

Democratic Watchman

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P. GRAY MEEK, Editor.

Democratic State Ticket.

FOR TREASURER,
EDMUND A. BIGLER,
OF CLEARFIELD.

Democratic County Ticket.

For Associate Judge—THOS. F. RILEY.
For Prothonotary—L. A. SCHAEFFER.
For District Attorney—J. C. MEYER.
For County Surveyor—GEO. D. JOHNSON.
For Coroner—DR. JAMES W. NEFF.

The Mismanagement of our County Affairs and the Violated Pledges of the Republican Commissioners.

We only wish that all the tax-payers of Centre county could read the attempted explanation of the management of the county finances, as given by the organ of the Commissioners—the *Gazette*—in its issue of last week. If its failure to furnish a single fact or figure in denial of the charges made by this and other papers of the county, of the almost criminal mismanagement of county affairs by the present Republican board of Commissioners, would not convince them of the truth of the charges, nothing else would. There is nothing that so weakens a cause as an effort to speak for it when nothing can be said in its favor; and this is just the position the organ finds itself in when it attempts to cover up, explain, or justify the manner in which the tax-payers' interests are being cared for by the county Commissioners.

Of over two columns of space occupied in that paper for the purpose of disproving the well known and generally believed facts, that the Commissioners have, during the past year and a half, so mismanaged the business of that office that they have used up the surplus left by the Democratic board and are now compelled to increase the county taxes or show a county indebtedness in the next annual statement, three fourths of that space is occupied in personal abuse of the editor of the *WATCHMAN*, and the balance in furnishing figures that prove exactly the facts it would deny, and in misstatements as to what it, the organ, has heretofore shown.

As to the personalities and scurrility of the *Gazette's* article, we have no answer to make. It is like the skunk; when it thinks it is making war it is only stinking itself, and with its stench sickening and disgusting the community, more than its injuring the object it is squinting at. If the editor of this paper had been arrested a thousand times during the war, it would neither explain nor excuse the manner in which the organ's bosses are mismanaging the business of the Commissioners' office; if he had personally abused every republican in the county from the day he was able to speak until the present hour, it would not justify the misappropriation of the people's money, as is daily being done, nor lessen the chances of increased taxation of which we complain; if he could be shown to be a score of "human rattlesnakes," in place of a single one, as charged by the *Gazette*, it would neither cover up the incompetency, excuse the arrogance, or hide the notoriously inefficient and blundering business ways of the women in whose hands the republican bosses have placed the management of our county finances.

Last spring we charged that the county statement showed that \$8,514,52 had been collected the previous year from the people of the county, as State taxes; that but \$5,716.52 had been paid to the State, and that in no way, place or manner did that statement show what became of the difference between those two amounts—\$2,797.60. It was collected off the people, it was not shown to have been paid out, neither was it accounted for as among the assets of the county. WHAT BECAME OF IT, was then and still is the question the tax payers would like to have answered? The *Gazette* now pretends that it explained it in one of its issues of March last? In which one, pray? We have examined the files of that paper for the entire month named, and now challenge that organ of the Commissioners to reproduce a single paragraph, line or figure that it ever furnished, either in March, April or any other month, explanatory of this missing \$2,797.60. It is an easy matter for it to refer to its own files, and if it can reproduce any statement it ever made explaining this matter we will cheerfully republish it for the information of the tax-payers who are demanding to know something about it. From the day the charge was made that the sum named was unaccounted for, the Commissioners themselves and their organs have been as quiet as the grave about it, and

have left the tax-payers without any knowledge as to where it went, for what purposes it was used, or where it is to-day.

Can the organ reproduce its explanation it now says it made? Will it by its failure to do so admit that it is trying to deceive the people, or will it try at this late day to explain that which it was unable to do when its attention was first called to the fact? What became of that \$2,797.60?

