

Current History **REPORTS** on . . . **CHANGING AMERICAN POLITICS—August, 1956**

The Changing Nature of the Republican Party

By Oscar Handlin, Harvard University Noted Historian and Pulitzer Prize Winner

" . . . it is likely that the Republicans will remain a permanent minority in the United States . . . There is no indication that they have achieved, or are likely to achieve the wider strength of deep popular roots."

The Changing Nature of the Democratic Party

*By Norman Graebner, Iowa State College, author of *Empire on the Pacific**

"Perhaps only the collapse of one or both of the twin deities of moderation—peace and prosperity—could give the Democratic party a genuine rebirth as the nation's majority party."

The Political Role of Organized Labor

By Jack Chernick, Chairman, Research Program, Institute of Management and Labor Relations, Rutgers University

"The significance of the increased size of organized labor in the last two decades lies in the potentiality of creating the kind of political machinery that will both overcome political apathy, which wage earners display in greater measure than other segments of the community, and increase identification of union members with the wider political goals of the leadership."

The Changing Political Role of the Farmer

*By Gilbert Fite, University of Oklahoma, co-author of *The Agricultural Regions of the United States**

"Farmers have been slow to face up to their declining power, and the noise made by farm leaders has actually camouflaged the growing political weakness of farmers. . . . However, farm political power is much stronger than the ratio of farmers to the total population would seem to warrant."

The New Suburbia

By G. Edward Janosik, University of Pennsylvania, Director of the Eastern Pennsylvania Regional Citizenship Clearing House

"One has only to note the role of the suburban vote as an element in the political power balance in certain states to recognize its importance, actual and potential."

The Problem of the Independent Voter

*By Murry S. Stedman, Jr., Swarthmore College, co-author, *The Dynamics of Democratic Government**

"It is obvious that no interest group, no other voluntary society, can perform the functions at present performed by the parties in our democracy." For this reason, "If valid to any great degree, the theory of independency has alarming implications."

Lobbying

By Roffe Wike, University of Pennsylvania

"To say, as former President Truman so frequently does, that one political party is the party of 'the interests,' and the other, the party of 'the people' is patently ridiculous. Both parties are involved with 'interests' of all sorts and often with the same interests."

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