

Wisconsin Politics

The 1950 Campaign Dems Read Guns GOP Talks Issues

[By MILES McMILLIN]

THE campaign of 1950 holds out promise of one of the most thorough discussions of state issues in recent years. The Republicans will, whether they like it or not, be called on to defend a record that goes back farther than the last two years. They will probably have to answer for their stewardship of the last 12 years of unchallenged rule.

THEY would prefer not to have it that way, but apparently the Democrats are going to insist on it. The GOP would like to talk about the record of the 1949 session of the legislature on such matters as the welfare and building program. The Democrats will insist, of course, that there is really no issue involved since that program was supported to the hilt by the Democratic minority.

TO THE DEMOCRATS these are merely "housekeeping" duties, involving no question of basic policy in state government. Both parties were agreed that improvements in welfare institutions were necessary, as were additions to the state educational plant. The real difference in policy came in the fight over how to raise money to finance the program. The Democrats were for income taxes. The Republicans were not.

THE DEMOCRATS HAVE a pretty good story to tell about the financial crisis the state will face at the end of the current biennium—a crisis that has caused Gov. Rennebohm to call on the legislative council for a "study" of the feasibility of a general sales tax. They point out that in 1942, the Republican legislature, at the behest of the very wealthy and against the wishes of the late Gov. Goodland, knocked out the 6% surtax. If Goodland's advice had been followed, this tax, during the lush war years, would have provided enough to finance the programs which have now carried the state into deficit financing.

IT IS ESTIMATED that the money that was thrown away would have amounted to from \$70 to \$80 million. In his memorable veto message of the repealer bill Goodland pointed out that only a "handful" of wealthy people were asking for the repeal of the surtax.

DURING THE DEBATE on the bill in the legislature, it was revealed that Walter Harischfeger, wealthy Milwaukee industrialist, had written to legislative leaders reminding them of his "assistance" to the Republican campaign and calling on them to pass the repealer. It was discovered that his personal contribution to the Republican campaign fund was \$2,100. His surtax for that year had been \$2,128. Thus, he stood to make \$28 in the first year of repeal and thousands more in

the subsequent years when profits were booming.

HAVING THUS relieved the rich, the Republicans are now planning to make the poor pay the costs of state government. They are building up a campaign for the imposition of a sales tax. Gov. Rennebohm's representative before the subcommittee on taxation of the legislative council argued that the income tax is "unreliable," yet the governor and the legislature refused to grant Art Wagner, state commissioner, the authority he needs to enforce the income tax laws.

THE DEMOCRATS can be expected to hit hard at this record. They will also review what has been happening in the various state departments and bureaus. Perhaps the strongest attack will be made on the Wisconsin public utility commission, widely acknowledged to have failed to protect the public interest.

REPUBLICANS admit privately that they made a serious mistake in the last legislature in killing Democratic bills to give the public utility protection. They killed two bills to reorganize the commission. They also killed a bill to provide for a public counsel in the commission to represent the public in rate making cases—a job that the commission itself is supposed to do. Republican candidates will favor such a step in the next campaign, but the Democrats will have a roll call to show that they refused to do it in the 1949 session.

DEMOCRATS will have the offensive, too, on the scandals that have broken out in the department of agriculture. They sought unsuccessfully in the last session to launch a legislative investigation of the department. GOP leaders in the legislature threatened the attempt with cries of "politics" and some rather ill-advised endorsements of the department's record. It has now been revealed that the mismanagement in the department was even more serious than the Democrats claimed. The GOP will have to explain the roll call by which it voted overwhelmingly to do anything about conditions in the department.

DEMOCRATS have already launched a vigorous campaign on these issues and others that encompass the 12 years of Republican rule. The intensity of this campaign is illustrated by the activities in Columbia county where weekly meetings are being held. Young men like Les and Bob Manke and Wayne Thompson have joined in carrying the fight to the dominant Republican machine in that county.

MEANWHILE, the Republicans are being stirred by their stumps, but they are developing no state issues. Their big effort to this date has been a mailing campaign based on the fact that the Democrats are not hiring Republicans to work on the census. If they don't do any better than this they will soon be charging that the days are longer in the summer than they are in the winter.

Stokes' Column

FDR 'American Dream' Identified With Land Truman Backs Plan

[By THOMAS L. STOKES]

WASHINGTON—Franklin D. Roosevelt, prompted by a routine inquiry at a newspaper conference or inspired by the undeveloped possibilities of some particular area during campaign tours, had a way of wandering off into a detailed description of the vast blessings for all of us in the proper and co-ordinated development of our great river valleys.