We have charged that, notwithstanding the republican promise to run the county affairs on a two mill tax-levy, through the ignorance and incompetence of the men who had charge of that office they would be unable to meet the ordinary expenditures of the county without either increasing the tax-levy to three mills or the tax valuation of the county. In proof of this we need only point to last year's management, when, as shown by their own statement, without expending anything for bridges, or repairs to public buildings or grounds, it took the entire amount raised by a 2 1/2 mill tax, and a goodly portion of the surplus left in the county Treasury by the Democratic board, to foot the bills they ran up. We charged further, that to keep from running in debt this year, and to avoid an increase of the tax rate, the Commissioners had deliberately determined to cover up their increased expenditures by forcing an increased valuation of taxable property. This is proved by the *Gazette's* own figures, which gives the total valuation of 1886 at \$10,092,626, and of 1889 at \$10,408,454, making an increase in the taxable property of the county of \$305,828, and in this way AN INCREASE OF TAXES, DRAWN FROM THE PEOPLE, OF \$5,268. In this assessed valuation, farms that have decreased in actual value fully twenty per cent. in the past three years, are forced up to the full value they were placed at when selling from twenty to thirty dollars per acre more than they would bring to-day, and additional valuations added to personal and other property to bring the sum total up to the figures given above.

And this is in fulfillment of the pledge given the people that their county taxes would be reduced, if the republican party was entrusted with the management of the county finances.

Do you doubt that such a pledge was given? We copy from the *Gazette* of June 3, 1887, just what it was, and what Mr. HENDERSON and his party publicly promised. Here it is: "We are authorized by Commissioner Henderson to state that he agrees to the following: If given complete control of the county affairs he will make taxes realized on 2 mills, for which he voted, in addition to the surplus cash on hand and immediately available, as well as the judgments and claims against several townships in the hands of the Commissioners at this time; with all these he will administer the financial affairs of the county, pay all claims due, build all bridges, make all repairs to county property in general, and leave a cash balance of respectable amount in the county Treasury when the year is done and the bills paid. For the faithful performance of all these obligations, Mr. HENDERSON agrees to 'furnish' good bonds in the sum of \$20,000, or almost any amount needed."

And how has he and his republican backers fulfilled that pledge? Will the Commissioners' organ from which we copy it, answer? If it will not, the county buildings and grounds, running down and out of repair, without either attention or expenditure, will, the county bridges, one half of them impassable, the balance rusting out for want of paint and care, will tell, or the now vanished Democratic surplus that was in the county Treasury when "complete control" was given the present republican Commissioners, will witness. If these are not sufficient, an accumulating debt, with an increase of taxation amounting to \$6,268 for the present year, certainly will.

Summing all up, we have for the pledges above given, the following: Every bit of public property in the county running down and uncared for, \$2,797.60 of the people's money lost, squandered, embezzled, or unaccounted for in the first year.

And the certainty of an unlimited debt or a four mill tax for years to come.

How do you like it, tax-payers?

—The old soldiers of Centre county are going to fare about as well under the Harrison administration as they have under that of BEAVER. It is remembered that when the latter was a candidate for Governor the veterans were led to expect great things in the way of official reward for supporting him. Every one of them in the county was promised an office, and it was expected that there would be a general migration of old soldiers from Centre county to Harrisburg to take possession of the nice fat places which the Governor was going to give them. If

we are not mistaken not one of them got even so much as a smell of the flesh-pot which BEAVER had in charge. The same is turning out to be the case with the veterans who expected big things from HARRISON. They have fared very badly so far. In giving out the Deputy Collectors of the old veteran MILLER was overlooked, and Ed CHAMBERS, who was born since the war and upon no occasion was known to have fought, bled and died in the service of his country, was quietly slipped into the snug berth which ought to have been filled by a battle-scarred hero, if there is anything more than empty wind in Republican professions.

—Industrial matters appear to be badly mixed out in Jefferson county. The workers in the bituminous coal mines out there, who are not grateful for the benefits which a protective tariff has showered upon them, have struck and raised a disturbance at the mines of the Rochester, Buffalo and Pittsburgh coal and iron company. Two hundred men, brought on to protect the company's property, disbanded and left when they discovered that they were to be used in antagonizing the strikers. Four hundred negroes from West Virginia were then expected to appear upon the scene and, taking up the shovel and the pick, illustrate how the relics of southern slavery could be utilized as a substitute for the white slaves who had grown disinterested with the rewards of their "protected" labor.

