

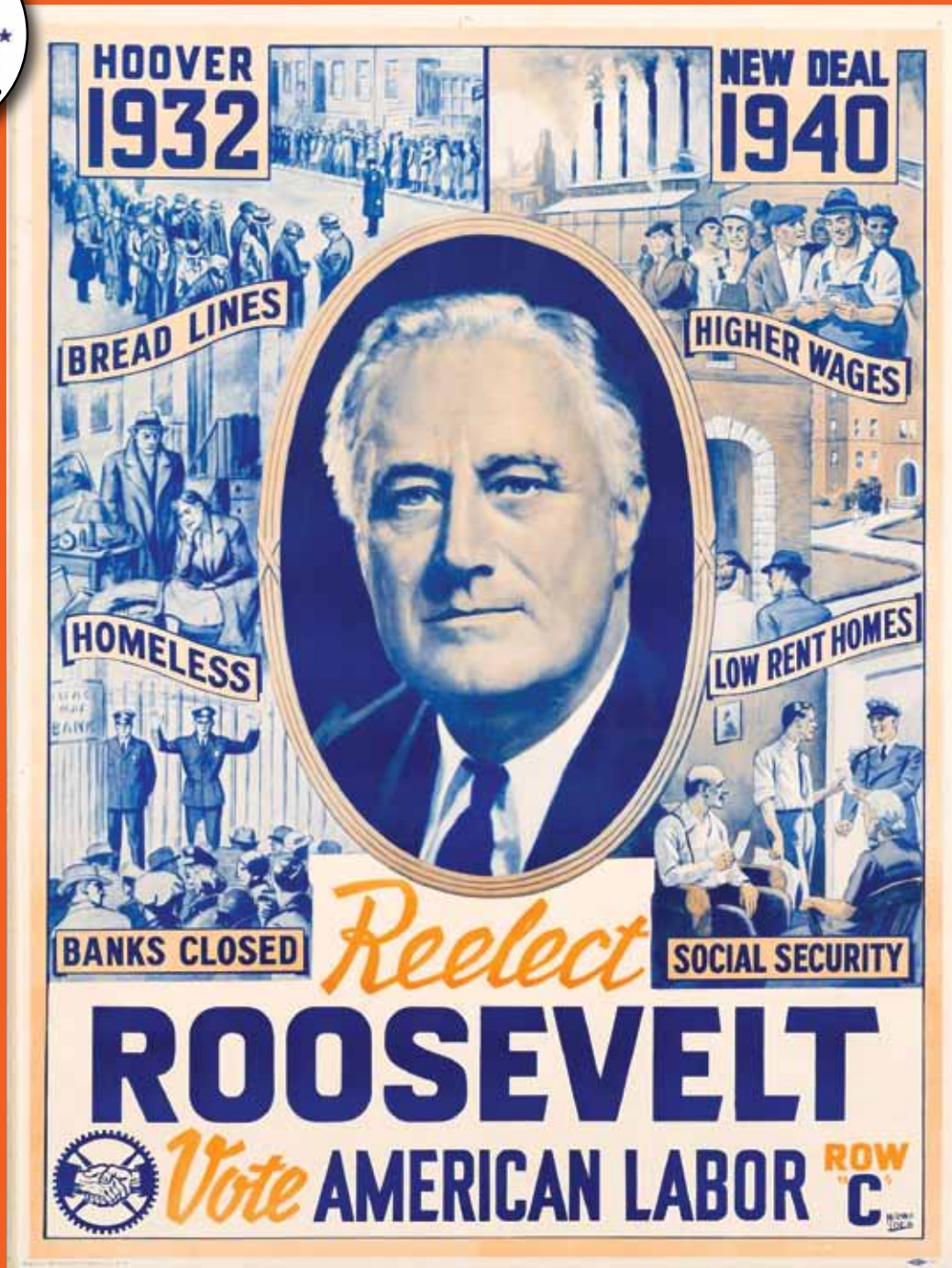
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WINTER 2017

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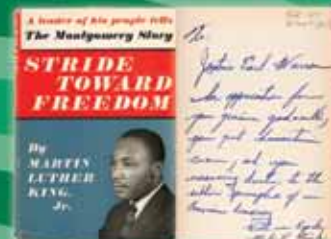
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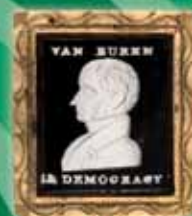
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FROM THE APIC PRESIDENT

Democrats and Republicans (and their predecessors, Federalists and Whigs) like to discuss our “two party system” and have enshrined that system in election law. Beyond those major parties, there were always other parties asking for our vote. The Republicans were a minor party once but moved into second place the first time they offered a presidential candidate, brushing past the dying Whig Party.

Every generation sees a serious attempt to create a new alternative (such as Theodore Roosevelt in 1912, Robert LaFollette in 1924, Henry Wallace in 1948, George Wallace in 1968, John Anderson in 1980 and Ross Perot in 1992) but none survived. Other minor parties, like the Socialists, sustained an effort for decades but never could break into big time. The Libertarian and Green parties are examples of modern minor parties who have consistently appeared on ballots since the 70's or 80's but have also had trouble gaining traction. However, they have won some state house seats and both exert influence on major party platforms and can play roles in elections as they tend to pull votes away from the major party candidates.



The story of the American Labor Party is a fine case study of a minor party that burst onto the scene, had a significant impact, and collapsed. The two huge coalitions that compose our two major parties are in a constant state of readjustment. Minor parties often give us early clues as to future trends.

Martha and I look forward to seeing many of you at our Springfield National this summer. Happy collecting and help preserve our history!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron Puechner". The script is fluid and cursive.

Ron Puechner, President

Each issue contains images drawn from the collections of APIC members and many other sources. In not all cases are the images used of the density they should be for sharpness in publication, but on a few occasions, the importance of presenting the image outweighs its quality.

Our policy is to endeavor to size pinbacks as accurately as possible (since there may be several sizes of the same pin known or yet to be discovered}, but ribbons, banners, paper and 3D items are not usually shown in actual size.

We encourage members to submit images of their own items for publication in the Keynoter. Topics for future issues will be announced several months in advance on the APIC Facebook page. Images must be submitted in a digital .jpg format against a white background in a minimum of 300 dpi. If you do not have the availability of a scanner, local print shops such as Kinko's usually offer a scanning service for a small fee.

If you have any questions about how to do this, please contact the Keynoter Illustrations Editor Germaine Broussard: watrwitch@erols.com All images should be sent to Ms. Broussard

THE KEYNOTER

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

New York's multi-party system always fascinated me. Few American states allow a range of partisan choices, preferring to write laws that support the two major parties and impede smaller parties. While many states may have at least a few minor parties on the ballot, New York permits parties to cross-nominate a candidate, which allows citizens to vote for candidates with a good chance of winning while still indicating a preference for a different party. FDR would run as a Democrat but would also be the candidate of the American Labor Party or the Liberal Party. Sometimes candidates would appear on three or more ballot lines. That factor gave New York a very healthy electoral environment.



The dominance of progressives in that state (even Republicans like Rockefeller, Javits and Lindsay were clearly liberals) gave rise to the NY Conservative Party under Wm. F. Buckley, Jr. and his brother James Buckley, which rapidly pulled the gravitational center of that state to the Right.

In recent years, parties like the Right to Life Party and The Rents Too Damn High Party showed the breadth of personal views without hampering stable governance.

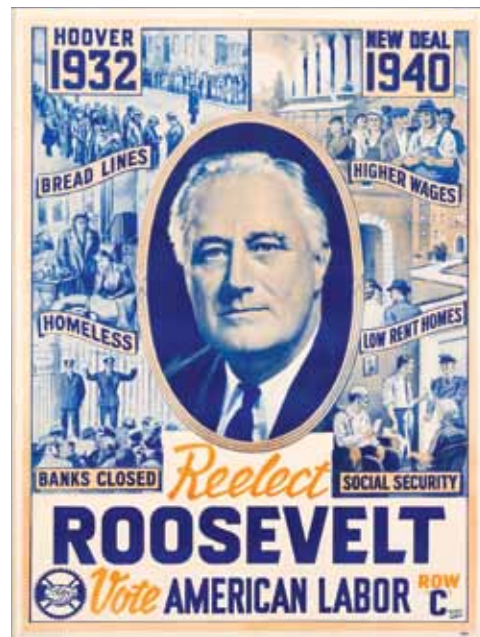
This issue on the American Labor Party illustrates the power of a more open electoral system. Most states ban cross-nominations as a means of keeping minor parties weak. Given the polarization of our current politics, this unusual system may have something to teach the rest of the nation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Kelly".

Michael Kelly
Editor

Features

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- 35 More Curley Items



FRONT COVER-- 1940 ALP campaign poster.

SUBMISSIONS-- This is your publication. Please feel free to share your ideas, suggestions, illustrations and stories. The Keynoter is delighted to share pictures of interesting political Americana with its readers. When submitting an illustration, send it as an .eps, .jpg or .pdf file to michaekellyflint@gmail.com. Illustrations should be in color and submitted in digital format with at least 300 dpi resolution (preferably higher). Files must be created at 100% of actual size or larger (smaller risks losing clarity). Digital electronic images should be saved to a minimum of 300 dpi as TIF, GIF, JPEG or EPS files, preferably in Adobe Photoshop.