With a beginning in TVA down in the Tennessee river valley he opened up what has since become a new "American dream." This is to utilize our rivers in numerous ways—by controlling floods so that rich bottom lands can be reclaimed and protected for agriculture; by using the water for irrigation of hitherto arid and unproductive lands and thus opening up new opportunities for people; by deepening and clearing channels for navigation; by generating electricity for new industries and for facilities for household and farm.

MR. ROOSEVELT had an intimate knowledge of this country and its mountains and valleys and streams and identified himself with the land and the people and their inter-relationship in a way that must have had much to do with his great popularity as a political figure. For we are a people close to the soil and to nature, and with the pioneer instinct still, and these vast projects upon which Franklin Roosevelt made a start are pioneering of a new kind that will save and reclaim our heritage.

Harry Truman is, to outside appearance, a more matter-of-fact person, less effusive with words, more timid about revealing himself. But this same dream lies deep, too, in this outwardly more prosaic son of the midlands who grew up in the valley of the Mississippi and the Missouri as did his predecessor in the valley of the Hudson.

It comes out on occasion, as now and then in his 1949 campaign in the West and Middle West, and dramatically in a white house press conference this week when, step by step, as he was drawn out, he opened up a vast program for completing in the various great watersheds a national, integrated system of development that already is under way in regional and piecemeal fashion.

HE WAS STARTED off by an inquiry about the St. Lawrence-Great Lakes waterway—which he again autographed his message to congress—in which he was reminded that again the alternative of a local New York state-Ontario development is being agitated. What about that? He was, bluntly, for "all or nothing" in development. This is the opinion of the St. Lawrence waterway, all the way to Duluth, because that is for millions of people in a great area, rather than for a small section.

Gradually, in response to other questions, he unfolded the giant national plan partially under way—a "central valley" project in which the upper Mississippi, Missouri and Ohio would be integrated; for the CVA, Columbia river valley, in the Northwest, to tie together in a central authority already started in Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas for the expansion of the TVA idea in the southeast in the Clark's hill projects now being constructed along the Savannah river that forms the boundary between Georgia and South Carolina river projects.

AGAIN, AS IN his message to congress, he stressed the need of a co-ordinated plan for New England, the most backward area in development. This is, indeed, the newest "frontier" in the oldest part of the nation, and New England's future economic life may depend upon whether her resistance to federal development continues, or whether she finally wakes up. For, because of lack of an integrated electrical power system,

AS THE CARTOONISTS SAW THE WEEK AND THE WORLD SCENE

Twice Burned—Once Shy

'Wish I Was in the Land ob Cotton'

'I Can Dream, Can't I'



—San Francisco Chronicle



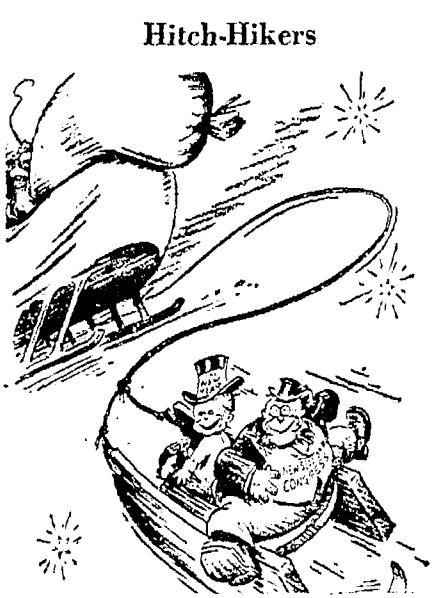
—Atlanta Constitution



—Indianapolis News



He's Still There



Hitch-Hikers



The Fireman

Baas Finds Oldest House In Key West; Was Built In 1825

Structure, 125 Yrs. Old, Was Home For U. S. Seamen

By ALEXIUS BAAS

KEY WEST, Fla.—I have grown so used to preparing "old house" columns for Saturday's issues of The Capital Times that I find myself looking for specimens wherever I go. Imagine my surprise and joy upon getting up this morning to find, next door to my hotel, the oldest building in Key West, 322 Duval st., a picture of which accompanies this article.