—We have received the first copies of the *National Democrat*, a journal published in Washington, D. C., for the advocacy of Democratic principles and the promotion of the success of the Democratic party. Its editor and publisher is EDMUND HUDSON, a gentleman whose experience and ability well qualify him for the work he has undertaken. Its editorials are ably written and its selections cover the wide field of politics in a way that is designed to impart reliable information and correct political ideas to its readers. A publication of this kind has long been needed at the national capital and we trust that it will receive such patronage from the party as will make it a success both in the effect it shall produce and the profit it shall afford its publisher. Price, \$1.50 a year.

—Both FLEMING and GRAY, who have, since they were old enough to vote, put in their entire time during political campaigns abusing Democrats, are now around begging the votes of those whom they have denounced in the bitterest way. Neither one of these beauties ever thought of voting for a Democrat, no matter how small the office he was running for, and if any one had asked either of them to do so, he would have been insulted by the reply given. If there are any two republicans in the county who have always been more abusive bigoted and bitter toward Democrats than the mass of their party, their names are W. I. FLEMING and W. E. GRAY.

PROHIBITION COUNTY CONVENTION AND NOMINATIONS.—The following candidates were nominated by the Prohibitionists at their county convention in the Court House in this place on Thursday:

- Associate Judge, W. P. Fisher, of Union township.
- District Attorney, H. H. Harshberger, of Bellefonte.
- Prothonotary, G. W. Ganoe, of Philipsburg.
- Coroner, W. L. Biglow, of Philipsburg.
- County Surveyor, S. J. Dale, of Benner township.

After Campaign Funds.

The plan which has been adopted by the National Republicans Committee for raising of campaign funds, shows that the committee is giving its early attention to the raising of funds for intermediate elections as well as for national campaigns. It is held forth as a means of avoiding the quadrennial appeal for money which has of late years been a leading feature of the national canvass; but it is likely, nevertheless, that when the next national campaign arrives, there will be the same call on those who are interested in the result to come down with the cash. The Democratic organs will, of course, discover an anagram of boot-licking in the scheme, that suspicion will be justified or not in proportion to the amount of money raised and the way in which it is spent. Its development permits the expression of the hope that the time will come when principles will be of more importance in our politics than money.

How a Wicked Bird Felt.

Philadelphia Record.

A refined and modest-looking Miss, loaded down with bundles, emerged from the Broad Street Station, and warily took a seat in the corner of a Market street car yesterday. The car had hardly started when the other riders were startled by a voice from the corner occupied by the quiet-looking Miss. "I just feel like h—l," it said. Amid her confusion the young lady succeeded in clearing up matters and relieving herself of a terrible suspicion by tearing the wrapper from one of the bundles and displaying a parrot in a cage.

Wanamaker Furnishes Himself With More Room.

In speaking of the gentlemen at the head of the Post Office Department, a Washington correspondent says: "Postmaster General Wanamaker is an untiring official. In fact, it may truthfully be said that he has inaugurated more reforms since the advent of the Administration than all the other Cabinet officers combined. That, or, perhaps, of Corporal Postmaster General, the generous Pension Commissioner is not a Cabinet adviser. President Harrison's Postmaster General is a man of many ideas, especially business ideas, and, as this is a business Administration, it would appear that Hon. John Wanamaker fits in to his present position like a square plug into a square hole. President Harrison's Postmaster General has learned a thing or two since the Fourth of March. He has learned how to pose before the people as the great economist of the Administration, and he is showing the country how a Department of the Government can be conducted on business principles, as same as govern a mammoth dry goods store or iron foundry. In all large establishments the head of the firm enjoys a private office—a sanctum, as it were. This rule also applies to the Departments. The Secretaries have a private room, wherein they are free from intrusion.

Now, at the Postoffice Department, the Postmaster General—not Hon. John Wanamaker, but his predecessors—for years past has occupied three of the second floor; a reception, or ante-room, the Postmaster General's room proper, and a private room attached. These three rooms have been sufficient for the transaction of all business that came before the Postmaster General. And the three rooms in question met the requirements of the present Postmaster General until about three weeks ago, when it suddenly dawned on Mr. Wanamaker's busy mind that he was cramped for space. The Postmaster General, like Corporal Tanner, does not stand on the under of his doing, but he proceeds to do in one, two, three fashion, and he does not stop till he gets there. And in this instance, Hon. John Wanamaker proceeded to obtain more space. He walked up and down the corridors of his Department, and on the third floor, southeast corner of the building, he discovered Mr. Patrick Cunningham, chief of the collecting division, and a number of clerks busily at work in Rooms 1 and 2. These rooms are very pleasant, in fact, the most pleasant rooms in the Post Office Department. President Harrison's Postmaster General was charmed. Here was what he longed for; they would make an ideal private office. Mr. Cunningham was ordered to move into Room 3, and a part of his force of clerks were scattered around into different rooms.

