

Issues 1960

Liberal Trend Noted In Civil Rights Area

By CAROL KUNKLEMAN

(This is the ninth in a series—Issues 1960—on the stands of the presidential candidates, with interpretations by University professors.)

Presidential nominees have been more liberal in recent years on civil rights than members of their respective parties in Congress, according to R. Wallace Brewster, professor of political science.

Brewster said the tendency toward liberalism exists because the kind of person nominated and elected President reflects urban pressures rather than the heavily over-represented rural areas.

This year, he said, the past records of Kennedy and Nixon will be a more significant index to civil rights attitudes than will their platform.

Congress can "undo" platforms, no matter who wins, while it often works specifically according to the President's intention to pass or veto a measure.

Realizing the attitude of the president helps measures get passed in Congress, he said, because Congressmen often cross party lines to help each other pass or kill legislation.

Brewster cited as an example the fact that conservative Republicans and conservative Democrats sometimes form temporary coalitions or "blocs" on specific measures.

Southern Democrats made headlines this year when they united in a 6-day filibuster to block the civil rights bill.

One must understand, he said, that the Democratic party was founded on the basis that all men were equal before slavery and civil rights became issues. The Republican party was founded as a result of the issues stemming from the Civil War and civil rights, he said.

In 1959, Kennedy introduced a bill to eliminate from the National Defense Education Act (NDEA) of 1958 a provision re-

quiring loyalty oaths and affidavits from the recipients.

Nixon was co-sponsor of the Mundt-Nixon bill in 1948 to require "Communist front" organizations to register with the Attorney General.

Both Nixon and Kennedy have supported civil rights legislation. Nixon has been chairman of the President's Committee on Government Contracts, which seeks to prevent discrimination in the spending of Federal money.

No national declaration of policy has been made on desegregation by either party. The Civil Rights bill which was passed only gives Congress the power to make civil rights laws.

Will previous legislation affect the voter's decision?

According to Brewster, the voter will still have to decide on an evaluation of the candidates' records and attitudes.

"The successful presidential candidate may either have a Congress controlled by the opposition party, or may find that even his own party majority leadership is hostile to his ideas or platform promises," he said.

The Agricultural and Home Economics Extension of Penn State maintains an office in each of the State's 67 counties. During the past year 37,616 meetings were conducted which 1,200,000 persons attended.

Validity of Absences Determined; Confusion Over Penalties Arises

SGA Rules Committee has determined the validity of the excuses submitted by members who have been absent from Assembly three or more times this semester.

Robert Clapp (C.-Sr.) has missed three meetings and the committee ruled one excuse valid and the others invalid. Clapp had one previous invalid absence.

Herman Weber (C.-Sr. class president) has submitted two legal excuses for his absences, according to the committee. Weber is captain of the cross country team and was absent twice for meets. He also has one unexcused absence.

Barbara Watchhorn (U.-Soph.) has been legally absent for illness three times.

Some confusion has arisen over just what action will be taken by Assembly regarding these absences. The SGA by-laws state that Assemblymen may not have more than three absences per semester. Absences are counted whether legal or illegal.

The by-laws, according to Rules Committee Chairman Robert Harrison, do not seem to state clearly what the penalty will be. It is uncertain, Harrison said, whether the penalty should be impeachment or some milder penalty.

Should the committee report the names to the Assembly?

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Should the committee itself determine whether these names should be brought before the Assembly?

For example, Miss Watchhorn's absences have all been unavoidable. Should her name be read to the Assembly?

Harrison said that the Rules Committee will have to study the matter further by examining all verbatim minutes and old SGA agendas.

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