

**Matter of Fact**

# Peace Candidates Having Difficulties

**Joseph Alsop**

**T**HE MOST interesting aspect of the New York primary was what did not happen. Representative John J. Rooney, did not get beaten by a fairly personable "peace" candidate, Peter Eikenberry.

Eikenberry, a lawyer rather briefly resident in Rooney's 14th Congressional District, had the special endorsement of the great student Movement for a New Congress. The Movement's foundation at Princeton caused a lot of headlines, suggesting that the pure-in-heart would soon drive the money-changers from the temple of American politics.

After Eikenberry won the Movement's endorsement at a huge student meeting at Columbia University, scores of the pure-in-heart flooded into the faintly astonished 14th District.

There was important advance publicity, too, about the Rooney-Eikenberry contest. In sum, if Eikenberry had edged out Rooney by 11,000 to 10,000 votes, we should now be hearing the triumph of the pure-in-heart being trumpeted to all the world. But as it was just the other way around, the result has been passed over, almost in silence.

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**T**HE PATTERN was almost identical in the earlier primary in New Jersey that pitted another Democratic veteran, Charles Patten, against another "peace" candidate, the youthful Lewis B. Kaden.

The pure-in-heart turned up in exceptionally strong force.

Patten won a two to one majority over Kaden. And again there was no great impact, whereas there would have been a national clamor if Patten had lost.

Earlier still, in Philadelphia, great numbers of students attempted to help an ultra-"peace" candidate, Nicholas Lamont, defeat Representative James A. Byrne. As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, Byrne was a special target. But Byrne won by nearly three-to-one.

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**W**HAT NEEDS thinking about is the response that would have been evoked, if any of the three sitting Representatives had been defeated in their primaries with conspicuous student help.

That would have given a powerful impetus to the dissenting students' drive towards political participation this year. Contrariwise, three failures in a row are bound to be a bit dampening. A loss of steam is unavoidable, in fact.

Moreover, that is not the end of New York's bad news for the students and their older admirers. The Democratic ticket nominated in New York is an astonishing mish-mash. None of its chosen members showed any personal pulling power except the black candidate for Lieutenant Governor, Basil Patterson and Senator Robert Kennedy's former aide, Adam Walinsky, running for Attorney General.