Hon. John Wanamaker then gave instructions to have the rooms put in shape, as they were to be used for strictly private office. Workmen have transformed the aforesaid rooms into as fine an office as can be found anywhere. The floors are covered with soft, rich Axminster; crushed straw heavy over-lap curtains adorn the windows; the ceiling has been touched up by the painter's brush, while the most expensive leather-covered furniture is respectably arranged round the rooms. A large handsome desk is situated in the middle of Room 1, and on the mantle is a sweet toned cathedral striking clock, relieved by various small ornaments. Room No. 2 is not so large as No. 1, and is used for the toilet, while the most extensive washstand, almost large enough to permit of a complete abolition of the body, occupies part of the room. Near the window is a small writing desk. In short the appointments of Room No. 2 cannot be excelled.

Considering the expense and time consumed in putting the rooms in order it is commented on as rather singular that a private chamber for the Postmaster General be put in. The rooms, dubbed the "bird's nest" by the clerks on that floor, have been waiting the Postmaster General's pleasure the past week. I hear that he intends to transact his strictly private business in the above rooms, and when he is up there the messenger who attends the door is to inform visitors. Congressmen included, that the Postmaster General is not in the department. Of course no one will begrudge Hon. John Wanamaker the additional room. While his predecessors were contented to be cramped for working space by being confined in three measly rooms, he shows his fellow Cabinet officers what a business man can do in finding suitable quarters to transact private affairs. Just think of the opportunity Hon. Don M. Dickinson missed!

A Tale of Deception.

Washington Sentinel.

Warner Miller confesses that he ran for Governor of New York last year for the purpose of heading off the third party and keeping the Prohibitionists in the Republican column. Clarkson bribed the foreman of *The Voice* to betray that paper's mailing list, and now a person named Foster has been appointed general agent of the Department of Justice because his wife, Mrs. J. Ellen Foster, a leader among the Prohibitionists, devoted herself to betraying her avowed party to the hands of her real party, the Republicans. The Republican party got the votes of the Prohibitionists last fall, and then turned around last spring and buried the prohibitory amendments out of sight in Pennsylvania and Massachusetts. But Mrs. Foster is snarler than Warner Miller; she has secured her pay. By the way, has Mr. Louis Schade, who manly attacks Mrs. Cleveland because President Cleveland did not give him an office, any authority from the Harrison administration for the following statement: "We are quite sure that at diplomatic dinners no such effect-hunting orders as were given by Mrs. Cleveland, to remove all wine glasses from her cover, will be given by that truly refined lady, Mrs. Harrison, presents and compliments from Prohibitionists as her fair predecessors received so frequently. Mrs. Harrison will not forget her high position so far as to dilly-dally with politics and allow herself to be used for petty political demonstrations. Our compliments to that true and refined lady now presiding at the White House."

Snort, Harrison and Wanamaker.

Snort Writes a Letter Giving an Account of the Business Operations of the New Firm.

Texas Sitings.

MY DEAR JOHNNY: As I wrote you in a previous letter, since I have adopted Lige Halford's plan of making both ends meet, I have been salting down money every week. When any body performs any personal service for us members of the Administration, we do not pay him in actual cash out of our own pockets. Not a bit of it. We simply go to the President and have the aforesaid creditor appointed to a lucrative office and that cancels the debt.

But now, Johnny, we have struck a new scheme that will cause our cheeks to stick out with fatness. It will work like a charm. I will explain it to you. You must know, Johnny, that in the various Departments there are thousands and thousands of clerks and clerkesses. It has heretofore been the rule that peddlers, distributors of circulars and catchpenny advertisements should not be allowed to invade the Department buildings. The ostensible reason for this exclusion was that Government employees would be hindered in their work. This was a flimsy excuse for keeping the peddlers out. There are only comparatively few of the clerks and clerkesses that work. A barrel of cider was appointed to a clerkship. It would stop working right off. There is a good deal of flirting going on, but that's not work. At least, it is not very hard work, so I am told by some of the Senators and one of the Members from Texas.

