SEEKS TO CRACK DEMOCRATIC COALITION

Nixon Plans New Attack

By KEVIN P. PHILLIPS

WASHINGTON —With 1971 barely underway, the Democrats have already begun their struggle for the 1972 presidential nomination. Sen. Edmund Muskie is traveling abroad to convince skeptics that he is indeed an expert on foreign affairs.

George McGovern, the New Left's outspoken senator from South Dakota, is in the process of declaring his own candidacy. There are even noises from Birch Bayh, the Indiana senator whose prominence in recent Capitol Hill struggles has led some congressional observers to speculate that mediocrity is coming into its own.

A year ago, the 1972 Democratic presidential nomination looked almost worthless. Today's great optimism is mostly a function of the Nixon Administration's economic and personality problems.

But as election time draws nearer, the Democrats are likely to become more aware of their underlying dilemma, to wit: the national Democratic Party is an obsolescent coalition, rooted in the New Deal of the 1930s, and it can stick together only by subordinating liberal-conservative issues and emphasizing cohesive factors like shared opposition to Richard Nixon and Republican economic policies.

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THE OLD COALITION is not a base for the ambitions of a new philosophy of government: it can only elaborate upon the Great Society thrust of the 1960s.

Much of the Democrats' present semblance of unity reflects Nixon Administration shortcomings: the harsh, minimally successful Nixon-Agnew 1970 campaign style, the advent of economic recession, and Nixon's low 1968-70 emphasis on domestic policy.

Until now, the President has not used domestic policy discussion or programming to point out pre-1969 Democratic failures or to push the Democrats into impolitic stances (against one another, or in public eyes).

But change is writ large in Nixon's 1971-72 game plan. First he and Vice President Agnew will wear their statesmen's hats, shunning the abrasive 1970 campaign posture that annoyed the country and unified the Democrats.

Second, administration policy makers will concentrate on the economy, the one GOP weakness that can unite the old Democratic coalition.

Third, the White House is going to take the initiative in domestic affairs, proposing health insurance, revenue-sharing, welfare reform and "Middle American" economic legislation that will force the Democrats to react and bicker among themselves, winding up as saboteurs, me-tooers or proponents of expensive alternatives well to the left of public opinion.

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WITH THESE GOP TACTICS weakening the negative bonds that temporarily coalesced the Democrats in 1970, the Democrats may come face to face with their real dilemma. What new directions do they have to offer? How can the party that gave us the 60's promise the needed new outlook for the 70's?

This problem could be difficult especially because new policy formulation is likely to strain the bonds that the party is trying to maintain and aggravate the incompatibility of Polish Chicago and Harvard, or of pineywoods Texas and Harlem.

Many younger Democrats are justifiably concerned that the party of Roosevelt, Truman, Kennedy, and Johnson wants to run in 1972 on pleasing personalities and old loyalties rather than on new ideas. Party analysts believe that the innovators, that is, the potential issue-candidates, like Senators McGovern and Edward Kennedy, would alienate too many moderate and conservative Democrats.

Thus, party leaders are inclined towards the Muskie type of candidate who does not raise divisive issues, and who can trade on personality and. it is hoped, on the economic vulnerability of the GOP.

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POLITICAL ANALYST Samuel Lubell has a very interesting theory about U.S. politics. He does not believe that the two major parties compete evenly. On the contrary, he shows how our political history breaks down into periods where one party has been the more influential "sun" while the other party, reacting rather than innovating, has been the "moon" that reflects the changing radiations of the sun.

During the next two years, Nixon is going to try to shatter the old Democratic coalition with positive rather than negative appeals, turning the Republican Party into the new U.S. political sun. If the Democrats cannot formulate more than mere plans to trade on GOP weakness, they may well slip into Lubell's fatal lunar orbit.

Vallman in The Hartford Times

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THOUGHT FOR TODAY

When one is in a good sound rage, it is astonishing how calm one can be.
—Edward Bulwer-Lytton

Major Rulings by Supreme Court Show Liberal-Conservative Balance

Earlier this week the Supreme Court ruled that welfare case workers were entitled to enter a recipient's home to see that welfare money was being spent as required by the law. This was considered to be a victory for the new "Nixon court," a more conservative decision than probably would have been forthcoming under the old court.