If you don't have access to a scanner or high-resolution digital camera, you can take your items to graphic service bureaus, such as Kinko's, and have them scanned in the specification mentioned above. You can then send the file by e-mail, on a CD or on a zip disk. If sending by zip disk, please supply return address.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



John Vargo's "Al Smith Campaigning in Milwaukee" (Summer 2017) was one of the best stories on the Milwaukee Press Club that I've ever seen. I speak from experience, having served as president of the club in 1980, 1981 and 2005. The club is the oldest continuously operating press club in North America and one of the oldest in the world. John described the practice, begun in the 1890s, of having visiting dignitaries sign plaques to be displayed on the walls of the club's headquarters.

Because John has never visited the club, he referred to an "image of Anubis" (a mummified cat) shown in the photo of Al Smith signing his plaque. I assure you the mummified cat pictured is not an "image."

It's the real thing and has been displayed in club headquarters since about 1895. The club is now based in the Newsroom Pub in the shadow of Milwaukee's historic City Hall. The pub is open to the public and I encourage APIC members visiting Milwaukee to stop in to see the signatures AND the club's longtime mascot, the mummified cat named Anubis.

Roger Stafford (APIC #8924)

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The Rise and Fall of the American Labor Party of New York, 1936-1956

By John Vargo

Among the third-parties in American political history, the American Labor Party of New York State was one of those that had a “shooting-star” existence: dazzling success in its early years, followed by a fall into marginality. Among the candidates to whom the ALP provided critically important votes were Franklin Roosevelt, Mayor Fiorello La Guardia of New York, and Governor Herbert Lehman, all in their re-election campaigns in the late 1930s to the mid-1940s. In contrast, the road to the ALP’s demise was marked by its low vote percentages for Henry Wallace for president in 1948 and leftist Vito Marcantonio for New York City Mayor in 1949.

The ALP’s history is quite complicated, and includes periods



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and build **YOUR OWN**
AMERICAN LABOR PARTY



of bitter internal conflict, major changes in the party’s agenda, leadership, membership, and role in New York politics. Although quite challenging, the ALP’s history is well worth exploring. For political collectors, the ALP’s heyday was prolific in issuing campaign buttons, posters and other items, but many of those items cannot be fully understood or appreciated without some knowledge of the party’s history. Set out here are the basics of ALP history.

Also important here are the unusual provisions of state election law under which third parties in New York operate, permitting “fusion” candidates, i.e., candidates who are the nominee of more than one party. For example, in his re-election campaigns, FDR appeared on the New York ballot as the presidential candidate of the Democratic Party and of the ALP. When Mayor La Guardia was the ALP nominee, he was also the candidate of the Republican Party and two other third-parties. The ALP also fielded many candidates who were not the nominee of any other party.





One other point should be addressed now, and that is the role of members of the American Communist Party (CPUSA), and Communist-influenced unions, in the ALP. A key point here is that in the late 1930s, about half of all CPUSA members lived in the New York City area, and many more individuals there, while not members, largely agreed with their views. Communists joined the ALP in large numbers starting in 1937, and while they kept their CPUSA membership secret, they tended to stand out for their energetic work to build the ALP. That changed, however, when U.S. foreign policy came into conflict with that of the Soviet Union. Then, the Communists loudly and relentlessly demanded that the ALP take a strong stand – in both its platform and the candidates it nominated – in support of changing U.S. policy in ways that would bring it more into line with Soviet policy. That happened when the Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact was in effect (late 1939 to mid-1941), and again when the Cold War began.

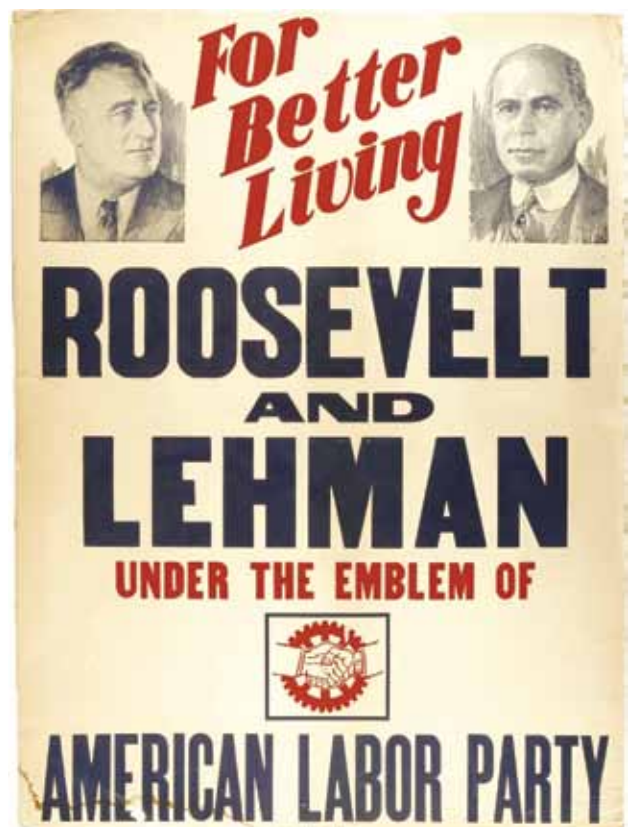
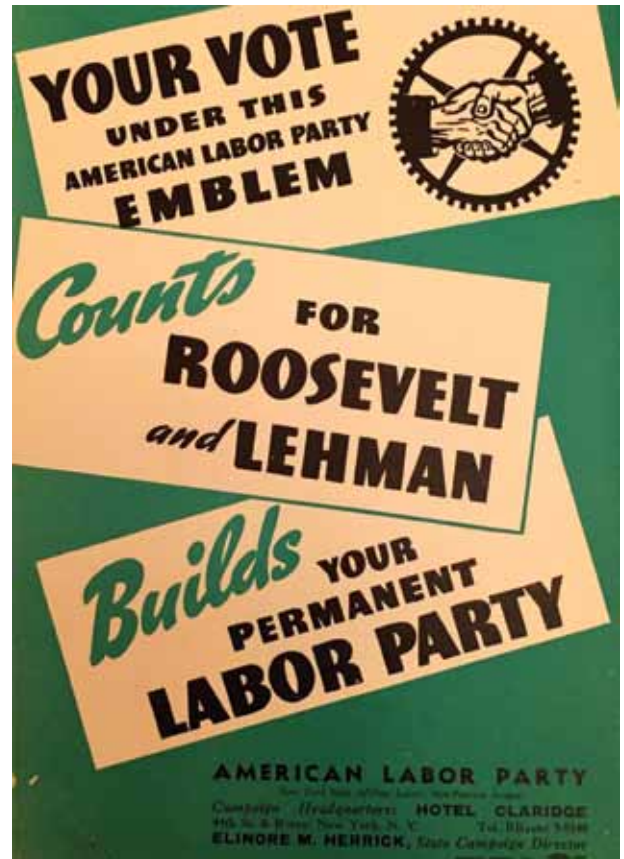
The ALP was founded in mid-1936 primarily by trade unions in New York that were involved in the manufacture of clothing, including the International Ladies Garment Workers (ILGWU), the Amalgamated Clothing Workers (ACWA), and the Millinery Workers. At the time the ILGWU and the ACWA were each led by one of the giants among union leaders, David Dubinsky and Sidney Hillman respectively. In mid-1936 the general view was that the presidential campaign would be a close, hard-fought one, and the unions were determined to do all they could to re-elect FDR, who had championed economic security for workers, including through unionization.

Because of the ALP's late start in 1936, its ticket that year consisted solely of FDR and Governor Lehman. Both won New York handily, and each received well over a quarter-million votes on the ALP line. While the labor leaders' concerns about a close election proved to be ill-founded, they had been correct in predicting that FDR as the ALP nominee would receive votes that he would not have received as solely the Democratic nominee. About 100,000 formerly Socialist Party voters in New York City cast their vote instead for FDR on the ALP line, with the party performing especially well in the lower-income Jewish neighborhoods.

In the campaigns of the next two years, 1937 and 1938, the party was united and growing, and the results established the ALP as a major force in the politics of New York City and the state. They were also campaigns in which the party fielded many of its own candidates including for the state legislature, the New York City Council, and Congress. In 1937 the ALP nominated Republican Fiorello La Guardia as its candidate for re-election as New York Mayor.



This button pictures the ILGWU's David Dubinsky as a "Roosevelt Elector." Dubinsky was one of six labor leaders included on the Democratic-ALP slate of presidential electors for New York State. Electoral candidate items are rarely seen, but there were extraordinary circumstances. Dubinsky, had become the target of vicious attacks by Republicans, the Hearst newspapers, and other anti-Roosevelt forces, who claimed that in the ongoing Spanish Civil War, Dubinsky had "rendered financial aid to Communists in Spain so that they might continue with their murders of clergymen and their pillaging of churches." However, the charge that Dubinsky had given them financial aid was false. Dubinsky had raised funds for humanitarian aid to war victims in Spain. The purpose of the attack was to alienate Catholic voters from FDR.



Certainly one of the most impressive campaign items issued in behalf of the ALP is a large-size paper poster for the party's 1936 ticket of FDR and New York Governor Herbert Lehman. It is in the form of a mural and reflects an artistic movement that's referred to as Social Realism. The poster shows six workers, and while they resemble plant-gate picketers, the signs they are holding concern labor legislative issues. The towering concrete skyscrapers in the background can be interpreted to portray the forces that the workers were challenging – corporate America, and the wealthy.

The artwork was created by William Sanger, who was an architect as well as an artist, and had been the husband of renowned birth-control pioneer Margaret Sanger. His name appears in the lower left corner. Both of them had been active in Socialist politics and labor causes, and with the advent of the New Deal, William Sanger had become a WPA artist. The inclusion of a black woman in the artwork, on the left, is noteworthy. During the 1920s and early 1930s, the many black women in New York City who worked as dressmakers had resisted joining a union. However, they began to join in large numbers after the enactment of FDR's National Industrial Recovery Act of 1933, which included provisions intended to strengthen unions. The Dressmakers' Union, which is referenced on the poster, was part of one of the ALP's founding unions, the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU).