At any rate, all distributors of advertising circulars have been kept out. If one of them tried to get in, a janitor would rush at him with uplifted hoof and kick him until the foot-note sounded like the patter of a mule's hind legs on the ribs of a hired man.

It occurred to Wanamaker that this personal advantage might be changed to his own personal advantage. Wanny has a great head for business. Yesterday I happened to go into the Treasury Department to see a beautiful clerkess who is paying me some few attentions. When I entered the building, the doorkeeper shoved an illustrated circular in my astonished hand. Every doorkeeper and watchman in the building had a wad of these circulars, and before I got out of the sacred edifice I had a dozen copies.

I did not have time to examine them until I got back to the office of Snort's Harrison Vindicator, in the White House. I discovered then, that it was the advertisement of a Washington business college. How did the author of this circular manage to evade the rules? On the front page was a picture of Wanamaker himself, with a castiron smile on his face, such as we see in pictures of martyred saints. Opening the circular, I read: "Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness and one of Wanamaker's \$17 suits. Men's lawn-tennis shirts, only 50 cents. Men's fancy blazers, \$2.48. Men's fancy hose, 14 cents, etc. Clothe thyself in the garments of righteousness. See Wanamaker's adv."

I caught on at once to what Wanny really meant when he told me, confidentially, the other day that his method and policy generally were beginning to crystallize, as the machinery of his Department was working more smoothly. In another place in the circular, under the heading of "Golden Words," the Postmaster General is referred to as a mechant prince, and there is a rebuke to every man who wears a pair of Wanamaker's three and a half dollar pants.

After looking over this circular carefully, it occurred to me that the Wanamaker idea might be worked on a big scale to the great advantage of this Republic. Administration in general and Bill Snort in particular.

My idea is that Snort, Harrison, and Wanamaker be photographed together in a group, with me in the middle, as the bright sun around which they revolve. This photograph, under the great seal of the United States, will be used to advance the sale of any article that the business of Department clerks may or may not want. The following business letter to a New York chewing-gum firm will give you an idea of how we are going to work this little scheme:

WHITE HOUSE, D. C., Aug. 22, 1889.

MY DEAR SIR: As you are well aware, your brand of chewing gum has only a limited circulation in Washington. I propose the following arrangement by which we can be mutually benefited:

"We, that is, Snort, Harrison and Wanamaker, will furnish you with wrappers for each chunk of gum. On these wrappers will be the portraits of Snort, Harrison and Wanamaker, together with some such little printed gems of thought as:

"Colonel Snort, of Texas, is universally conceded to be the handsomest man in Washington."

"Pants bought at Wanamaker's bazaar never bag at the knees. Hold fast unto that which is good—St. John's Epistle to the Philadelphians."

"President Harrison, the peer of Washington, uses our gum exclusively. Studio Lige and Russ."

"All the janitors and doorkeepers in the department buildings, not to speak of numberless other Federal officials, on them, will sell your gum exclusively, without commission, to the employees. You could also print on the wrappers: 'To be had on applying to all Federal officials, doorkeepers, janitors, et al.' American consuls in foreign countries would be instructed to push your gum all over the known world as a part of their official duty."

"The prevailing rule in the Department building forbidding the chewing of gum during office hours would be rescinded, and the employees will understand that if they are found without your gum in their mouths they will be fired out and their places given to those whose hearts are in the good work of booming our reform administration."

"The result will be that thousands of pounds of your chewing gum will be sold in Washington. Like the praises of the present administration, it will be in everybody's mouth. You will be-

come suddenly rich. Now, the question is, what is your chewing gum company going to do for Snort, Harrison and Wanamaker in return for these privileges?

"We are willing to accept a round sum annually for these facilities, but it will have to contain five figures. How does a check for \$20,000 strike you, with a liberal contribution to the election expenses in 1892?"

"Or, we will accept a moderate royalty on each package of gum. Or, we will accept shares of stock in your firm and you can rely on our not being dead-heads in this scheme."

"Please reply at once, as I have already been approached by a rival chewing gum firm."

"SNORT, HARRISON & WANAMAKER. (Per BILL SNORT.)"

So you see, Johnny, if this scheme works, I'll have money enough to go out West to one of the new States and get myself elected Senator.

