

This mainly goes into how Rizzo and Specter are top contenders for mayor though both say they will not run. Thought you might want for Specter file--I don't need it. Let's hope neither runs for both are terrible men whose interests are not the people's.

HR

BULLETIN 8/28/70

Voters Looking Ahead to 1971 Mayoralty Race

Fall Elections Overshadowed In Talk Here

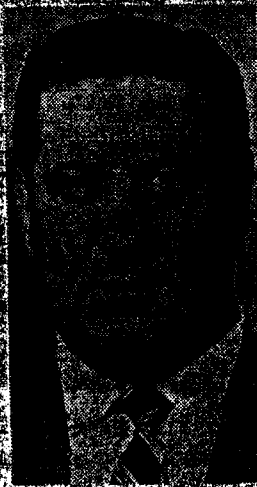
By JOSEPH F. LOWRY
Of The Bulletin Staff

Philadelphians are showing a growing interest in politics these days, but it's not so much in the gubernatorial and senate elections of Nov. 3 as it is in the 1971 mayoralty race.

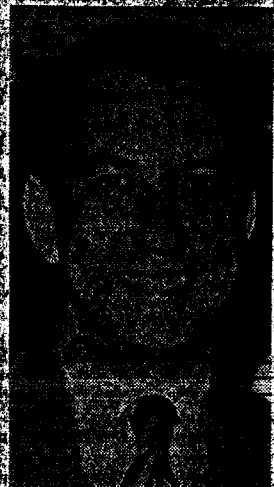
Who's going to run this city when Mayor Tate goes?

That's been the question for weeks in places where people discuss crime, drugs, teacher strikes, women's liberation, municipal budgets and new taxes. And that's just about everywhere.

Even when the conversation starts out about the gubernatorial contest between Republican Lt. Gov. Raymond J. Broderick and Democrat Mil-



Frank L. Rizzo



Arlen Specter

News Analysis

ton Shapp, or the U. S. Senate fight between Hugh Scott, GOP incumbent, and State Sen. William G. Sesler, someone invariably says:

"Yeah, but who's going to get Tate's job?"

Centers on Rizzo

Most of the talk centers on Police Commissioner Frank L. Rizzo, 49, now riding a popularity wave that many politicians concede could put him in almost any office he seeks.

And on either ticket, even though he's a registered Democrat.

But Rizzo, when asked today how he felt about the circulation of bumper stickers, posters and literature boasting him for mayor, replied:

"I'm flattered but I have no desire to get into politics. I have great confidence in the people of this city and they

will make certain the right man is elected to this high office."

Told it sounded like an off-the-hook-for-the-moment statement, Rizzo said:

"I am very happy with the job I have."

Still it is pretty hard to believe the commissioner could be persuaded to run. He could retire on a \$20,000-a-year pension and put his popularity ratings to the test.

Should he be defeated, he could get a dozen other good jobs, or open his own security agency.

There are others being mentioned for next year's primary race.

Republican Slate

On the Republican side are District Attorney Allen Specter, City Councilmen Thatcher Longstreth and Thomas Foglietta and City Controller Thomas J. Gold.

Said the 46-year-old Specter today, nine months before the candidates for mayor are nominated:

"I am not going to be a candidate. I've got an important job to do as district attorney."

Asked if he would take the job under party pressure, he replied firmly:

"I will not be a candidate."

Under any condition or any amount of pressure would you be a candidate?

"I am not going to be a candidate. Period."

Longstreth, 49, executive vice president of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, was asked if he plans to run for mayor. He answered:

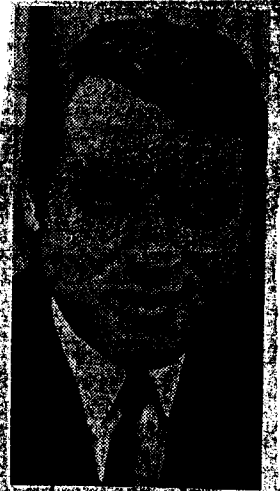
"It's pretty hard to tell. I would be interested if certain events took place. If those events did not take place, I would not be interested."

He listed these events as:

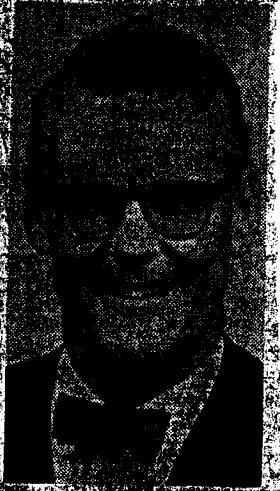
Specter Leads Field
"Support for me of the Republican organization, a feeling there would be an acceptance of my candidacy by the black community, a favorable reaction from the business community and from a substantial segment of labor with which I have friendly relationships, and an affirmative reaction from my boss—the wife."

Longstreth was asked to rate

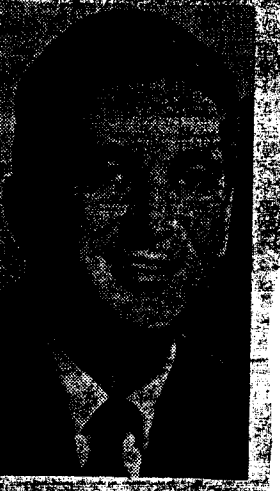
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Thomas J. Gold



Thatcher Longstreth



Thomas M. Foglietta

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the field of GOP possibilities. He said:

"Right now, there is only one candidate. He is Specter. Any Republican who carries Philadelphia by over 100,000 votes (for reelection over David Berger last year) puts himself in a class none of the rest of us could approach.

