synonymous" and personally maintains that Texas juries should have opportunity to assess the death penalty in cases of convicted party members.

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Anti-War Ex-Teacher Defies Uncle Sam Again on Taxes

Mary McDowell, 78, retired high school teacher of 5555 Ocean Ave., last week figured out her 1953 Federal income tax.

It came to \$300.

She promptly sent a check for \$90 as her tax to the Internal Revenue Bureau.

"I'm paying only 30 percent of my tax," she said yesterday. "I refuse to pay the 70 percent which goes for war purposes."

She calls her tax defiance "the new patriotism."

Miss McDowell is a member of the Tax Refusal Committee

of Peacemakers—a group of individuals scattered over the nation who each year withhold part of their tax which they believe will go for armaments. This is the fourth year she has withheld part of her tax.

Each year the Government refuses to go along with her and it places a lien on her teacher's pension.

She is a Quaker and has been fighting against war all her life.

"War is contrary to Christian principles and is contrary to democratic ideals," she contends.

New Yorkers Paid 6.2 Billion U. S. Tax in '53

Albany, March 13 (U.P.)—A private taxpayers' group said today State taxpayers poured nearly twice as much money into the Federal till in fiscal 1953 as citizens in any other State.

The Citizens' Public Expenditure Survey said New Yorkers paid \$6,264,297,000 last fiscal year. California paid \$3,433,932,000, while only nine other States topped the billion dollar mark in payments.

The taxpayers' group said New York's share of the 1954 personal income taxes will be even larger.

A spokesman added that more than one-third of the total income taxes due Monday will come from individuals earning less than \$5,000 a year.

"This tremendous tax burden on every American, rich and poor, is the reason a brake must be placed on Federal spending," he said.

He added that the total Federal tax to be collected from individuals by June 30 is more than the wholesale value of all passenger cars, trucks and buses produced in 1949, 1950, 1951 and 1952 combined.

Political Bigshots Grilled At Albany Gridiron Dinner

Albany, Marc. 13 (U.P.)—New York State legislative correspondents exchanged typewriters for greasopaint tonight to stage their annual Gridiron Dinner and fun-poking show on the political scene.

The reporters, who cover New York's Capitol Hill, presented four song skits imitating important State and National political figures, many of whom were in the audience.

One scene depicted the T. Dewey Laundromat, operated by State Republican Chairman Dean P. Taylor, where bedraggled G. O. P. "angels" were washed clean of scandal.

Three, with their robes fresh and white from the laundry tubs, were former National Committeemen J. Russell Sprague, William L. Pfeiffer, former State chairman, and Arthur H. Wicks, resigned Senate majority leader.

On the national scene, Democ-

cratic and Republican Presidential contenders were portrayed as pugilists in a boxing gymnasium, the Potomac area.

Following the show the correspondents installed State Assembly Speaker Oswald D. Heck as an honorary member. Off the record talks were scheduled by Dewey, Chief Judge Edmund H. Lewis of the Court of Appeals and Mayor Robert F. Wagner of New York.

day and found that the diet was causing no trouble to the Pope's weakened stomach.

Vatican sources said the Pope is receiving small quantities of food every few hours. He is moving about more each day in his apartment, the sources said.

MARCH'S Recipe-of-the-Month Club selections include MEATLESS MENUS for the Lenten period, or APPETITE TEASERS featuring wonderful cocktails, times and TV snacks. Have you sent for yours?

out difficulty his new diet of solid and semi-solid foods, Vatican sources said today. The Pope yesterday began to take all his nourishment orally for the first time since he became ill Jan. 25. The Pontiff's personal physician, Dr. Riccardo Galeazzi-Lisi, examined his patient to-

Building Boom of '54 Soars 13% for Record

A construction boom lifted the building industry to record highs during the first two months of 1954, surprising economists who had forecast a recession, a survey disclosed yesterday.

The F. W. Dodge Corporation, construction news and marketing specialists, reported all existing records for spending on new buildings were smashed in 37 States and three major cities surveyed during January and February.

The gross figure was \$1,221,260,000, nine percent ahead of the previous January-February record, set in 1951. It was 13 percent greater than the first wound up as a record-breaking year.

The February total was six percent greater than that for January, despite the usual tendency for construction to drop off slightly in February. It was seven percent above the pre-

vious February high, 1951. Dodge said the overall figures "indicate high future employment of labor and high future sales of materials in one of the nation's basic industries."

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