There is no telling what amount of business we may not do. I am already negotiating with a cigar firm to supply the Department clerks with cigars, but if they don't learn they will not be in their places very long. The clerks have been taught to take a hint. If the cigar firm comes down handsomely there will be so much smoking that strangers in Washington will think the town is on fire.

The name of the brand of cigars will be La Reforma. They will really be worth about a cent a piece, but the Department clerks will get two for a quarter. The photograph of the firm of Snort, Harrison & Wanamaker, highly colored, will be on the box. Henry Clay has got his mug on cigar boxes, hence why should not the intellectual faces of living statesmen be similarly perpetuated?

I don't see any reason why this plan of raising the wind should not be extended to every article that clerks and clerkesses use. We might make an arrangement with some local bakery that pies, properly stamped with Bill Snort's features and the Lone Star of Texas, be furnished the employees for a mild consideration, no other pie maker being allowed to have access to the buildings. The ginger snaps and soda crackers might be richly embellished with the profile of the President.

You see, Johnny, that this scheme is in its infancy as yet, but when the members of the firm of Snort, Harrison & Wanamaker put their heads together and develop it more thoroughly at least nine-tenths of the salaries of the Government employees ought to go into the pockets of the new firm and the contractors who furnish the chewing gum, pies, etc. Your friend, BILL SNORT.

A Lunatic's Inside View of Pennsylvania Politics.

We give the following, communicated to the *New York Sun*, as a specimen of the rot which is passed off as sagacious political foresight and made to do duty public character. If anything else, it is certainly a curiosity.

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 15.—The recent declaration of Mayor Filer of Philadelphia in favor of Gen. Daniel H. Hastings for Governor of Pennsylvania next year may have a most important influence upon the Presidential campaign of 1892. Gen. Hastings will be best remembered as the eloquent Pennsylvanian who played Senator Sherman in nomination at the Chicago Convention last year.

Until Mayor Filer's declaration for Gen. Hastings, Senator Delamater, as Senator Quay's candidate, held the field against all comers, and the nomination of Senator Quay's man seemed so well assured that ex-Congressman William L. Scott, Editor Sincerely of the Philadelphia *Record*, Editor Meyers of the *Harrisburg Patriot*, and ex-Attorney-General Cassidy had about concluded to set the pins up for the nomination of ex-Gov. Robert E. Pattison, who defeated Gen. Beaver by 40,000 majority in 1882.

Ex-Gov. Pattison would doubtless poll many thousand more votes for Governor than any other Democrat in Pennsylvania, and with Chris Magee, the Republican leader of Philadelphia; James McManes of Philadelphia; together with some other disaffected county leaders, all combining to defeat Quay's candidate, Senator Delamater, the chances of Pattison's election would be as 60 to 40, especially as the Prohibitionists, while shouting for their nominee, would generally vote for Pattison.

With the election of Pattison, Messrs. Sincerely, Scott, Cassidy & Co., would say: "You held that Pattison's election in 1882 was an accident. He runs again, after four years' constitutional interregnum, and not only overturns the 80,000 Republican majority, but adds 30,000 majority to the Democratic column. It was not an accident this time; it was the will of the people deliberately expressed, and it stamps Robert E. Pattison as a most available candidate for President three years hence."

If Mayor Filer's candidate, Gen. Hastings, should secure the Republican nomination, Gov. Pattison would not run against him, as Hastings is by all odds the most popular Republican in Pennsylvania, and ordinarily would sweep the State by 60,000 majority.

In the event of Hastings's nomination, ex-Senator William A. Wallace would have only one competitor for the Democratic nomination, Ex-Lieut.-Gov. Chauncey F. Black, son of Judge Black; and if by any political cyclone Hastings should be snatched under, the successful Democratic candidate would become a formidable candidate for President.

One of the most surprising things in American politics is the fact that what is known as the Philadelphia traction syndicate, composed mainly of William H. Kemble, Peter A. B. Widener, and William L. Elkins, all three claiming to be Republicans, is earnestly for Cleveland's nomination.

Widener and Elkins have a grievance against President Harrison. They claim that the traction syndicate contributed \$40,000 toward Harrison's election; that they asked for one appointment only at his hands; that it was denied them; and they find that if they want political favors they must go to Democrats for them.