

Issues 1960

# Harshbarger Spurns Religion as Issue

By CAROL KUNKLEMAN

(This the seventh of a series—Issues 1960—on the stands of the presidential candidates with interpretations by University professors.) Religion—particularly the Catholicism of Sen. John F. Kennedy—has repeatedly arisen in the campaign of both Democrats and Republicans as an issue.

In a speech to the Greater Houston Ministerial Association on Sept. 12, Kennedy said: "... war and hunger and ignorance and despair know no religious barriers... they have been obscured..."

Nixon, too, has repeatedly stated that he does not intend to consider religion a topic of debate in the campaign.

But as the election draws nearer, this question is perhaps discussed more than ever: What effect will religion have on the voters?

"It will have no effect at all," Dr. Luther H. Harshbarger, University chaplain, said. "As I see it, the question in this campaign is not what religion the candidates follow, but what ecclesiastical affiliation they have."

Voters, Dr. Harshbarger said, may refrain from voting for Kennedy because of two fears: one, that the Roman Catholic Church has temporal power, and two, that the Catholic church would violate the separation of church and state as stated in the First Amendment in the Constitution.

He said that the First Amendment grew out of a different historical situation that we now have, and it was designed to prevent the establishment of

any specific church which would unduly influence the government.

"What most people don't seem to understand is that only the dogma of the Catholic Church is binding in its members. However, the moral standards of the Church can be followed only in conscience. This is the problem any man, not only a Catholic president, would have."

Harshbarger said two groups of people have aroused this issue in the campaign — political and economical conservatives who find this a convenient tool, and certain offshoot Protestant groups.

Nearly all Protestant denominations in the National Council of Churches have stated their condemnation of discrimination against candidates for public office on the grounds of religious affiliation.

Intelligent voters will assert their independence more by voting for Kennedy as a Democrat and Nixon as a Republican than as Kennedy as a Catholic and Nixon as a Quaker, Harshbarger said.

# Merrell Hits Democratic Proposals

The Democrats' new frontier is a stagecoach program which won't keep up with the jet age in America, George Merrell told the Young Republicans Club last night.

Merrell, state Young Republicans chairman and a University alumnus, urged his audience to read the Democratic platform and "think about what it would cost."

Merrell said the Democratic platform — made up from "left over bits of the New and Fair Deals" — promises to do "more and more, bigger and bigger with no increase in taxes."

Democratic nominee John F. Kennedy forgets, Merrell said, "that instant money hasn't been invented yet."

Merrell also told the students to think about what is said by the other side and try to tell the facts. "Kennedy says he is running on his record," Merrell added. "Don't let him escape that record."

Merrell discussed Kennedy's foreign policy stands and "absenteeism." He said Kennedy would be "a part-time president."

Sen. Lyndon Johnson, Kennedy's vice presidential running mate, has just realized he is supposed to speak up, Merrell said. He said the Kennedy-Johnson team is "a shotgun marriage aimed at a balance to get votes."

# WDFM to Hold 43-Hour Marathon For State College Community Fund

WDFM will hold a 43 hour marathon over the weekend to raise funds for the State College Area Joint Community Fund.

Roland H. King, station manager; Michael Ziegler, program director; and Robert A. Zamboni, producer of "Off-Beat," a WDFM program, will be broadcasting continuously over WDFM from 6 tonight until 1 p.m. Sunday from a trailer located on College Ave. across from Hammond.

The program will be on WMAJ from 8 to 10 tonight and from 7 to 9 p.m. tomorrow.

King said this will be the longest marathon ever held in the State College area. The program will consist of interviews with representatives from the 15 community service agencies that benefit from the United Fund and all types of music including coverage of the high school band day parade. The drive will continue through November 4 and the goal set is \$42,935. The slogan will be, "Count your blessings... and give!"

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