"Politics is the science of who gets what, when, and why."

- Sidney Hillman, Chairman, American Labor Party, 1944



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That year was a strongly Republican one nationwide, Lehman's opponent was the impressive Thomas Dewey, and state Democrats showed little willingness to work with the ALP. Nevertheless, thanks to the ALP, Lehman eked out a win by less than 65,000 votes, or about 1.4 percent, with the ALP polling nearly 420,000 votes for him, more than six times his margin of victory. One of the party's congressional candidates, Vito Marcantonio of East Harlem, also won, and that victory



— followed Moscow's lead by coming out in complete opposition to any U.S. involvement in that conflict. The war, they then claimed, was merely a clash of rival imperialisms driven by monopoly capital.

The leaders of the ALP's founding unions and their allies, many of whom had a long history



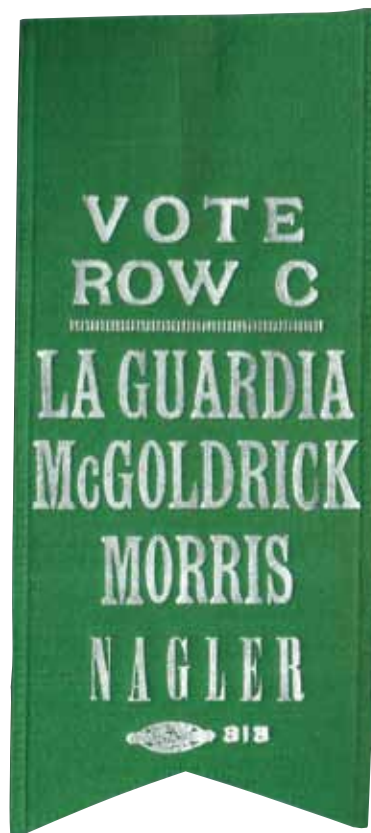
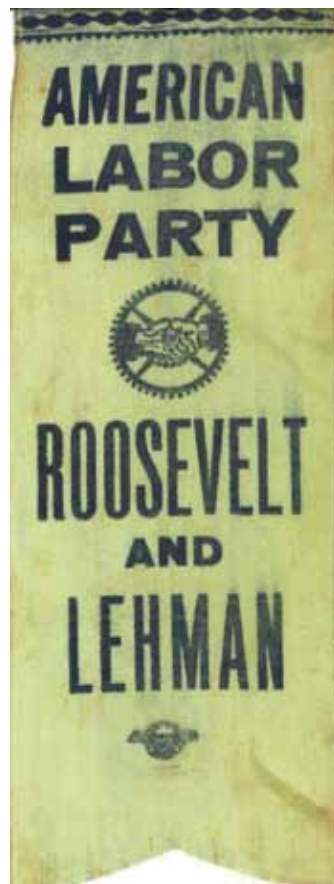
La Guardia had been elected in 1933 in a remarkable victory over the machine politics of the city's Democratic Party, and by nominating him, the ALP both showed its own independence and added municipal reform to its agenda. La Guardia received an astounding 480,000 votes on the ALP line, a sum that exceeded his margin of victory by nearly 30,000 votes.

The party faced greater challenges when it re-nominated Governor Lehman in 1938.

He went on to serve six terms as an ALP Member of the House and became the party's State Chairman in 1948. In late 1939, however, a serious split opened in the party on U.S. policy toward the European conflict. After the signing of the Nazi-Soviet Pact, the CPUSA — which up to then had been strongly anti-fas-

cist — followed Moscow's lead by coming out in complete opposition to any U.S. involvement in that conflict. The war, they then claimed, was merely a clash of rival imperialisms driven by monopoly capital.

The fight in the ALP raged throughout 1940, with the Communists and their allies, including Congressman Marcantonio, viciously attacking FDR for his moves to aid Britain.





They made every effort to deny FDR the ALP nomination, using means fair and foul. Ultimately however, the ALP leadership prevailed, and the party also nominated U.S. Senator Jim Mead, an FDR ally, for re-election. In the effort to secure New York for FDR, the ALP once again played a decisive role, despite the absence of its Communist members. The support for him on the ALP line (417,418 votes) well exceeded his statewide margin over Wendell Willkie (224,440 votes).



and thereafter the ALP Communists and their allies returned to supporting the party's candidates and its pro-FDR agenda.

In the fall of 1941, La Guardia was again the party nominee for re-election as Mayor. FDR endorsed him, and the ALP again came through for him.

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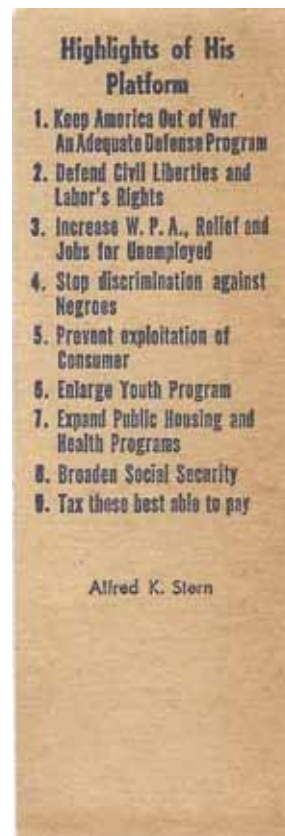


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NYC "peace" Congressional candidates

Although the Communists and their allies failed in their effort to deny FDR the ALP nomination in 1940, in the fall they ran a slate of anti-FDR "peace" candidates for Congress in New York City. One was Joe Curran, head of the National Maritime Union, another of the Communist-influenced unions. Another candidate, Alfred Stern, was later indicted for espionage but escaped prosecution as he had already fled the country.

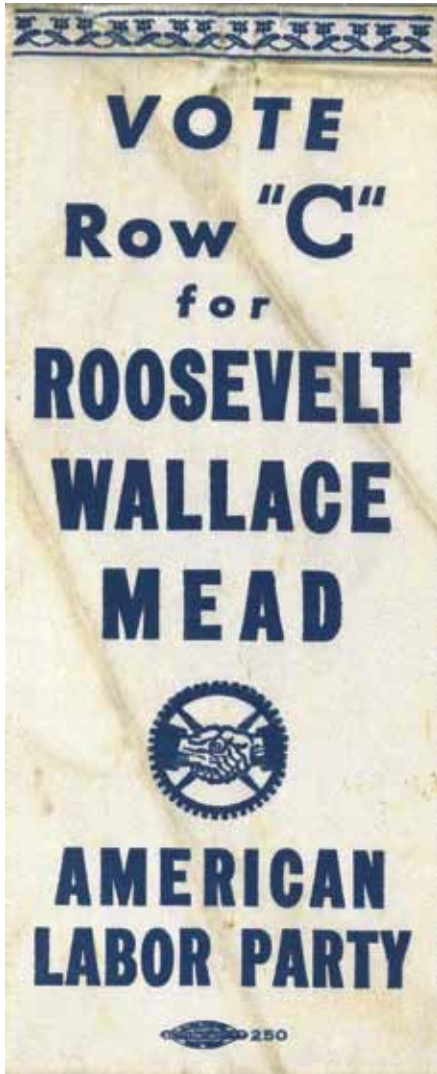


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The 435,000 votes cast for him on the ALP line amounted to more than triple his margin over his opponent, Democrat William O'Dwyer.

The next major ALP campaign, for governor of New York in 1942, was, in contrast, a muddle. First, the state Democrats and their head, Jim Farley, decided to shun the ALP by nominating a candidate they knew the ALP would not support, conservative State Attorney General John Bennett.

The ALP responded by nominating its own candidate, pro-FDR attorney Dean Alfange. However, in the fall campaign, the ALP split again, this time with Sidney Hillman and his ACWA opting to support Bennett, whom FDR had reluctantly endorsed. Republican nominee Tom Dewey won a crushing victory over Bennett, and as in 1938, there was a Republican tide nationwide. As to the ALP, despite generally low turnout statewide, the party still polled over 400,000 votes for Alfange, which was nearly 10 percent of the total.

While, in 1941 and 1942, the ALP Communists and their allies supported the party's candidates and agenda, they also continued the fight they had begun in 1940 to dislodge party leaders chosen by the ALP's founding unions. That fight took place in the annual elections for party officers, with both sides running slates of candidates. In each of the hotly contested party elections of 1940 through 1943, the founding unions prevailed, although the insurgents won most of New York City. In the party elections that took place in March 1944, however, the insurgents won a sweeping victory that brought about a major re-orientation of the ALP. One of the key changes was that state party leadership posts were opened to Communists for the first time.

That outcome was completely unacceptable to the ILGWU, the Millinery Workers, and many liberals, and they promptly quit the ALP and established a new, non-Communist labor party in New York, the Liberal Party. The major reason the insurgents won was that Sidney Hillman and his ACWA had come over to their side.



According to an item in the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* of August 17, 1940, ALP headquarters in Brooklyn had just taken delivery of 50,000 of these Extend The New Deal buttons.

