

## Many New Progressives Among the Democrats But Faster Arms Race in Prospect

### Election Returns Good News for the Negro But Not For Peace

There is much to cheer in the election results. The retirement of Knowland, Bricker, Potter, Malone and Revercomb from the Senate is good news even if their successors are as yet unknown quantities. It is a pleasure to note that Eugene McCarthy, who made a strong progressive record in the House, has been elected to the Senate from Minnesota; that another young liberal, Frank McGee, an assistant professor of history at the University of Wyoming, defeated the incumbent Republican Barrett for the Senate from that State; that a Democrat, Moss, defeated both the conservative Watkins and the ultra-reactionary J. Bracken Lee in a three-cornered race for the Senate in Utah; that Proxmire was returned to the Senate by Wisconsin, Langer by North Dakota, Gore by Tennessee and Yarborough by Texas; that Chester Bowles will be in the House from Connecticut; and that William H. Meyer, the first Democrat ever to be elected from Vermont to the House has been active (according to the news ticker) in the American Civil Liberties Union. We deeply regret the defeat of Leader by Hugh Scott in Pennsylvania; the former was a fine Governor and would have made a most progressive Senator.

#### The Negro's Opportunity

The huge Democratic landslide brings with it to Congress many fresh progressive faces. Even the incomplete returns showed majorities so large that the Southern Democrats will have great difficulty in controlling the party in Congress. Leadership is likely to pass from moderate Southerners like Johnson in the Senate and Rayburn in the House to the Northern liberals. This will further weaken the moderates in the South and tend further to polarize the conflict over the Negro's rights. With a bitter fight looming ahead in 1960, in which the Northern Negro vote will be crucial, prospects were never better for real gains on civil rights legislation and in the fight against the filibuster.

It is unfortunate that the country will be closer to a sectional North-South division than ever before since the Civil War, but only a firm showdown with the white supremacists might possibly prevent a steady deterioration on the race front.

#### Press Time Flash

Incomplete returns indicate that the Corliss Lamont Independent Socialist ticket we supported did very badly. The New York city vote was Lamont for Senator, 37,992; McManus for Governor, 23,538; and Mulzac for Controller, 27,006. Total City and State vote for McManus in 1954 was 96,000 and for Lamont in 1952 on the ALP ticket for Senator, 104,700; his city total that year, 94,000.

This election holds a high potential of victory for the Negro, and for labor it demonstrates that unionism cannot be beaten via right-to-work laws (soundly trounced in all industrial States). Where Nelson Rockefeller holds an edge for 1960 is that he represents a big capitalist willing to serve Negro aspiration, to advance the welfare State and to work with union labor—but asking in return a more intense arms race and a more belligerent foreign policy; in this too he has a secure potential alliance with George Meany.

The Rockefeller strategy, as worked out by such shrewd advisers as Anna Rosenberg, is really the Democratic formula. The conservatives, after this election, have no hope of winning through either party, and part of them will be won over to extremist lunatic fringe movements of the right. Unfortunately this is also a setback for the fiscal and military conservatives, who wanted some curb on the arms race and adventurism. The huge Democratic majorities mean more arms spending, more inflation, more cold war; it is significant that Harriman in his campaign attacked Nelson Rockefeller for having taken part in the summit meetings at Geneva, as though that were some kind of crime, though Rockefeller's chief contribution was as vehicle for the aerial inspection gimmick, a smart publicity device to put the Russians on the defensive but not a real way to advance the cause of peace. On the peace front this election offers no promise. I suspect that if the Republicans had spent more on arms and created more employment, there would have been no such deep tide against them. The Democrats, among them the strongest mouthpieces of the aviation and missiles lobbies, will not make the same mistake.

**IFS Speaks Nov. 13, 8 p.m. Jewish Community Center, 1160 Dickinson, Springfield, Mass., on Foreign Policy**

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