In 1822 Lt. David Porter, of the U. S. navy, later to achieve lasting fame during the Civil War as Commodore Porter, put in at Key West and was so impressed by its strategic location that he called it the Gibraltar of the Caribbean. He communicated his opinion to Washington. The navy department was interested.

In 1825 a Capt. Coussens, of the sloop-of-war, the Shark, sent to New England for the materials and men to construct six houses as living quarters for officers and men. The houses were built by ship's crews at the foot of Whitehead st.

IN 1828 A Capt. Francis Wallington and his wife came to Key West. The captain purchased one of the six houses and had it moved to its present location. That house still stands on stone pillars, a precaution deemed necessary when it was moved, because Duval st. was only a cowpath and in severe storms the water threatened to wash it away. It is the only house remaining of the original six.

Nine daughters were born to Capt. Wallington and his wife in this old home, but no sons. The daughters are all deceased. But a child of one of them, named Mary, married a naval officer, Stephen W. Douglas. This woman lives in the old home and it was she and an assistant of hers who showed me about the old place. Her husband and two children are long since deceased and she is the last of the direct line of the Wallingtons.

TO GO BACK for a moment—Capt. Francis Wallington joined the cause of the Confederacy when the Civil War broke out and became one of the successful blockade runners off Charleston. He was sent later to Mobile to supervise the building of the Confederate ram, the Tennessee.

When the war ended, he resumed his career as sea captain and made many voyages to the far corners of the earth—Spain, Italy, Portugal, Japan and China, to mention a few countries. On these cruises, he picked up a variety of priceless curios, as did Stephen Douglas in later years. These treasures have all been preserved and the old house is a museum worthy of a month's study.

I was permitted to see, examine and admire bronze cases, incense burners, Japanese Samurai swords, a scribe's outfit from Japan, Cloisonne vases, a Japanese album of views, Chinese dishes, a virgin's lamp from Peking, exquisite Chinese lacres and silks, a wonderful hand-painted punch bowl and cups, some beautiful Florentine statuary, and antique tables, couches, glass bottles and furnishings of all kinds brought down from New England by clipper ship in 1829.



Shown here is Key West's oldest building described in today's "old house" feature by Alexius Baas.

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PERHAPS the most priceless piece of the whole wonderful collection is a Chinese vase of the Ming dynasty. The picture of the original Wallington, Capt. Francis, also is of great value. It was painted by the great Augsburg master, who, as he said, "painted people's portraits for a living, and birds and flowers because he loved them." The spacious high-ceilinged rooms of the old house make a fitting setting for all these wonders. The house itself is a fine specimen of the simple dignity and beauty which early American architects knew how to put into their structures. A wide porch runs across its entire front, covered by the sloping extension of the house roof which is supported by six square, Doric-capped pillars.

A central door flanked on either side by two large windows leads from the porch to the cool spacious interior. Unique feature of construction lies in the three gable dormers which break the expanse of the roof—they are of different sizes.

Tradition has it that three different ship's crews, who took part in building the house, expressed their individual preference in this manner.

A GREAT YARD runs back of the house and here one may see the roomy detached kitchen with its mammoth fireplace and Dutch oven used by the slaves in the old days to prepare meals for their white masters.

The slaves quarters were in the back yard. They have been removed. In one corner of the yard one may see the broken remains of an old well reported to have been one of the places where the notorious pirate, Captain Kidd, hid a part of his misgotten loot.

The cedar and mahogany that went into the old house are imperishable. It stands on its stone pillars as sturdy as the day it was built 125 years ago. A most interesting assignment, Mr. Edlin, even if I had to travel nearly 1,800 miles to cover it.

Elder Opposed To Increase In Speed Limits

Traffic Captain Predicts Difficulty In Enforcing Proposed Ordinance

Because of the difficulty he foresees in enforcing an increased speed limit law, Traffic Capt. J. Homer Elder, of the local police force, today declared he is opposed to hiking speed limits on improved portions of E. Washington ave., and S. Park st.

A committee of city officials is scheduled to ask the council at a meeting Tuesday for additional time to study an ordinance increasing speed limits from 25 to 35 miles per hour on the two streets, according to City Manager Leonard G. Howell. It will be the second such delay requested.

ASSERTING that the increased limits would lead motorists to believe they could travel upward to 45 miles an hour on the street without danger of arrest, Elder declared:

"If we increased the speed limit to 35, for safety's sake we would have to arrest those who drive only 2 or 3 miles an hour over the new limit."