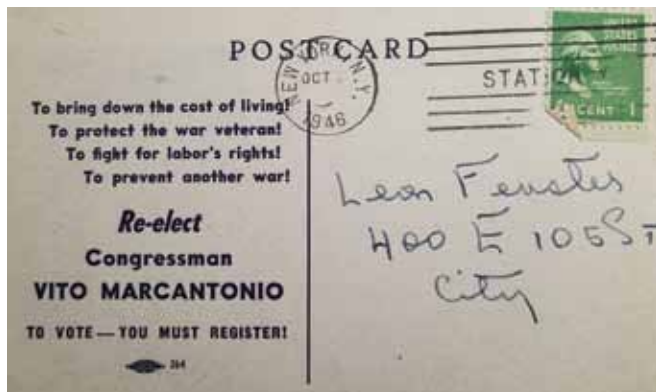


The head table at a dinner of the ALP State Executive Committee dinner in New York City on May 16, 1943. From left to right are the ILGWU's David Dubinsky, Vice President Henry Wallace (who autographed the print shown here), an unidentified individual, and Mayor LaGuardia. In his speech, the Mayor warned that there were anti-New Deal elements in the Democratic Party, and that to preserve the social gains that had been made under FDR, it was necessary for the Labor Party to "spread out and organize in other states."



This ALP card may be the only 1940 campaign item that reflects one of the greatest campaign catch-phrases of all time – FDR's use of the line, "Martin, Barton and Fish!" to contemptuously refer to the Congressional Republicans who had consistently opposed him. All three were prominent Congressmen: Joe Martin was Minority Leader, Bruce Barton was running against Jim Mead for the U.S Senate, and Hamilton Fish was both FDR's own congressman and his bitter enemy.

Newsreels of FDR using the line in his campaign speeches show his audiences reacting with loud cheers and laughter. One newspaper observed that its effectiveness was due in part to the "comical rhythm" with which FDR said the line, "as though he were saying Wynken, Blynken and Nod."



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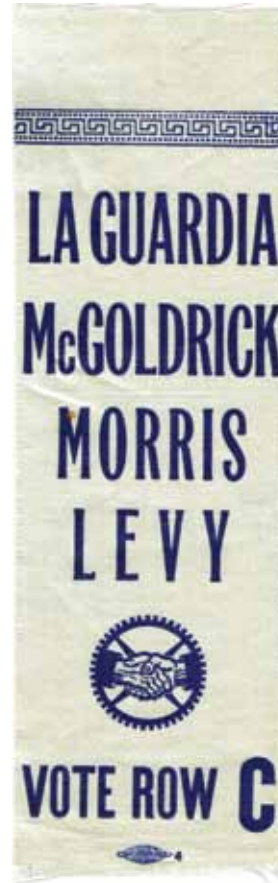
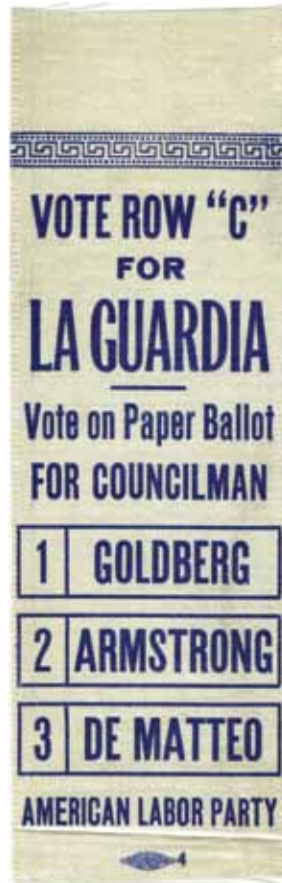


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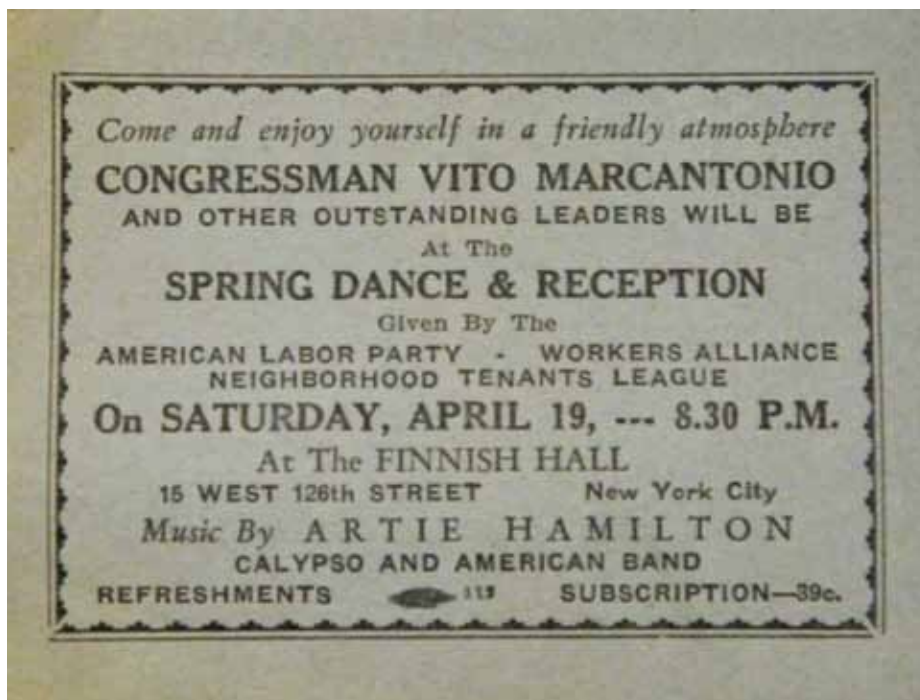
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The basic reason that Hillman did so was his deep concern that Republicans and their allies were gearing up for an effort, beginning with the 1944 elections, to eviscerate the New Deal, and he wanted to do all he could to ensure that FDR and New Deal Democrats would win in New York. He calculated that the best way to do that was to ensure that the ALP (1) maximized the involvement of union members, including Communists, in its election campaigns, and (2) ceased acting as an independent party, but instead acted essentially as an adjunct to the Democratic Party. Hillman assumed the ALP state chairmanship, and in the fall elections – in which FDR and U.S. Senator Bob Wagner were the party's major nominees – his plan worked perfectly. The ALP rolled up over 496,000 votes for FDR, a party high to that time, which exceeded his statewide victory margin over Tom Dewey by nearly 180,000 votes.





It was evident that while there had been a major exodus from the ALP, the party had also gained new members and votes, including from growing CIO unions that had not previously been part of the ALP.

However, problems in the Hillman approach soon began to appear. In 1945, the ALP's new status as a Democratic Party adjunct was reflected in its nominee for New York City Mayor: William O'Dwyer, the Democrat *La Guardia* had defeated in 1941! This time O'Dwyer won big, taking 55 percent of the vote, but while his campaign was largely run by the ALP, he received only about 258,000 votes on the ALP line. Then in 1946, the lopsided defeats of both the major Democratic-ALP candidates caused the Democrats to question the usefulness of the alliance. The nominees were U.S. Senator Jim Mead for governor (against Tom Dewey) and Herbert Lehman for Mead's seat in the Senate. In a campaign marked by Red-baiting of the ALP, the party garnered about 430,000 votes for each, but the Democratic vote for each was markedly depressed. The Democrats attributed the falloff largely to their embrace of the ALP.

The Democratic-ALP alliance ended in early 1948, but it was at the instance of the ALP Communists and their allies. The flashpoint for them was the "get-tough" policy on the Soviet Union that President Truman initiated in 1947, including providing anti-Communist aid to Greece and Turkey,

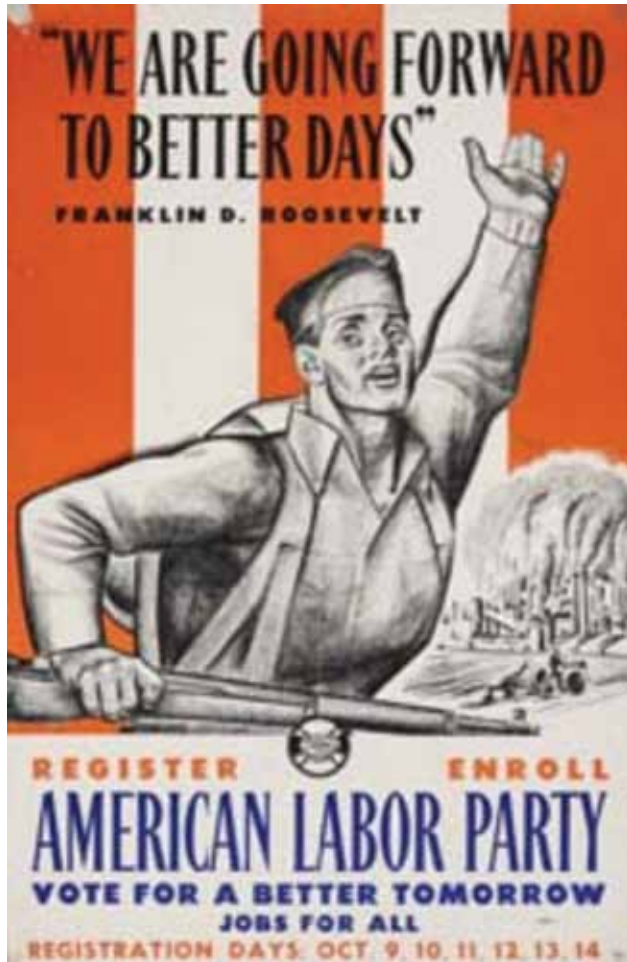


In 1943, the ALP-Democratic nominee for lt. governor was William Haskell. Viewed as a test of strength for Governor Dewey's presidential ambitions for 1944, the Republican won handily. Thomas Thacher ran for Appeals Court Judge.

