

Will Mr. Yorty Find Fulfillment?



Arthur Hoppe

FORMER Los Angeles Mayor Sam Yorty, who had been accepted by his friends as a Democrat all his life, stunned both of them last week by publicly announcing he was really a Republican.

Mr. Yorty thus follows in the footsteps of such famous trans-partyites as Governor Reagan of California, Vice President Agnew of America and John Connally, who owns Texas.

Much morbid curiosity has been aroused as to where and how these party change operations are performed and what the chances are for the patient to henceforth lead a politically satisfying life.

Most such operations are performed, of course, in Denmark. The pioneer in the field there is Dr. Homer T. Pettibone, D.V.M., who kindly agreed to satisfy the public's morbid curiosity with the morbid answers.

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"THIS operation," Dr. Pettibone began proudly, "offers tremendous hope to thousands of politicians, who outwardly exhibit all the attributes of one party, but who know in their hearts they are secretly members of the other.

"This psychological inner conflict creates headaches, post-nasal drip and a deep dissatisfaction with their political life. They are completely unable to enjoy politics in a normal fashion. In a word, they're a mess."

As an illustration of how the operation works, Dr. Pettibone generously released his file on Mr. Y, the former mayor of the largest city between Oxnard and Anaheim, whom he declined, for professional reasons, to identify.

Mr. Y came to him last November following his defeat for re-election. "Somehow, Doc," Mr. Y said, "I don't feel politically fulfilled. I can't get any political gratification any more as Democrat."

"Tell me, Mr. Y," said Dr. Pettibone, tapping his fingertips together, "do you sometimes lock the door of your bedroom and dress up in a conservative pin-striped suit with a Nixon button on the lapel?"

"By George!" cried Mr. Y in surprise. "How did you ever know?"

"It's a typical case, Mr. Y," said the doctor. "You are what is professionally termed 'a closet Republican.' Now then, do you have anxiety feelings in the presence of reporters, most of whom are Democrats?"

"Yes, exactly," said Mr. Y. "They're always sneering and jeering at me. They say snide things about my travels abroad and my stylish living. And I feel uncomfortable with labor leaders and Neg ... blacks. I can tell they don't accept me as one of them."

"Precisely," said the doctor. "Inwardly you have always been a Republican. And as you've grown more affluent, these secret feelings have grown overpowering. All you need do, sir, is renounce beer, bowling, Newsweek, talking about the common man and busing your children to public schools in favor of Chivas Regal, golf, Fortune, talking about the sound dollar and busing your children to private schools."

"Gosh, Doc, I don't know if ..."

"Just say to yourself the motto of The Pol Lib Front, Mr. Y," said Dr. Pettibone. "I'd rather switch than fight."

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BECAUSE of the affluence factor, Dr. Pettibone said, the political change operation is far more successful with nominal Democrats than nominal Republicans. He cited the case of a well known Republican mayor of New York who, not knowing which way to turn, became a Democrat.

"The operation was a tremendous success," said Dr. Pettibone. "Unfortunately, the patient is politically dead."