"I don't believe that would be very popular with the people or with the courts in which we attempt to get convictions for speeding violations."

LOCAL JUDGES already have expressed reluctance to convict motorists arrested for speeding unless it can be proved they were driving 5 or 10 miles an hour over the speed limit.

Howell said the committee, comprised of himself, Police Chief Bruce Weatherly, City Atty. Harold E. Hanson, and Elder, probably will make a definite recommendation on the speed law next spring.

The speed hike on the two streets was requested by the local office of the American Automobile association and endorsed by the state highway commission.

HE WAS an employee of the old Knickerbocker ice Co. a man 60 years ago. He was later a mason and helped to put in many of Lake Mills sidewalks.

Mr. Eichmann and his wife observed their 59th wedding anniversary last June.

Survivors are Mr. Eichmann his wife, a daughter, Mrs. Arthur Zimdars; a granddaughter, Mrs. Robert Britzke, and a great-grandson, Arthur Britzke, all of Lake Mills.

Funeral services will be held Monday at 2 in the Hoskins-Westin funeral home, with the Rev. James Weingarth officiating.

Mrs. Agnes Taylor of Jefferson Is Dead

LAKE MILLS, Wis.—Mrs. Agnes Taylor, 70, Route 2, Jefferson, died Friday at a Watertown hospital.

The body is at the Schulz funeral home, Lake Mills.

Frozen foods, when stored, need to be kept well below freezing temperatures. Once they are thawed they should be used, never refrozen.

Minority Report

[By AUGUST DERLETH]

of Max Otto
New Book May
Widen Audience

OF MAX OTTO:—A certain kind of bigoted clergyman used to be in the habit of consigning the University of Wisconsin to a "godless university" and pointing to Max C. Otto, professor of philosophy, as a "horrible example," for was it not Max Otto who taught young people to think in direct contrast to the stupefification of "learning" imparted by similar clergymen? It was less than a decade ago that Prof. Otto was thus held up as an example of the typical booby created by clergymen who managed to fool a good many people among those who did not know Max Otto.

BUT FOR THOSE who had been privileged to take courses under Prof. Otto, the biased and ill-informed rantings of the opposition were less than wind. For in Max Otto his students had found, as Dr. Eduard C. Lindeman writes in his preface to Max Otto's new book, SCIENCE AND THE MORAL LIFE (Mentor, 35c), a man whose "wisdom exhibits two primary qualities: firmness and clarity. He never leaves anyone in doubt concerning his meanings and he communicates directly, explicitly."

OFTEN CALLED the "homespun" philosopher of the people, Max Otto belongs in the naturalist school of Mill, James and John Dewey, according to Frederick Burkhardt, one of the former colleagues of the department of philosophy of the University of Wisconsin who compiled SCIENCE AND THE MORAL LIFE. "Humanism, warm and in the best sense simple, his wisdom is pervaded by a profound sense of dedication to the enrichment of man's intellectual and spiritual life." Drawing upon THIRDS AND IDEALS, THE HUMAN ENTERPRISE, and various scattered papers, the compilers have put together an excellent introduction to Max Otto and his philosophy, in a compact little book within the price range of every purse.

THERE ARE 10 CHAPTERS in this book, ranging from "Man" to "Science and the Higher Life," framed in an introduction ("Philosophy and the Public") and a conclusion ("Shall We Quit, or See It Through?"). Easy to read, the book is quietly challenging, provocative, always interesting. Max Otto's is indeed a philosophy for the man on the street, for there is no obscurantism, no escape into the jargon of the

professional philosopher, no falling back upon the academic; his is a living philosophy, a practical way of life.

MAX OTTO LENDS himself readily to quotation, and quotations speak more for him and for this little book which is so fine an introduction to his work that everyone ought to own it.

"The curtailment of freedom which is so noticeable a phenomenon of our day endangers a most valuable attribute of human nature. Nevertheless some limitation has become unavoidable. Individualistic ambitions cannot long be permitted to have free play if larger and larger numbers of people are not to be deprived of a fair chance in life."