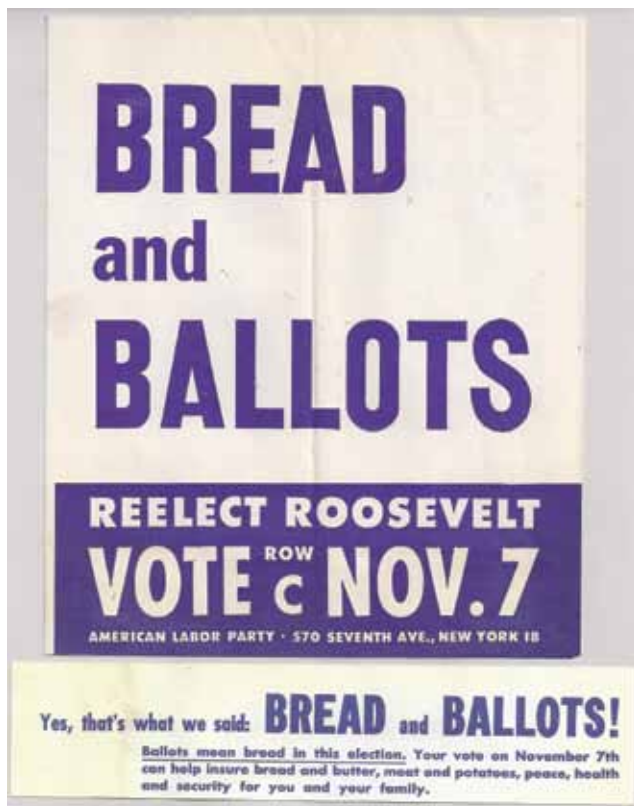


and the Marshall Plan. Congressman Marcantonio and like-minded ALP leaders harshly attacked Truman, as did Henry Wallace, who was considering an independent candidacy for president. After Wallace announced his candidacy at the end of 1947, the ALP Communists promptly scheduled a party vote to endorse him. The ACWA, however, like other major CIO unions, wanted no part of a Wallace candidacy, as they knew it might well result in the election of a Republican president, and enactment of new anti-union laws. Knowing that the ALP Communists and their allies had the votes for endorsement, the ACWA and other unions quit the party before the vote took place.

With their departure, the ALP consisted largely of Communists and their allies, and Congressman Marcantonio became State Chairman.

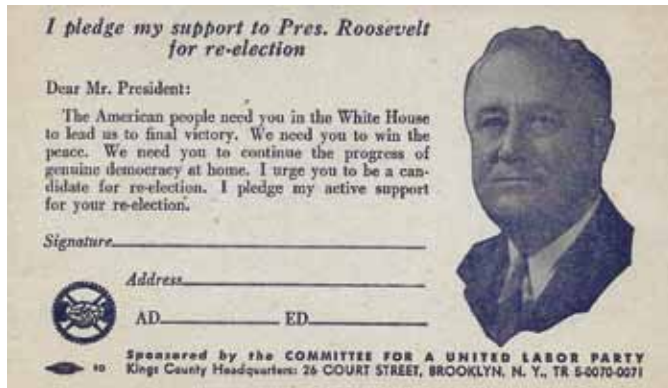
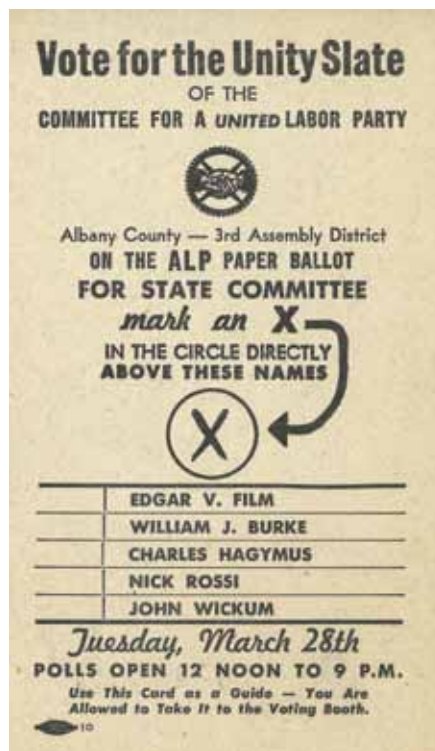
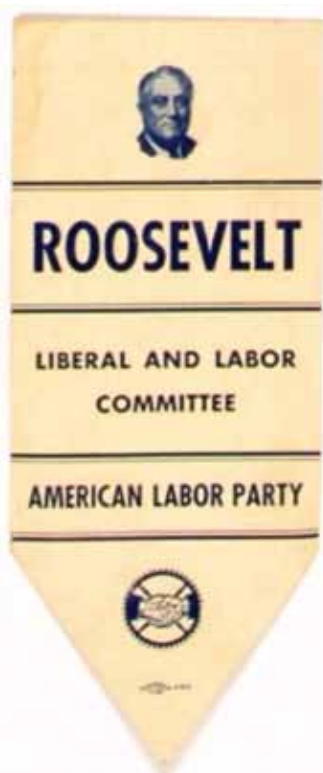


This is a fascinating photo for several reasons, including the array of campaign posters pasted to the wall. Judging by the names on some of them, including Adam Clayton Powell and Vito Marcantonio, the photo almost certainly was taken somewhere in Harlem during or soon after the 1944 campaign. Especially impressive is the large ALP poster featuring Ben Shahn's FDR "Our Friend" artwork. As detailed in the Fall 2006 Keynoter, Shahn created that artwork in 1944 for the National Citizens Political Action Committee, an offshoot of the CIO-PAC. During the 1944 campaign the ALP and the CIO-PAC worked hand-in-glove – Sidney Hillman headed both at the time – and thus it is not surprising that the ALP appropriated the PAC's poster artwork.





In the hotly contested annual elections for party offices from 1940 to 1944, the campaign committee of the anti-Communists was the Liberal and Labor Committee to Safeguard the ALP. In 1944 the campaign committee of the Communists and their allies was the Committee for a United Labor Party, the Unity slate.



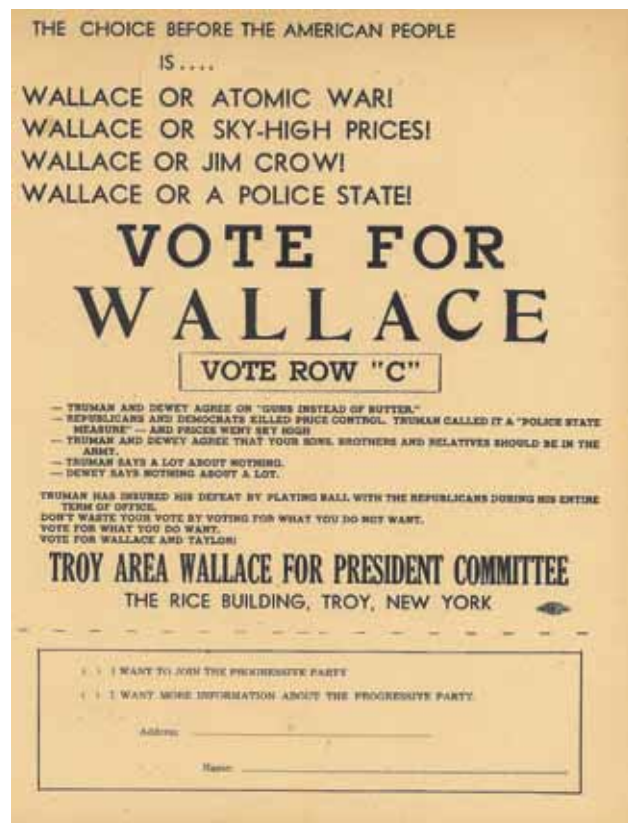
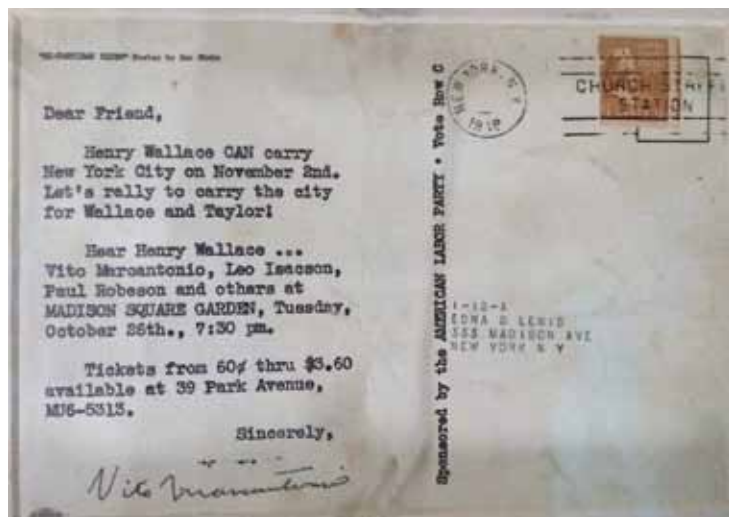


In the spring of 1948, the informed thinking was that Wallace might win a million votes on the ALP line in New York, but on Election Day, his vote count was only about 510,000. While that was the largest number ever won by an ALP candidate, it came to only 8.25 percent of the statewide total. His major theme had been that for the well-being of the U.S., war with the Soviets had to be avoided, and that to attain peace, the U.S. should make certain concessions. But with the Cold War intensifying – the Berlin Blockade began in mid-1948 – few found that message persuasive. The ALP's last major campaign was Congressman Marcantonio's challenge to the re-election of New York Mayor O'Dwyer in 1949.

