

SOUTHEASTERN TEXAS POLITICS

John Henry Kirby was a member of Senator Joseph Bailey's (gubernatorial candidate) reception committee. Speaking at a meeting of the Salesmen's Club at the Rice Hotel, on "Duties of Citizens During Present Times", Kirby attacked "organizations striving to make privileges for a class." He said, "These organizations, which have entered politics, to secure privileges for a class, are now demanding by law an 8-hour day, the closed shop, and the right to picket any industry or business who dares to dispute them...Swat the socialist and non-partisan league and vote for the men who will stand up for you." --Houston Post: 7/24/20; P.3, c.1.

Col. 2--same edition: The Non-Partisan League was introduced to Texas by North Dakota Republicans. (Ed. note -- The League backed certain candidates in the Democratic Primary in the Lone Star State. Senators ~~Nye~~ and Frazier ought to know something about this, because they received the backing of the League in N.D. at about this time).

The Houston Post accused the League of including "radical socialists, communists, bolshevists, I.W.W.'s and other government-wreckers of the revolutionary brood." The paper charged that the only League-backed candidate it favored -- Congressional Candidate Daniel E. Garrett -- had been placed on the League's ticket without his solicitation. Its description of the League is typical of the Southeastern Texas conception of progressive organizations--and it is the Southeastern Texas environment in which Martin Dies was reared and launched his legal and political careers.

To the Post's credit, it accused Joseph W. Bailey -- J. H. Kirby's man -- of being against women suffrage, child labor legislation, of being pro-German (this was 1920), and anti-Wilson, Cox and Roosevelt. Bailey raised the open shop-vs.-closed shop issue. Thomason's (endorsed by Post) position was that the state government could merely enforce the law. He was opposed to profiteering by business, favored freedom for labor to better its conditions as long as it did not result to violence and anarchy to enforce its demands.

According to the Post: 7/5/24--P.7, col. 3, Kirby spoke before 4,000 employees of the Kirby Lumber Company's mills and logging camps at a July 4th Celebration. After discussing the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, Kirby gave 41 "examples" of liberty, including:

"Liberty is the right to require your children to perform certain essential services without coercion from your Government!"

"Liberty is the right to accept the Sermon on the Mount without the consent of Jews, Pagans, Mohammedans, Buddhists or any others."

"Liberty is the right to be sprinkled without the consent of the Immersionists and to be immersed without the consent of the Sprinklers."

Kirby also said the liberty meant the right to believe in certain concepts of Christianity without the consent of the Jews, the right to believe in the New Testament without the consent of materialists, and the right to believe in Genesis without the consent of scientists. Four years later, the paper, in quoting Sunday sermons, showed that one minister was deeply concerned over the lowering of women's stature due to bobbed hair, and another minister felt that one-piece bathing suits led to such sexual passions that they might eventuate in lustful murder.

Houston Post, 8/11/24: "There are a number of strong Republican gubernatorial possibilities," Creager (Rene B. Creager, National G.O.P. Committeeman from Texas) said, naming among them T.P. Lee, Frank Andrews, JOHN H. KIRBY and Will C. Hogg of Houston."

Houston Post, 7/19/22: -p. 4: col. 6,7,8, carried a political ad by the "Protestant Committee":

"These Are the Facts

"The Knights of Columbus in secret session in Westheimer Hall on Monday, July 10th, at 8 P.M., with Dave Fitzgerald presiding, endorsed a certain ticket to be voted on next Saturday, July 22, in opposition to the Protestant candidates.

"The Jews, at Concordia Hall, on Tuesday, July 11th, at 8 P.M., with a Mr. Lipper presiding, secretly endorsed the same candidates endorsed by the Knights of Columbus.

"The Following are the Protestant Candidates:..."

Front page heading, Houston Post, 7/23/22:

"Protestant Candidates Swept

"To Victory By Huge Landslide"

Houston Post, 7/29/28, p. 9, col. 3:

"In order to cope with new conditions brought about by an almost phenomenal increase in business, the ORGANCE CAR AND STEEL CO. has inaugurated an 11½-hour day schedule at its plant..."

Dies' father (Judge Martin Dies) won his Congressional race by unseating Cooper. Both had offices in the same building and showed each other their telegrams bearing election results. Cooper was unexcited, claiming that he hoped that, whoever won, it would be for the best. This was in 1908. The last time Martin Dies I. ran was in 1916. That year, he defeated Howth, and was disappointed in that his margin of victory was not greater.