



Art Buchwald

Democratic Prognostication: Recovery Uncertain by Nov.

After every political convention, doctors are called in to bind the wounds and strengthen the heart of the Party. The house doctor for the Democratic Party is Dr. Heinrich Applebaum, who arrived on Friday.

"Mein Gott." He said horrified. "What happened? I never saw such a mess."

"We tried to get you as soon as possible, doctor."

"I didn't have the right credentials to get through the police lines."

"Hurry doctor, do something."

"Well first we better get the tear gas out of here. The Party can't breathe and the pulse is very bad."

"We've tried to bring in fresh air doctor, but tear gas has now become a symbol of the Party, and its making us all cry."

"What happened to the left arm of the Party? Its almost been severed."

"It occurred during the platform fight on Vietnam, doctor. We gave first aid,

but we don't know if we can save it or not."

"It's badly bruised."

"Dr. McCarthy said the arm must go. What do you think Dr. Applebaum?"

"It doesn't look so good, but I don't see how the Party can function without it. The right arm seems shaky. How did that happen?"

"Credentials fight. We lost a lot of blood. Dr. George Wallace took a look at it and said the right arm ought to come off, too."

"Has anyone thought to give the patient a transfusion?"

"Yes doctor, but at this

stage its hard to find any donors. People think its a hopeless case."

"Nothing's hopeless." Dr. Applebaum said angrily. "But I'm going to have to operate immediately."

"What are you going to do?"

"First we have to stitch up all the wounds that the Party got here in Chicago. I'm going to have to do some plastic surgery on the face, and change the image. And I'm going to have to cut out as many bones of contention as I can. Look, this Humphrey rib has been leaning on this Johnson muscle and it can't grow that way. I don't want to remove the Johnson muscle altogether, but the less we see of it now, the better chance the patient will have of winning back its health."

"I know its a terrible thing to ask, but does it look like we've got a chance?"

"I think I can keep the party alive, but I'm not sure if it will recover from the shock, by November."

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