"MORALITY IS A MEANS for the satisfaction of human wants. In other words, morality must justify itself at the bar of life, not life at the bar of morality. . . . Anyone who, while admitting the romance and workfulness of business, refuses to regard it as the goal of human endeavor, is declared to be attacking the very foundations of civilized life. This is the prevailing mood of the American mind; and, in my judgment, it is directly in the way of moral progress. . . . In the sphere of morals, we still live very largely under the spell of the taboo system. At the same time, the social and intellectual conditions with which this type of morality must be associated in order to function no longer exist. The effect of this paradox is already evident. It is bound to become more so. Unless we are willing to risk disaster by letting our theory of the moral life continue to be behind while our knowledge of human nature advances, we must go beyond the conception of character as loyalty to a set of taboos."

THE SEARCH OF YOUTH for a life that shall have significance and worth is constantly betrayed by those who have lost their zest for life or who have a distorted idea of life's meaning. On the one hand, they demand conformity to a catalogue of virtues which we know will involve compromise and hypocrisy, and on the other hand we demand a spirit of acquisitive rivalry which we constantly preach against and which does indeed destroy the very essence of moral purpose."

A WRITER LIKE MAX OTTO, who "belongs in the Emersonian tradition" and writes of philosophy in terms of our day-to-day existence, of our duties and general reader rather than for his fellow-philosophers deserves to be far more widely known than he is. Perhaps SCIENCE AND THE MORAL LIFE will widen Max Otto's audience; certainly it is an ideal introduction to his work, one that has been long overdue.

My Day

Study Group of PTA
Cleaning Own House
Other Nations Differ

[By ELEANOR ROOSEVELT]

WASHINGTON—(Friday)—Wednesday morning in New York I was busy up to the minute I took the 12:30 train to Worcester, from where I was taken to Fitchburg to speak for the Parent-Teacher association on human rights.

PTA groups throughout the country have been making a great effort to bring to people's attention questions of interest in the United Nations. The acceptance of the declaration of human rights last year has given people time to study it and come to a clearer understanding of where this has a bearing on the international situation of each country. It is, nevertheless, an international document which sets standards and voices aspirations for peoples all over the world, some of whom have never known a day of freedom.

WE IN THE United States tend sometimes to think of international questions as they concern our own particular problems and we tend to believe that the conditions of all nations, and the desires of all peoples coincide with our own. This is something we must remember to check rather carefully with ourselves, for different conditions bring different conceptions of what rights and

freedoms should be. The American way of life may not always be the way desired by other nations.

It is true, however, that the failure on our part to live up to what we have declared are the rights and freedoms and protections of all people under our democratic government has a bearing on our standing in the international situation. It is easy, for instance, for the Communists to point to our failures and to say, "these are the shortcomings of democracy." They won't simply say, "these are the shortcomings of a few people in the United States."

It is why for us it is important to check our national standards and practices, not only in words, but in deeds.

THE WHOLE world can know of our failures, and it is much more difficult for us to make the world understand our efforts and the great successes we have achieved in past years. This is due to the fact that our success lies in actually bringing to reality words which we have preached for many years and up to now nobody has bothered to find out if these words were being lived up to. Now it is valuable to the Communist cause to point out where our words and actions are at variance.

On Thursday I was in Worcester at the North high school, again speaking on human rights. I returned to New York City early in the evening and caught the midnight train to Washington. This morning I had breakfast with my old friends, the Adams family, and I had expected to be with my son and daughter-in-law but it was not possible.

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Bergenske Is New Head of WSBMA

Emmett Bergenske, 929 Lake ct., was named president of the West Side Business Men's association at a board of directors meeting Friday night at the Hofbrau. He succeeds Ron Rosa, who is retiring from the board.

Lyall T. Beggs, 806 Miami Pass, was elected vice-president, and Francis Mayo, 1109 Wauban Hill, re-elected secretary-treasurer.

New board members are Freeman Fox, Beggs and Sam Olson.

Lutheran Students to Elect Officers Sunday

The Lutheran Student association will conduct its annual election of officers Sunday night, following the cost supper. Candidates have been nominated and will be introduced to members before the voting.

Ghering Services Are At Richland

RICHLAND CENTER, Wis.—Funeral services for William Ghering, 79, town of Richland, who died Thursday, will be held Monday at 9:30 in St. Mary's Catholic church, with the Rev. Hugh Clark officiating. Burial will be in Hydrone, Okla.

Survivors are his wife, three sons, Gordon and Melvin, both of Madison; and Grant, Okla.; two daughters, Mrs. Marion Miller, Westford, Okla., and Mrs. Charles Pitzer, Tiff City, Mo., and six others.

The rosary will be recited tonight and Sunday at 8 p. m. in the Lunenschloss-Doudna funeral home.

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