

# Go Stuff a Republican



**Arthur Hoppe**

**J**UST IN THE nick of time a bill has been introduced in Congress to declare Republicans an endangered species.

In dramatic testimony before the House Wildlife Committee, the noted ornithologist, Dr. J. Livingston Segal, declared that recent surveys showed the number of Republicans had dwindled drastically during the past year.

"Furthermore," he said, "those that have somehow survived are threatened by mass slaughter during the hunting season this fall."

Oddly enough, he said, Republicans had been flourishing in past decades — spreading from their native breeding grounds in the Midwest even into the Deep South, where none had ever been spotted before. . . . But in recent months, he said, their natural environment had been radically altered by pollution seeping through carelessly unclosed watergates. "As a result," he said, "one seldom hears their familiar cheery cry of 'Good Government!' any more and their sources of sustenance have all but dried up.

"Unless they are declared an endangered species, and soon," Dr. Segal grimly warned, "Republicans will go the way of the carrier pigeon and the dodo bird."

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**U**NDER cross-examination, Dr. Segal conceded the Republicans, as do any creatures, were struggling desperately to avoid extinction.

Most, he said, were striving to sever their symbiotic link with the largest of their species (genus Nixonis). The Nixonis, itself, he said, was still laying numerous eggs, but most proved rotten and this disability appeared to be infecting surviving flocks.

Other Republicans, he said, are adopt-

ing protective coloration, attempting to disguise themselves as harmless Independents. And some, he reported, are even turning on the Nixonis, as do sharks on a wounded member of their own kind.

"But Republicans are handicapped by a quirk of evolution that left them with a large right wing and a miniscule left wing," he said. "They can thus fly only in circles, as the present crisis demonstrates. Weakened as they are, they will therefore fall easy prey to their natural predators, the Democrats.

"Unless this bill passes," Dr. Segal concluded, "our children will grow up never to see a Republican — except in the Smithsonian, stuffed."

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**I**N ADDITION to declaring them an endangered species, the bill provides for sanctuaries in the Midwest where surviving Republicans can be protected, studied and fed. Experts differ, unfortunately, as to whether the species, even with their survival at stake, would accept government handouts.

But all conservationists agree the effort must be made. "Republicans are part of our great American heritage," said one. "And they deserve to be saved from extinction just as much as the condor, the hump-backed whale and the giant three-toed sloth."

Moreover, as Dr. Segal pointed out, they are part of a complex bio-ecological system. If they become extinct, the Democrats will be next.

"Without Republicans to feed on," he warned, "Democrats will succumb to their peculiar, lemming-like compulsion for self-destruction. Within a few years, we can confidently predict, the Democrats will have eaten each other all up."