

Politicians Gasp At Wilkie's Word To Obey Hatch Act

By GENE ALLEMAN Michigan Press Association

LANSING—Decentralization of the 1940 presidential campaign will be one result of the federal Hatch Act limiting national committee expenditures to \$2,000,000.

Michigan party leaders have been advised not to look to national headquarters for financial aid. If money is to be spent in Michigan to re-elect President Roosevelt or to elect Wendell L. Wilkie, then it must be Michigan-raised funds.

The Republican national committee has relayed word that Wilkie insists on a strict compliance to the spirit of the Hatch act, and when you recall that the Republicans in 1936 spent \$8,800,000 to the Democrats \$6,551,000, this "parity in politics" restriction begins to hurt.

Henry F. Fletcher, counsel for the Republican National committee, has opined that the law's limit of \$2,000,000 per campaign and \$5,000 per individual contribution applied only to national committees.

Wilkie, a newcomer in politics, brushed aside the Fletcher opinion with a flat declaration that "all" campaign expenditures should not exceed the three million mark. It left politicians gasping.

One net result, already noted, will be the placing of more financial responsibility on the state central committee of the two leading parties. National and regional headquarters will lend a helping hand and free advice, but that's about all.

Pay-roll Prohibition In several reports of the 1940 campaign will establish historic precedents.

First, we have the astonishing situation whereby a former Democrat is running for president on the Republican ticket, while a former Republican is running for vice-president on the Democratic ticket.

Other evidences of collision in politics are the partnership of two staunch Republicans—Stimson and Knox—in the Roosevelt cabinet in Washington.

Wilkie's bitter licks was a Roosevelt Progressive (in 1912). Senator Vandenberg's past cry for prohibition in 1940 has a strange echo in contemporary events.

There is no question but that the local state of political affairs would be a wilderness of all citizens to make individual party contributions.

This would entail not only a desire to vote in the primary election, when good government is actually determined, but in the November election when the choice of future officials is usually narrowly between two major parties.

How much did you contribute to the 1936 campaign fund? If you did not, who, you suppose, furnished the money? You can "roll you own" answer.

A Remedy David Lawrence, editor of the United States News, a weekly magazine at Washington devoted to affairs of government, offers this suggestion.

"First of all he (the citizen) should contribute to either party through a regularly established political committee. If he feels that this is not sufficient and wants to carry on an individual campaign across at least one party, activity extends in two or more states, he can do so, but he should not distribute literature or make statements that have not already been sent out by the respective headquarters."

Next after the individual contribution has been made, the citizen "should offer his services as a volunteer worker. There is no prohibition in the law against man-hours by volunteers."

In the judgment of this veteran Washington observer, "the 1940 campaign will probably include more persons actively engaged in campaigning than ever has been known in American politics. This is a healthy sign. The Hatch Act in this respect may accomplish affirmatively more for American democracy than negatively by prohibition of the scandalous misuse of public office and public funds."

In Michigan such political contributions by check or money-order may be mailed directly to "Treasurer, (Name of Party) State Central Committee, Lansing, Mich."

Roosevelt and Wilkie campaigns in Michigan will be different.

Seeds and Beads Set the Styles



The art of woman varies her "basic" dresses with unusual necklaces, attractive clips and bracelets. Shown above, left, is one unusual creation by Chai-lotte of Paris, a long rope of turquoise blue beads.

The ends of the strands are attached to clips which may be worn as pictured or in any number of ways. At the right are necklaces and bracelet of louvered seeds. They are attractive with the golden beige blouse, worn with a slim black day skirt.

Berkshire Protective Association Meets Saturday at Picnic

The first annual summer meeting of the members of the Berkshire Protective Association will be held at Brooks Picnic Grounds, Twelve Mile Road between Lahser and Telegraph on Saturday, Sept. 7, at 4:00 p. m.

In order that the necessary arrangements may be made those intending to attend should notify Henry J. Streker, 31425 Lahser road. The officers of the association remind its members that there is still time to enter the contest for the awards offered for the most attractive landscape effect on any completed home grounds or vacant property in the district or for the most progressive and interesting positions for the betterment and protection of birds and other forms of wild life.

A wash rack busy in a local garage tells of finding quarters under upholstery which, in the same period last year, yielded only \$15.00.—Detroit News.

BIRMINGHAM

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nanced nearly 100 per cent by Michigan-raised funds.

If the record of other campaign years is any indication, this fall should see a sharp increase in federal spending for WPA. In 1936 expenditures in August totaled \$153,000,000; in October, \$180,000,000. In 1938 expenditures in January were \$103,000,000; in October, \$207,000,000.

Congress appropriated \$975,000,000 to support WPA this year and, furthermore, provided that this sum may be spent in eight months instead of twelve.

It may be just a coincidence that the rise in WPA jobs and WPA spending will take place just before the election, apparently there is nothing in the Hatch act to cover this indirect influence on the election of public officials.

Automobile Stops, Rammmed From Rear

When W. C. Forester, 23, of 560 West Brown street, stopped on Lincoln last Thursday, to allow a passenger to get out of his car, the machine was rammmed by one driven by Emily T. Watson, 417 West Hancock, Detroit. None was hurt.

Knocking on Wood

(Continued from Editorial Page) to do something for the underdog. He was vacillating, indecisive, but impulsive. That is, he would put off action or decision on matters until driven to act, but might act at a moment, without very much calculation and on the impulse of the instant, rush into some course of movement.

Not an original thinker, Roosevelt's policies have shifted according to the ideas of advisers who might at the time have the President's ear. His mind, according to H. G. Wells, is "apparently open."

Credited with instituting great social reforms, Flynn offers proof that the Social Security Act, for example, was put through because of a great universal demand for it. The President's signature was refused to take action; the Republicans denounced him for doing nothing about social welfare; and the campaign of 1934 was approaching. He appointed a committee to study the problem but took no action. "When the President was finally forced to act and the committee of experts he named reported their plan, he junked the whole of it and sent in a half-baked and immature bill written by an inexperienced young man that was so bad that congressmen said they didn't know what it meant. In the end a bill was passed, but not until 1935. And then it had it one of the most amazing fiscal monstrosities in the history of government finance. It cost \$4 billion dollars," Flynn writes.

"Of Into War Hysteria There is one thing which a practical statesman knows. It is that he cannot keep up reforms by force. A system of private profit cannot be maintained and continued reforms. The President's course should have been to select a group of essential and confident experts at the outset of his administration, put them through with all his power, then he should have then sent to lead the country back to the normal processes of its economic life.

The President could not do this, as he knew no policy, had no resources. His 1932 speeches, criticizing exactly what he himself later did, show that "Political vacillation, the eternal straining after cleverness, love of the spectacular, preoccupation with war problems and the affairs of Europe, and only a dim perception of the profound problems of economics and finance that dominate our scene, good intentions mixed with confused ethical concepts—these have brought the President to the tragic point where the only thing that can save his regime is to take this country off into a war hysteria," Flynn concludes.

Will America rise its country square in the White House? Flynn concludes.

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