Now, however, it would appear that the "Nixon court" has made a decision in a smut mail case that many would consider to be of the former, more liberal sort. The court ruled that the Post Office has no right to intercept mail addressed to dealers in "obscene" material. It would violate the First Amendment and amount to a form of censorship, the court ruled.

It is doubtful that two rulings can indicate a pattern, but whether it does or not, the rulings of this week are refreshing. It would be going too far toward liberalism to allow welfare recipients to deny a case worker entry into the recipient's dwelling, based on a claim that it is an invasion of privacy.

On the other hand, while the government has definite rights in checking on welfare recipients, it has no right to interfere with the rights of persons sending or receiving mail.

As the court said, curbing the mail is the same as curbing the right to free speech. Most people may find obscene mail offensive and have a right to prevent their receiving unsolicited mailings. But there is no reason why the government should stop those who want to request or receive such mail from doing so.

The court's rulings this week suggest that the court has achieved a better balance, one that will reflect the will of the Constitution and the people more than before.

Warning on Catholic School Need

There are increasing reports that a number of Catholic schools will have to shut down for financial reasons. St. Mary's Elementary School is expected to live to celebrate its 100th birthday at the end of this year, but it, like many other Catholic schools, will probably need financial help to continue indefinitely.

The Rt. Rev. Msgr. Thomas Costello, superintendent of diocesan schools, said this week that Catholic schools throughout the state "are in deep financial trouble" and many can't wait for possible repeal of the Blaine Amendment, which would allow public financial support of private schools.

The Rev. Joseph M. Ploecki, pastor of St. Mary's Church said the 100-year-old school is in no danger of closing, but he admits it is financially hard pressed.

* * *

IT SHOULD NOT BE HARD for the average person to see that Catholic schools, like private colleges and any number of other institutions and individuals are finding it increasingly difficult to keep their heads above water.

From a practical standpoint, the public school systems could not stand to have Catholic schools close. This would mean that the Catholic schools pupils would transfer to the public schools, putting a tremendous burden on existing public school facilities, which are already hard pressed.

Parents of Catholic and other private school pupils are paying for the maintenance of the public schools, as well as the private schools to which they prefer to send their children. Naturally, therefore, when they find it financially impossible to continue the private school cost, they must send their children to the public school. This has been causing a considerable strain for the private schools.

* * *

WHILE MANY MAY OBJECT to a change in the historic separation of church and state, there is no reason why there cannot be public support for non-academic aspects of private education, such as building construction and maintenance. Such support is now given to non-religious private institutions.

National Health Care by 1975

First proposed 60 years ago during William Howard Taft's administration, revived briefly under Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry Truman, the idea of national health insurance is one whose time at last has come.

It seems certain that before mid-decade there is going to be some form of national health insurance for all Americans, rich and poor alike, going well beyond the present Medicare and Medicaid programs.

While reformers may differ over details, there is general agreement that America's present health care delivery system is not doing the job it should. Too many Americans, particularly those in rural and inner-city areas, are not getting the medical attention which should be their right.

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ALREADY A NUMBER of major plans are competing for the attention and approval of Congress.

The first was the American Medical Association's Medicredit Plan announced early in 1970. This was followed in August by the Health Security Program prepared by a committee headed by the late Walter Reuther and introduced in Congress by Sen. Edward M. Kennedy.

In December, the National Healthcare Bill was introduced in the House by Rep. Omar Burleson, D-Tex. Now just recently, the Health Insurance Association of America (HIAA), representing both large and small private health insurers, announced its own comprehensive plan.

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THE HEALTH SECURITY Program calls for an all-federal health insurance program paid for through increased Social Security deductions and general tax revenue. Its proponents estimate that it would cost the nation some $40 billion in its first year of operation, although a spokesman for the Department of Health, Education and Welfare estimates the actual cost would be closer to $77 billion.

The AMA's Medicredit Plan would simply offer tax credits to the poor and the near-poor toward the purchase of standardized coverage from qualified health insurers. It estimates the first-year costs of its program at $7.3 billion.