Marcantonio addressed a range of social-justice issues, but the issue he stressed was his pledge to restore a 5-cent subway fare. In a three-way race, O'Dwyer easily won re-election with nearly 49 percent of the vote. Marcantonio received about 357,000 votes, which was only 13.8 percent of the total.

The ALP's course in the 1950s is indicated by the electoral performance of several of its major nominees. In 1950, the ALP candidate for U.S. Senator, black-rights icon W.E.B. Du Bois, received about 206,000 votes, and in 1952, the ALP presidential ticket, which was the Progressive Party team of Hallinan and Bass, received about 64,000 votes. In 1954, the votes cast for the ALP's gubernatorial candidate fell below 50,000, and under New York law, the party thereby lost its line on the ballot.





In this period, the issues on which the ALP focused included black rights, the rights of alleged Communists, and ending anti-Communism in U.S. foreign policy. In sum, the party had moved far from its origins as a union-based party seeking economic security for workers and their families, and its new agenda found little support in the electorate. The ALP was formally dissolved by vote of the party's officers in October 1956.



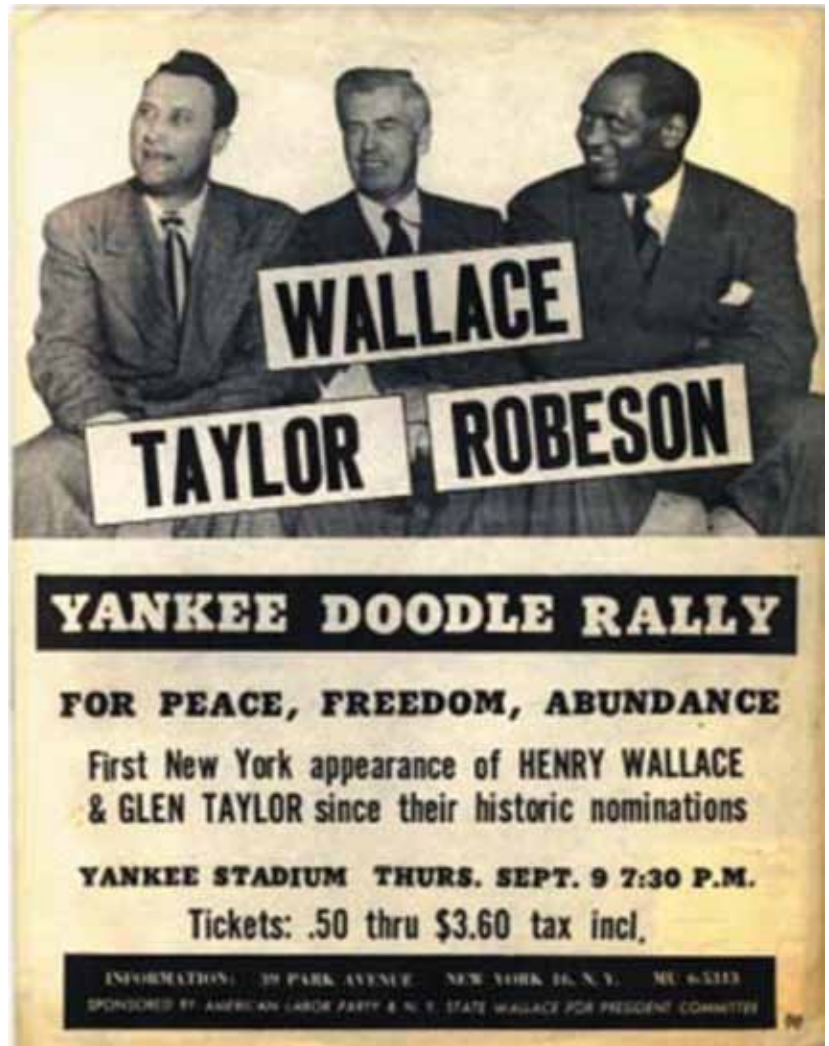
In the fall of 1948 there were two major Wallace rallies in New York City. On September 10th, a "Yankee Doodle Rally," which was co-sponsored by the ALP and the New York Wallace presidential campaign, was held at Yankee Stadium. (Originally scheduled for September 9th, it was postponed for a day because of thunderstorms.)

Then on October 26th a huge ALP-sponsored rally was held at Madison Square Garden.

In announcing the Yankee Doodle Rally, the organizers asserted that the event would prove that "typical New Yorkers recognize the truly American character of the Progressive party," and apparently that was the rationale for naming the rally. Paul Robeson, a multi-talented black entertainer and black-rights activist, was pictured along with Wallace and Taylor on posters promoting the rally. He was a speaker at the rally, and sang two of the songs for which he was most known, "Let My People Go" and "Old Man River."

Indeed, most of Wallace's speech was devoted to racism and the denial of black rights in the South. He had just completed a campaign trip through the region, and he spoke of the violence and threats of violence that he and his supporters had experienced there, "Fascism has become an ugly reality – a reality I have tasted." He went on to say, however, that the real significance of his trip was in the "two dozen completely unsegregated, peaceful meetings which we were able to hold." Those meetings took place in a half-dozen Southern states, and they "were held – even as this meeting tonight – in the best American tradition."

In contrast, Wallace's speech at the Madison Square Garden rally was largely devoted to enumerating all that his Progressive crusade had already accomplished over the course of 1948. Those accomplishments included securing U.S. support for the newly created State of Israel, advancing the cause of freedom in the South, and protecting the Bill of Rights from the attacks of "infamous agents of reaction," citing two Republican congressmen by name, Richard Nixon and Karl Mundt. In a more questionable passage, Wallace claimed, "But above all, we have stopped the cold war in its tracks. We have delayed its progress. We have thrown it out of gear."





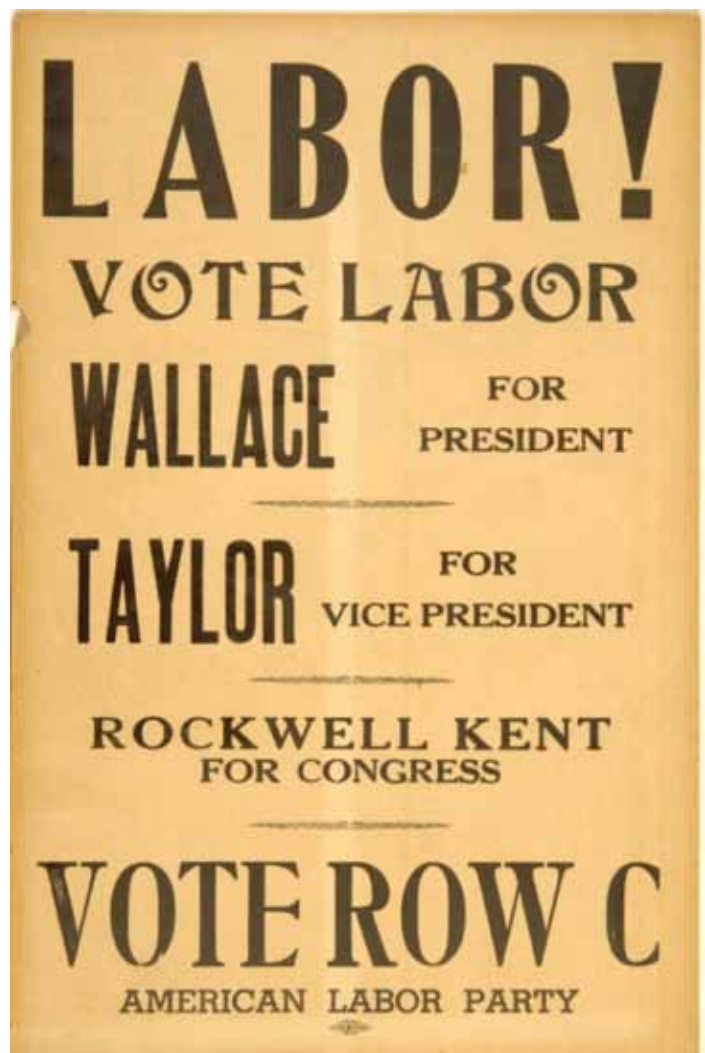
Mike Quill was one of five ALP candidates elected to the 26-member New York City Council in 1937. He headed the Transport Workers Union, in which Communists had significant influence at the time.