"If Specter declines to run, then a number of others including myself come under serious consideration."

Would you throw your hat in the ring if Specter declined to run?

"If those other events came to pass, it is entirely possible."

Asked whether he thought his defeat for mayor in 1955 by Richardson Dilworth might hurt his chances of being nominated, Longstreth replied:

"Not at all. It took place 15 years ago when our party was at a low ebb. Other than giving me vast experience, it has no relationship to the present situation. In 1967, I ran 5,000 votes ahead of other Republican candidates for Council. It was the largest margin any Republican has enjoyed under the new city charter (since 1951)."

Could Win Either Post

Questioned on Rizzo's chances, Longstreth said:

"If Rizzo ran tomorrow he could be elected governor of Pennsylvania or the mayor on either ticket by acclamation. On the other hand, he has indicated—and I believe him—he has no interest in running for elective office."

When told he was being mentioned as a candidate for mayor, Gola, 36, snapped:

"I don't know who put my name in there. I don't know who's doing that to me."

Asked if he would run if GOP leaders prevailed upon him, he replied:

"I would recommend Specter. But we have an organization, leadership and a team. They will thrash it out. I really would like to remain as city controller so I can help the city's finances back in order."

Foglietta could not be reached. He is in Europe. But in 1967 he expressed a strong interest.

Devlin's Choice

Republican City Chairman William J. Devlin said his personal choice is Specter. He added:

"He is unquestionably the

most popular. He has a tremendous background in city government, having practiced law before all its boards and commissions and having investigated many of its departments.

"Specter's campaigning (for DA) in 1965, in 1967 (for mayor) and last year (for DA) demonstrated his ability at campaigning. He reaches out to the people, knows their problems and is sympathetic to them."

Devlin said Specter made some campaign mistakes in trying to oust Tate as mayor in 1967. He referred to aid to nonpublic schools on which Specter said he was for it "if it is constitutionally correct" while Tate demanded passage of the bill. He also pointed to Specter's refusal to say he would keep Rizzo as his police commissioner.

"Specter was not politically astute at that time," Devlin said. "He did not know Tate was angling for the Italian vote while he (Specter) refused, as candidates do, to name cabinet members before being elected."

Praises Commissioner

"Tate also was drawing Specter into a controversy with Catholics on the school aid bill. Arlen won't make the same mistakes again. Then he was dealing with a clever politician who aroused voters' emotions by false issues."

The GOP chairman said he



David Cohen



William J. Green



Joshua Eilberg



Paul D'Ortona

takes Rizzo at his word he won't run.

Asked if he would accept Rizzo if Specter turned the nomination down, Devlin said:

"We'll pick a man who can lead our party to victory. There is no point in picking a fellow popular today but not able to win."

William A. Meehan, de facto chief of the GOP, said he has "a completely open mind about the mayor's race." He added:

"The Republican Party is loaded with talent. It is too early to be picking candidates."

He said he would accept Rizzo "if we determine he is

the best candidate.

Control By Tate

Meehan said his party uses public opinion polls constantly but we won't let ourselves become slaves to them; we're for the best-qualified candidate.

Although Tate is a lame-duck mayor, he will control the patronage until the start of 1972. Thus, he will have much to say about the Democratic nominee. He was unavailable for questioning on his choice or choices.

Besides Rizzo as a possible Democratic nominee, there are U. S. Rep. William J. Green, 32, City Council President Paul D'Ortona, 66, Councilman David Cohen, 55, and U. S. Rep. Joshua Ellberg.

Green is considered a strong possibility. His friends say he feels he can win and will work incessantly for the job. While he's not bored with Washington, he longs for more action, they say.

His resignation as city chairman brought him closer to independents in the city while not tearing him away from the party organization. Even Tate has kind words for him.

Green, on vacation, could not be reached but as long ago as last winter, he said:

"I would not be telling the truth if I didn't say I was giving it (the mayor's race) serious thought. Any young man in politics would not be telling the truth if he disclaimed an interest in seeking an office generally considered more re-

sponsible than the one he holds."

Bigger Problems

The congressman's actions and speeches since indicate no change of mind.

D'Ortona, when asked if he would run next year, said:

"We've got bigger problems right now than who's going to be our next mayor. We must first settle these problems—taxes, the budget and other things. These are most important to the people right now."

Cohen, who has a large following among the city's liberals and blacks, said he is giving a great deal of thought to whether he will run for mayor. He added:

"Many people have indicated their view it would be a person who could do the job and they have been encouraging me to do it. I think it will be in the Democratic primary."

He was elected to City Council by running as an independent in 1967 and defeated the organization candidate. If I announce my candidacy for mayor, it would reflect my confidence in being able to not only do the job but to win the nomination from any candidate the Democratic organization might designate.

Ellberg comes into the 1971 scene because Philadelphia is faced with the loss of one of its five congressmen—all Democrats. Since he is the junior, it is expected his district in the Northeast will be merged with one in Bucks County.

This won't be decided, however, until after the Nov. 3 election. Control of the Legislature might well determine how the redistricting will be done and whom it will affect.

Should Ellberg face defeat through redistricting he might ask the Democratic organization for the mayoralty nomination.

But in the game of politics, a lot can happen between now and the fall of 1971.