* * *

ALL THE PROPOSALS have one goal in common—to reorganize the present health care delivery system and make it work better.

The upshot likely will be something which takes elements from all the plans, with the hoped-for end result of harnessing America's medical talents and resources for the benefit not just of some or of most but of all the people.

Dear Doctor . . .

By GEORGE C. THOSTESON, M.D.

Dear Dr. Thosteson: I, too, got syphilis from my husband from whom I am now divorced. My tests never went back to "negative" although I have had full treatment; I also had a spinal, and no permanent damage has been done — but still tests positive.

How does one in my position remarry? The state requires blood tests and I won't be able to get a negative one. Someone has asked me to marry him but I am stalling as I do not know how to handle this.

There is no record of my treatment as the doctor treated me under a fictitious name — and he has died.—N.N.

Not as difficult a problem as you suppose — and I have seen similar situations resolved successfully. Even though you cannot get any evidence from the original physician, you can go to your doctor now. After some tests he then can provide you with a report showing that you are a "positive reactor" despite apparently adequate treatment. With such information to present to the health department, I doubt that you will have any trouble in getting special permission to marry.

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Note to Mrs. E.B.: Exercise cannot increase bust size; the breasts are essentially fat and glandular tissue which does not increase in size from exercise. Strengthening of chest muscles, however, may improve posture, which will give the appearance of a larger bust.

RADICAL REVISION OF SOUTHERN STRATEGY

Nixon Aide Sees Republican Need To Appeal to South's Black Vote

By ROWLAND EVANS and ROBERT NOVAK

WASHINGTON — Behind the defeat of President Nixon's political aide Harry Dent in the vicious battle for the soul of the South Carolina Republican party lies a political calculation of utmost importance to the 1972 presidential election.

Dent's calculation: President Nixon must radically revise his Southern Strategy and make a serious bid for the growing black vote in South Carolina and other Deep South states to keep the party there from premature death.

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IT WAS PRECISELY with this in mind that Dent, without directly consulting Nixon, intervened in the bitter succession fight for South Carolina party chairman (the post Dent himself held before signing on at the White House two years ago).

Dent journeyed to Columbia, S.C., last Saturday to make a hard-hitting pitch to replace outgoing right-wing party chairman Ray Harris with a successor who would build a moderate party "encompassing the needs and aspirations of all the people of our state."

Translated from southern political code language, that Dent appeal meant one thing: reshape the party so that blocks and other citizens can join, or perish.

Considering Dent's role since 1969 as Sen. Strom Thurmond's man in the White House fighting for conservative racial policies, his posture at the state committee meeting last weekend is a political shocker.

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DENT LOST AT Columbia when the man he wanted, Cordes G. Seabrook Jr., a well-heeled Anderson businessman, was beaten 2-to-1 by Richland County Columbia Chairman Kenneth Powell. Seabrook's defeat, despite support from Nixon's top southern aide and from chief South Carolina fund-raiser Hal Byrd (protege of Republican financier and textile magnate Roger Milliken) shows the new gap between Dent and the party Dent himself—as Thurmond's right-hand man—helped build in the mid-1960s.

In sum, two years in Washington have opened Dent's eyes to the calamity that confronts his own party back home if it fails to adjust to the political revolution of the last few years—huge black registration, massive school desegregation, the deflowering of racist politics.

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WITH THE SILENT approval but without the vital public support of Strom Thurmond, Dent pushed the 49-member state executive committee to install Seabrook as state chairman for one major reason: racial moderate Seabrook had been elected trustee of the public school board with both white and black votes. In contrast, Powell had led the anti-black "bloc vote" attack last November on two Negro candidates from Richland County for the state legislature. Both were elected.

More important, Powell was the choice of outgoing chairman Harris, a key strategist in accenting the race issue in Rep. Albert Watson's losing 1970 campaign for governor. A clear early favorite, Watson lost to colorless Democratic Lt. Gov. John West Largely because of voter hostility to overuse of the race issue.

Dent and Thurmond can supply dozens of examples of South Carolina conservatives from the establishment world of business and the suburbs who were outranged by the pungently racist Republican campaigns last fall.

