

Christian Front in Boston

Rallies to Beat New Deal

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By JAMES O'HANLON

BOSTON, Sept. 15.—Enemies of the New Deal are fighting for control of the Democratic Party in Massachusetts as they did in New York. In today's Senatorial primary to select a Democratic opponent to Republican Sen. Henry Cabot Lodge you could substitute ~~Joseph E. Kennedy~~ for Jim Farley, and get the reason.

Farley himself is reported to be lending a hand to Kennedy in this second move by reactionary Democrats to gain control of the 1944 national convention delegates. Farley has visited Kennedy recently.

The candidates themselves seem of less importance than the forces supporting them. The Farley-Kennedy group has received support from members of the Christian Front, Irish isolationists, and other dissident elements.

Kennedy, prevented from running himself by the seven-year residence law—he lived for several years in Florida—has put up his father-in-law, 79-year-old John E. Fitzgerald, former mayor of Boston.

'For Thee I Pine'

Fitzgerald, a sort of Boston Sen. O'Daniel known for singing *Sweet Adeline* at political rallies, is doing most of his campaigning by radio.

Running against him is Rep. Joseph E. Casey of the Third Congressional District, 43, vigorous, curly-haired, personable and a 100 per cent supporter of the New Deal.

In the beginning it seemed as though the campaign would be a walkover for Casey. That was after former Gov. Joseph Ely withdrew from the race. The other two candidates, Joseph E. Lee and Daniel H. Coakley, are conceded no chance of winning.

But Fitzgerald, intentionally or otherwise, has conducted a campaign which has its main appeal to Christian Fronters, isolationists and all reactionary Democrats, and today most observers think he is running neck-and-neck with Casey.

Here is the issue as revealed by the candidates' speeches:

Casey wants to win the war.

Fitzgerald wants to win the war BUT—

¶ Not under New Deal leadership.

¶ Not with gas rationing as presently administered.

¶ Not with fuel-oil rationing ditto.

In short, not with any plan the Administration may have for licking Hitler.

He seems to think we can win this war with living-as-usual. His speeches seem to suggest that we ought to arrange a truce with Hitler until we could fill Congress with John Fitzgeralds, and then resume the fighting. His way, of course—or Joe Kennedy's.

Supported by Hearst

Fitzgerald is supported by Boston's two Hearst newspapers. Hearst columnists lately have been making a vicious attack on Henry Parkman, Jr., state director of the Office of Price Administration, who is in charge of gasoline rationing. Pretext for the attack was Parkman's investigation of the misuse or excessive use of gasoline by people driving daily to Rockingham race track.

The attack has a twofold purpose:

1. To appeal to the race-track element, which largely supports the Hearst papers in Boston.

2. To stir disunity and discontent, and thus increase defections from the New Deal.

The intemperate tone of the criticism practically incites Boston motorists to ignore rationing.

Parkman has been labelled "Heinrich Parkman" and the "fuehrer of fuel" and his investigators the "gas gestapo."

One column, published under the incredible title *Don't Hurt the Poor*, thus did its best to insure continued large attendance at the race tracks:

"We find no fault with Mr. Parkman's efforts to conserve gasoline and rubber, and we are quite sure that most other Americans will be of the same mind, even those who are more apt to serve the country as \$50-a-month buck privates than as \$6500 administrators.

"BUT WHY SINGLE OUT HORSE RACING—THE POOR MAN'S SPORT—FOR ATTACK AND CRITICISM? (*Capitals Hearst's, not ours.*)"

Fitzgerald in his speeches does not attack the President by name, but the implication is plain. He would put a stop to all "blundering and lack of foresight" such as that "exhibited in the rubber situation"; he would not let Latin America become the "playground of the movie-actor diplomat or the good-will tourist who has not the faintest notion of its religious traditions"; he would abolish "easy commissions for theatrical celebrities" while your sons serve in the ranks; he would restore to Congress the dignity it ought to have; he would not be a "rubber stamp."

That's his platform.

Problem for Casey

To be sure, he does disavow Christian Front support. Not publicly; he seems to think it's not an issue. But he told me that "I don't have anything to do with those fellows."

Unequivocal as that may be, John Fitzgerald knows that it isn't going to cost him the vote of a single Coughlinites. And there are more of them in Boston than in any other city.

According to their point of view, politicians will tell you that the Christian Front is or is not a factor in the campaign. But Boston's clear Irish majority unquestionably is.

That's the vote that Casey has to cut into to win. Against his chances of getting it are these factors:

¶ He isn't well known in Boston.

¶ He has a consistent record of support of the President.

¶ Favoring his chances are these facts:

¶ He has youth, is good looking, and a good campaigner.

¶ He has the support of House Majority Leader John McCormick.

¶ He thinks he can convince the Irish that he can win the election but that Fitzgerald can't.

People in Boston tell you that if Fitzgerald loses it will be because he's too well known.

"I can beat Lodge," he says. "I'm the only Democrat who can get Republican votes."

The record bears him out in this. He is the only Democrat ever elected from the Third Congressional District. First elected in 1934, he is now serving his fourth term.

He left school in World War I to enlist as a private. After the war he commuted from Clinton to Boston University to get his law degree.

He's just as Irish as Fitzgerald. His mother was born in Galway and his father is one generation removed from Ireland. They had eight children. Casey has three.

He is ranking member of the House Naval Subcommittee, a member of the Appro-



Rep. Joseph E. Casey, 100 per cent supporter of the New Deal, seeks Democratic nomination for Senator in Massachusetts today.

priations and Dies Committees. He usually dissents from Dies Committee reports.

He says there's only one real issue: whether the people are willing to support FDR in the war and make the necessary sacrifices. That in itself takes courage in a state where animosity toward Roosevelt, among a large segment of the population, assays as high as that in any other.

But Casey is at bat for FDR and he says he won't strike out.