

# George Romney Denounces Scholle's Con-Con Tactics

American Motors Corporation President George Romney today bitterly denounced the con-con tactics of Michigan AFL-CIO President August C. Scholle and called on organized labor to elect a slate of delegates who will put state needs above union needs.

Romney of Bloomfield Hills charged that Scholle is attempting to control the forthcoming constitutional convention by working behind the scenes to elect delegates committed to the AFL-CIO view. "I say this is un-American, it's wrong—it's wrong on the part of industry or farm groups or road groups or rural groups or any economic group. Because the right of citizenship in this country is an inalienable, personal right," Romney declared.

ROMNEY, CHAIRMAN of Citizens for Michigan and a leader in the fight for constitutional reform, is running unopposed for the GOP con-con nomination from Oakland County's senatorial district (12th). His Democratic opponent is William A. O'Brien, 31-year-old Clawson attorney.

Romney called Scholle's propaganda methods "as reprehensible as the methods of international distortion and subversion being used by the communists." He emphasized that he was not accusing any group of being communistic, but was simply drawing a comparison in techniques.

"My actual opponent in this senatorial district is not Bill O'Brien, Bill O'Brien is just a puppet for Gus Scholle and the interests that he represents. This is very clear from the fact that O'Brien has simply been mouthing the words that Gus Scholle is using," Romney said.

ROMNEY DISPLAYED a copy of the June issue of Michigan AFL-CIO News and rattled off a list of charges that Scholle had made in the union newspaper. Scholle accused Romney of dishonesty and disloyalty.

—Being ambiguous and dishonest in his con-con campaign.

—Talking on both sides of such major con-con issues as reapportionment.

—Favoring the limitation of any international union membership to 10,000.

—Stating that "we'd better get behind con-con this year or else the people will get control."

—Favoring the unemployment compensation bill passed by the 1961 legislature because American Motors stood to gain \$1 million by it.

Romney labeled Scholle's attack "a deliberate distortion for the purpose of deceiving and misleading."

HE DECLARED that he had never advocated limitation of union membership, but that "I am opposed to monopoly in any form—union, industry or government."

The long-range effect of the new unemployment compensation bill on American Motors, Romney said, would have meant higher taxes.

"We had no interest in the bill one way or the other," he said. "This is the typical method that

has come into American politics—and I speak broadly—not to discuss the issues, but to create a charge of such a character that they will poison people's minds. This is what the totalitarian regardless of where you may find it, is doing—the demagogue, either one," Romney said.

ROMNEY CHARGED that Scholle had twisted and distorted Romney's views on reapportionment.

In the AFL-CIO News, Scholle accused Romney of stating that a minority shouldn't be allowed to thwart a majority, yet areas that should be represented as well as people.

"I have never said that a minority should not be able to thwart a majority. I believe profoundly that each individual in America has certain rights that, no matter if all the other people feel otherwise, he should be able to exercise. And I do not subscribe to the false concept of democracy that Gus Scholle presents in order to attack me on the basis of my motives, and to call me a dishonest man," Romney said.

"THE DEMOCRATIC society that we have in the United States is not a popular democracy. Our society undertakes through written constitutions at the federal and state levels to protect each individual in his rights, as well as due consideration to the rest of the majority."

Romney described his appointment views as "diametrically opposed" to those of Scholle.

"Scholle believes in legislative representation on a pure population basis. I think that one principle, but only one principle, that should apply. Another principle must also apply. The people in every area should have that degree of representation that will give them an effective participation in the governmental process," Romney said.

"I HAVE ALSO made it quite clear that I am opposed to the present basis of representation in the state legislature because I believe it gives excessive representation to certain areas and people and it gives deficient representation to other citizens in the state," he added.

Romney said that con-con needs good delegates from the ranks of labor.

"But any delegate completely committed to a pressure group should not be elected," he said.

"My hope for Michigan and the constitutional convention rests on my belief that there are delegates from the ranks of labor, who have union support, who will undertake to put state needs above union needs and labor needs," Romney said.

ROMNEY DENIED published reports that he intends to run for public office after con-con.

"I don't think the problems of Michigan or the problems of the United States are going to be straightened out by men who are motivated fundamentally by political ambition or economic ambition. I don't believe it will happen that way," he said.

Then, in slow and measured tones, he declared:

"I am not a candidate for any public office other than as a dele-

gate to the constitutional convention."

"I HAVE NO plans. I have no program. I have no expectation of being a candidate beyond that."

"I happen to believe that the forces that will be most fundamental in correcting the situation in Michigan and the United States will be based on people arising to the responsibilities of citizenship. I think it would be as reprehensible for candidates to use this convention as a basis for furthering political ambition or economic interest as it would to do the act-

shackled" to perform their proper functions under the federal constitution.

"The real threat to our democratic liberties is the excessive concentration of power in the federal government. And I believe that the constitutional convention in Michigan can serve as an example to other states of how we can stop this trend," he said.

Romney said state and local government is being nibbled away by the federal governments effort to "meet any need."

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of thing that Gus Scholle is engaged in."

"And I assure you that I am not going to the convention for that purpose. I think the chances are more that I will not become a public candidate beyond this constitutional convention than I will," Romney said.

Romney said con-con will present the people with an unprecedented opportunity to unite Michigan, to emphasize our common interests rather than our separate interests.

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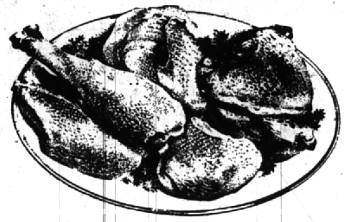
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