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THEY BELIEVE also the balance of power in South Carolina politics is the conservative — but non-racist — suburban vote. Since Dent and his allies feel these voters regard Harris and Powell as the arch-villains in the 1970 campaign, the selection of Powell as chairman might only perpetuate last year's problems.

Thus, Thurmond now fears that the party he built threatens to become an albatross around his own neck when he seeks reelection next year—probably against popular outgoing Democratic Gov. Robert McNair. The reason Thurmond stayed out of the party fight in Columbia was his fear that playing the part of Republican boss might damage him in the eyes of this key suburban vote.

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THIS TIME, Dent failed to win over his state committee, packed with small businessmen and farmers picked by him and Thurmond years ago. But the wheels he set in motion won't stop turning. Don't defeat may be pyrrhic carrying the seed of change in the Republican party's Southern Strategy.

Point of View

Slaughtering Our Animals

By MRS. CHRISTIAN MILLER
41 Catherine St., Ilion

On Friday, Jan. 8, I watched a television show called "Say Goodbye." It showed how man is destroying animals to the point of extinction. In fact, some species of birds and animals are almost extinct right now.

We are destroying our animals by pollution and by hunting for sport.

It made me sick to watch those men in a helicopter gun down a polar bear that was with its cubs. I thank God that I missed the part where people club seals to death.

Oh, this is very heroic and such a fun sport! I feel that all hunting for sport is cruel an inhuman. As much as I would like to be optimistic about the future, I am inclined to think that our conservationists will never win their fight to preserve our forests and animals and to keep them safe from hunters.

A society that now allows the killing of unborn babies is not about to stop the inhuman slaughter of animals.

I know that people who hunt will probably jump down my back about over-population of our forests, but this is not a problem, as anyone who knows anything about conservation knows that the animals themselves take care of this by the fact that they have to kill to eat, and it's a regular rotating process.

Nature always takes care of itself, but man is trying to help nature along, and I feel that in this process we will only be destroying ourselves.

I wish more people would be concerned about this problem and try to change some of our laws.

On Military Spending

By T. G. PITTMAN
1220 Georgetown Ave., Utica

Over $4 trillion will be spent on armaments and the military by all nations during the '70s, if the present rate of spending continues.

That's over $1,000 for every person now living. Enough to feed and clothe everyone on earth for a year or more or provide housing for over one-third of mankind.

Opposes Beach Plan

By THERESA SHORTELL
Sylvan Beach, N.Y.

As a resident of Sylvan Beach, I wish to present my views regarding the proposition of incorporating Sylvan Beach as a village.

At the present time, the Township of Vienna serves as our local government and has proven to be an efficient one. If anyone has suggestions for improvements of our community, it could be done through our elected officials.

Incorporating an area of Sylvan Beach as a village would mean a duplication of the present services. It would entail the purchase of capital equipment such as road equipment, snowplows, etc. as well as many, many items needed to organize a village government.

The expense would have to be borne by the property owners. This means higher and higher property taxes. The salaries of village officials, supervisors and employes would be a large item of expense, thus, more and more taxes.

Many communities are in the process of consolidating town and village governments to reduce taxes and eliminate duplication of services.

I believe it to be in the best interests of property owners of the Sylvan Beach area to keep our present town government and keep our local taxes as low as we can. We can do this by voting against the proposed incorporation of the Sylvan Beach area.

What's in a Word

TODAY'S WORD—FLAWLESSLY
(Flawlessly. FLAW les li. Perfectly.)

Average mark—31 wrds. Time limit—60 minutes.

Can you find 38 or more words in flawlessly? The list will be published tomorrow.

RULES OF THE GAME: 1. Words must be of four or more letters. 2. Words which acquire four letters by the addition of "s," such as "bats," "cats," are not used. 3. Only one form of a word is used. 4. Proper names are not used.

YESTERDAY'S WORD—INCLUSION

icon inulin incus insoul insulin ionic nil nous nouns noil nuncio cion clonus coils coins colin cousin conn consul linin lions locus loin louis unions unison unci unco uncoil scion silo silicon soli soul sonic soil sunn sulci onus

BERRY'S WORLD

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"I guess you've gotta have a press agent an' plenty of pull, or you'll never get on the 'Ten Worst-Dressed Men' list!"