

Wallace Has a Third Party to Build

By Jack Anderson

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — The big question politicians are asking is whether George Wallace can keep his third party alive. Will the United States desert its unique two-party system? Teddy Roosevelt, Bob La Follette, Strom Thurmond and Henry Wallace have launched third parties in this century. All fizzled. Will George Wallace be an exception?

The shellacking he took at the polls, his friends say, hasn't diminished his determination to reach the White House. He bounced back from defeat when he first ran for Governor of Alabama, and they expect him to pursue the Presidency with the same doggedness.

After John Patterson defeated him for the governorship in 1958, Wallace campaigned up and down the state for the next four years. He shook hands at every country crossroads, spoke in every grubby hall, hustled votes down every country lane.

He also learned the catchwords and cliches that arouse the rabble. In his 1958 campaign he had posed as the champion of the unwashed, but he had been a racial moderate. He discovered, however, that Alabama voters were more fired up over desegregation than over economics. Never again, he told friends, would he let anyone "out-seg" him.

So for the next four years, friends predict George Corley Wallace will apply nationally the tactics that made him a power in Alabama. He will crisscross the country, repeating the slogans that inflame the crowds, in behalf of his third-party movement.

He will attempt to establish the American Independent Party as a permanent force in all 50 states. He will encourage third-party candidates to run for state and local offices. Some insiders believe he will run for Governor or Senator in Alabama himself in 1970 to gain a better platform for his next presidential campaign.

Wallace's Law Firm

The only announcement Wallace has made is that he will return to his law practice. This has prospered in the past without his direct participation. His Montgomery, Ala., law firm—Wallace and Wallace—is run by his brother, Gerald "Sag" Wallace. The practice consists chiefly of clients who seek favors from the state.

The Wallace brothers had little money before George became Governor. While George was scaling the political peaks, Sag soared to the financial heights, though he denies he's traded on his brother's name.

Alabama businessmen have complained that George Wallace has bled them dry of campaign funds.

Wallace has also collected thousands of dollars from

right-wing extremists who have thoroughly infiltrated his movement.

In many states, the Wallace campaign was organized by the John Birch Society, which dispensed extremist Birchite literature out of Wallace-for-President headquarters.

Both George Wallace and the John Birch Society, apparently, are using one another for their own purposes.

"I am not going to denounce the John Birch Society," Wallace has said. "I know a few of its members in Alabama, and they are some of our finest citizens."

It is a measure of Wallace's political flexibility that he started out in politics as a moderate. He attended the famous 1948 Democratic convention as an alternate delegate. When Hubert Humphrey delivered his ringing civil rights speech that caused Strom Thurmond to lead a massive Southern walkout, Wallace, believe it or not, stayed behind.

He refused to join Thurmond's third-party movement in 1948 and remained a loyal Democrat. Now he has discovered he can make more political hay as a demagogue than a Democrat and is leading the third-party movement he had spurned 20 years ago.

Nixon's Judges

The South is waiting to see what kind of judges Richard

Nixon will appoint. In the past, Republican Presidents usually have appointed better Southern judges than Democratic Presidents because they didn't have to get their judges OK'd in advance by Southern Senators.

President Eisenhower, for instance, appointed some of the best judges the South has seen in a long time, including Elbert Tuttle in Atlanta, John Minor Wisdom in New Orleans, John R. Brown in Houston and Frank Johnson in Montgomery, Ala.

On the other hand, President Kennedy appointed Ole Miss roommate of Sen. Jim Eastland (D-Miss.), Judge Harold Cox, who once referred to Negroes as a "bunch of Niggers" and compared them to chimpanzees. Last week, however, Judge Cox handed down a directed verdict in a civil rights case which led to a \$1,022,150 verdict against the Ku Klux Klan.

President Johnson appointed former Gov. James Coleman to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals and, although the appointment caused some criticism, Coleman has turned out to be a fair and forthright judge.

President Nixon, however, will face the problem of Sen. Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.) and a commitment to clear all Federal judges in the South with him.

© 1968, Bell-McClure Syndicate, Inc.