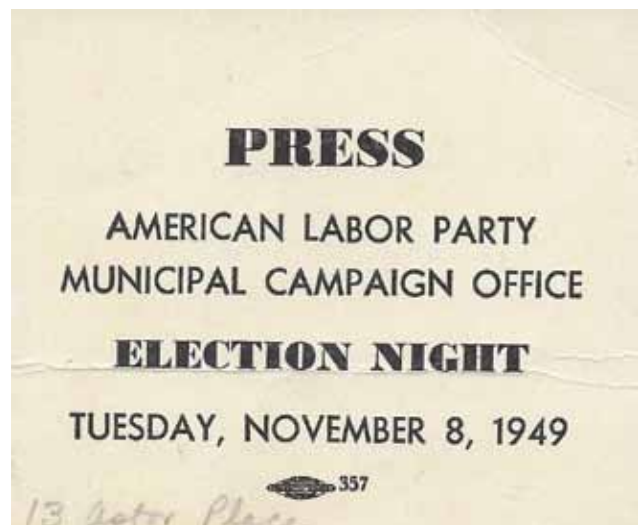
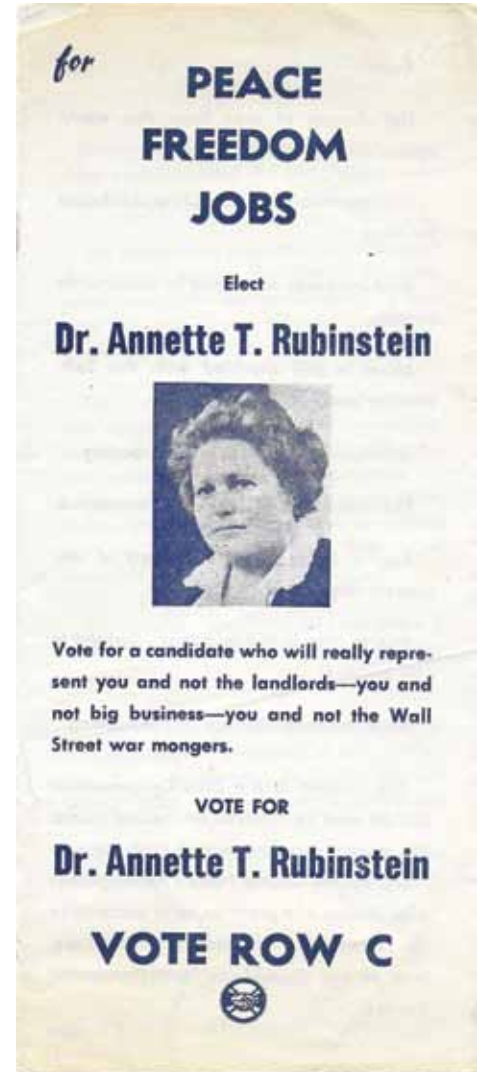
The “Committee of One Thousand for O’Dwyer and Quill” was formed by Mike Quill’s Transport Workers Union in part to aid Quill’s campaign for re-election to the City Council from the Bronx, but primarily to aid the mayoral campaign of ALP and Democratic nominee William O’Dwyer. Quill’s reason for helping O’Dwyer was that upon his election as mayor, Quill would be negotiating with him on new contracts for the New York bus and subway workers.



In February 1948 Wallace supporters were greatly encouraged by the outcome of a special congressional election in the Bronx. Quite unexpectedly, the ALP candidate, Leo Isacson, trounced the Democratic nominee in a district that historically had been solidly Democratic. The results suggested there was considerably more voter support for Wallace than the polls indicated. When Isacson sought election to a full term in Congress in November, however, he was soundly defeated by his Democratic opponent.

The ALP candidate for Congress is New York’s 33rd District, in the state’s mountainous northeast, was prominent artist, author and activist Rockwell Kent. Kent ran a local dairy on his farm there, and his candidacy was prompted in part by the fact that after his support for Wallace became known in the area, many of his customers began to boycott his business. On Election Day he won less than 3 percent of the vote.







Ben Davis was twice elected to the New York City Council as a Communist Party candidate, in 1943, and in 1945 (when the term of office was extended from two years to four years). When he again sought re-election in 1949, he was the candidate of the ALP as well as the CP. The "Answer Peekskill" slogan on one button refers to notorious incidents of anti-Communist violence – violence also tinged with racism and anti-Semitism – that occurred near that Westchester County town on two consecutive weekends in late summer 1949.

Paul Robeson sought to hold a fund-raising concert there to benefit the Civil Rights Congress, which was a Communist-dominated organization. On the first weekend, the concert had to be cancelled, as people gathering for it were brutally attacked by a large mob of local residents. Their actions had been stoked by the local newspaper and area veterans' organizations.

The concert did take place the following weekend, as although a hostile mob again converged on the site, a large deployment of police held the would-be attackers in check. However, it quickly became clear that the police protection did not extend to ensuring that concertgoers were able to depart safely. Members of the mob threw rocks and stones at their buses and cars resulting in injuries to more than 150 individuals, and they also overturned more than a dozen cars. Some of the attendees – including legendary folksinger Pete Seeger, and well-known author Howard Fast – claimed that misconduct by the local sheriff's office played a key role in the attacks, and specifically that deputies intentionally routed the departing traffic in a way that facilitated those attacks.

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UNEMPLOYMENT GOES UP – UP – UP!
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THE NEGRO PEOPLE GET HIT THE WORST!
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WHAT'S O'DWYER DOING?
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AND DEWEY?
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Both refuse to use public funds to make jobs!

Both endorse "handkerchief head" Earl Brown—because he won't do anything either!

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New York's **ONLY** Negro Councilman fights for:

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- Making jobs by building new schools, hospitals, housing and health centers.
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- Unemployment benefits to the 400,000 not now covered.
- An end to Jim Crow and job discrimination.
- Full job opportunity for Negro women!

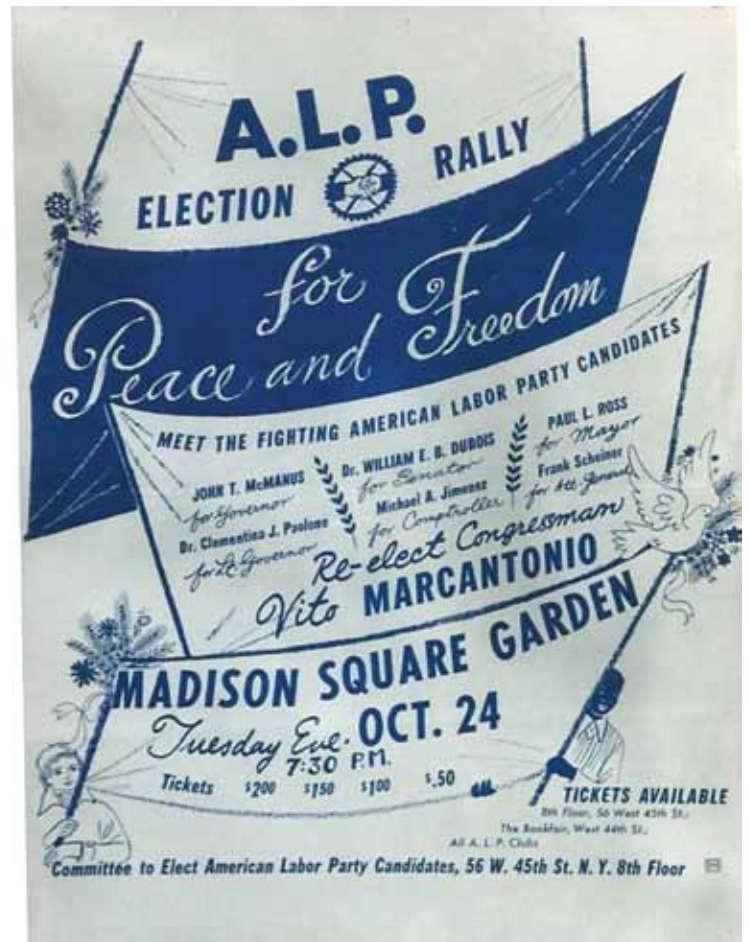
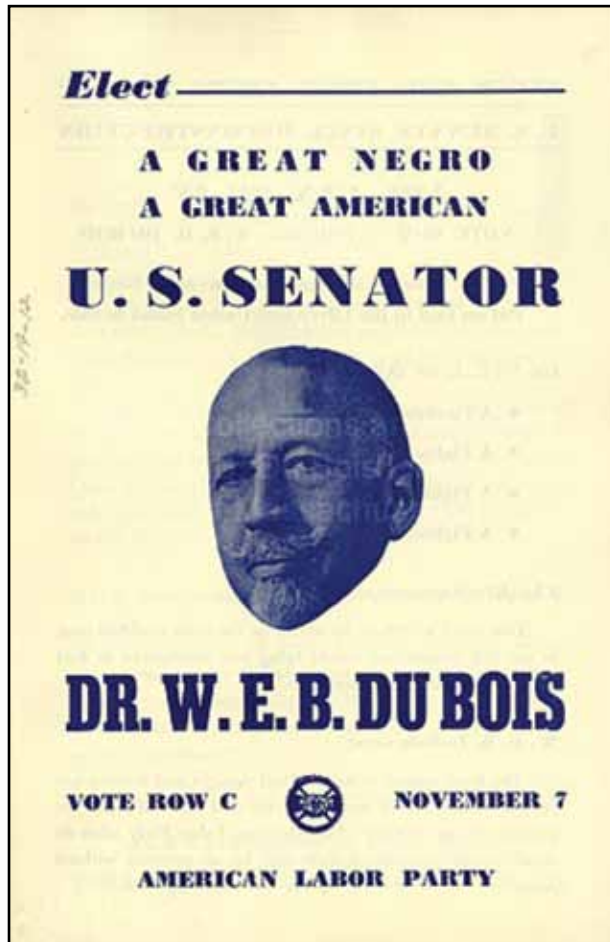
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Overturned car after Peekskill rally.



Pictured from left: Paul Robeson, Dr. Du Bois and Vito Marcantonio. 1950



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Jueves... 4 de Octubre	5:00 p.m. a 10:30 p.m.
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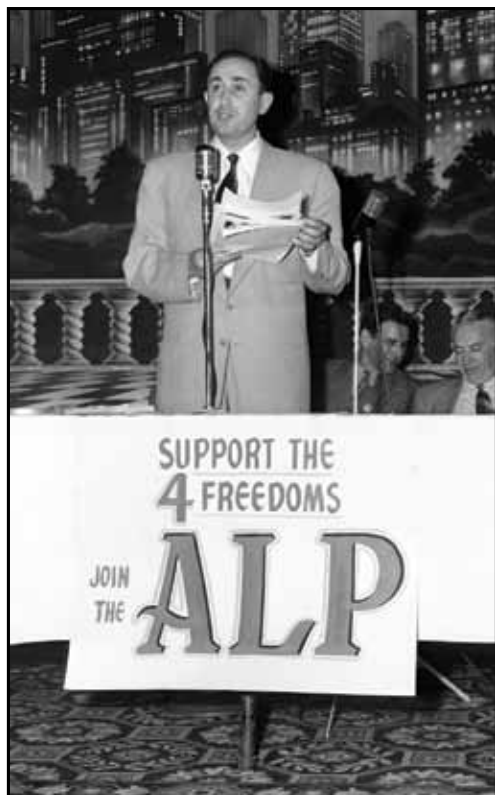
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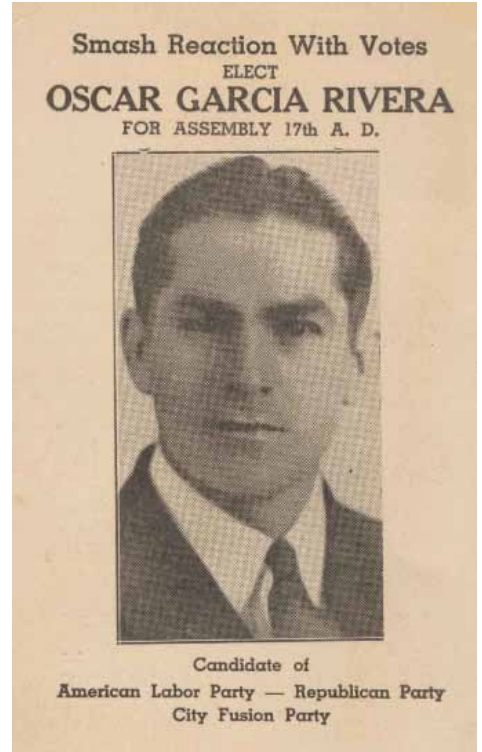
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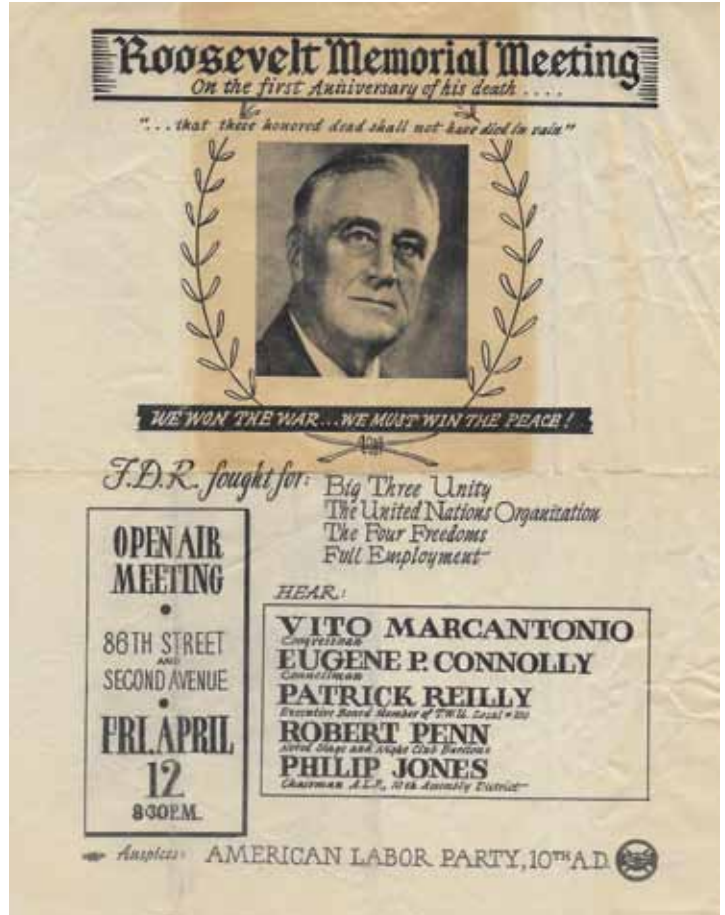


1952

Dr. Irving Peress, a Queens dentist, speaking at an ALP rally in April 1954. Dr. Peress, who had recently completed a brief period of service as an Army dentist at Camp Kilmer in New Jersey, had become one of the targets of Wisconsin Senator Joe McCarthy. McCarthy claimed that Peress was a prime example of "the deliberate Communist infiltration of our armed forces."



Newly elected Congressman Leo Isacson being congratulated by Vito Marcantonio, February 1948.
See Page 26 for Isacson buttons and story.



U.S. Grant and the Ironclad Ribbon

By Hal Ottaway

In doing a bit of research, including a most informative interview with an historian from New York, I discovered that John Augustus Griswold was an ironworks owner from Troy, New York. He formed a consortium with three other businessmen to sell the concept of ironclad military vessels to the Union during the Civil War. Specifically, he was responsible for the creation of the USS Monitor.

With the help of fellow New Yorker, Secretary of State William Seward, he arranged to meet with President Lincoln to sell him on the idea of ironclad warships. Because of the development of exploding projectiles, such a defense was essential. Lincoln even agreed to attend Griswold's presentation to the War Department the very next day. After hearing Griswold's presentation, Lincoln said, "Like a woman's stocking, there is good in it."

The War Department, at the urging of Secretary of the Navy, Gideon Welles, approved the project and authorized its construction, which was to be done within 100 days. The new ship was named the Monitor. By amazing coincidence, the Confederates launched their own ironclad warship, the Merrimack, just two days prior to the Monitor's completion. When the Monitor engaged Union ships it sunk three Union ships and caused Secretary of War Edwin Stanton to ruminate that the Union was lost.

Instead, the Monitor was readied for battle within 48 hours, faced off against the Merrimack (to a draw), and kept the Confederates from decimating the entire Union fleet.

Griswold and his partners were richly rewarded with the contract to construct many more Union ironclads that allowed the Union to more effectively blockade the Confederates at sea and control the Mississippi River.

Fast forward to three years after the war, Griswold hoped to ride Grant's coattails into the NY Governor's chair in the Election of 1868, only to come up short. Grant sought to reward his friend with a bit of patronage-- he offered Griswold the influential position of Collector of the Port of New York. Griswold declined, but recommended fellow New Yorker, Chester Arthur, in his place-- putting the wheels in motion that resulted in Arthur taking office as President of the United States in 1881.

So instead of a photo of a ship on a Grant ribbon being "just a ship," now you know the rest of the story.



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Nixon's VP Campaign in '56

By John Vargo

There has been some uncertainty in the hobby on whether this oval celluloid Vice President Nixon Press button was issued for his 1956 campaign for re-election as Vice President, or for his 1960 presidential campaign. It measures $2\frac{3}{4}$ " x $1\frac{3}{4}$ ", and there is also a "Staff" mate that was printed in red and white. The United Press photo shown here, which was taken onboard the "Dick Nixon Special" campaign plane on September 24, 1956, establishes that the press button was used in the 1956 campaign.

More generally, the photo shows a major change in presidential campaigning that was occurring at that time – the displacement of candidate whistlestop tours over the rails, which often included a number of stops at small towns, by air travel among major



SALT LAKE CITY-9/24-Vice President Richard Nixon talks to two reporters while aboard his special chartered plane. They are left to right, Lester Tenzler, Wall Street Journal, and Warren Duffee of United Press. wk
UNITED PRESS TELEPHOTO NOT FOR UTAH POINTS

cities. For example, in the 1952 campaign, Nixon spent part of September and nearly all of October touring on his campaign train. In 1956, in contrast, the lion's share of his campaigning was done by chartered airliner. He took only a couple three-day rail tours near the end of the campaign: one in Michigan and Illinois, and the other in Pennsylvania and Ohio.

At the time this photo was taken, Nixon was in the early days of a 15-day flying tour that began at Washington National Airport on September 18th with a grand sendoff from President Eisenhower. The tour included visits in 32 states and covered 15,000 miles. On October 9th, less than a week after his return from his first tour, Nixon began a second flying tour that took him to 14 states and covered 10,000 miles.

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Tony Atkiss
214-534-7591
atkiss@sprynet.com



This 1952 California poster, though not ALP originated, is consistent with its platform.

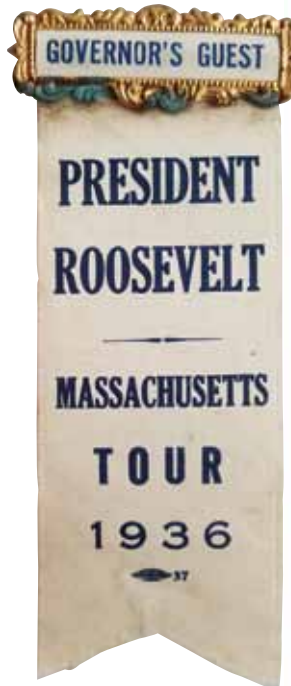
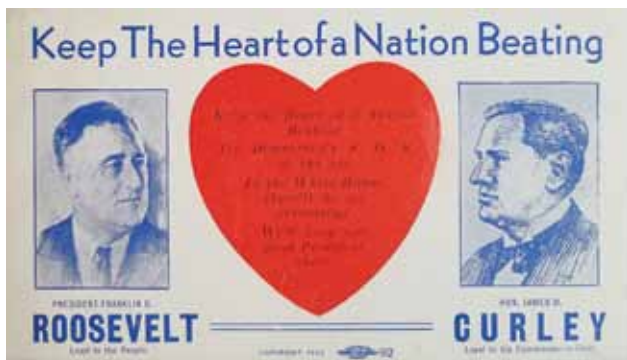
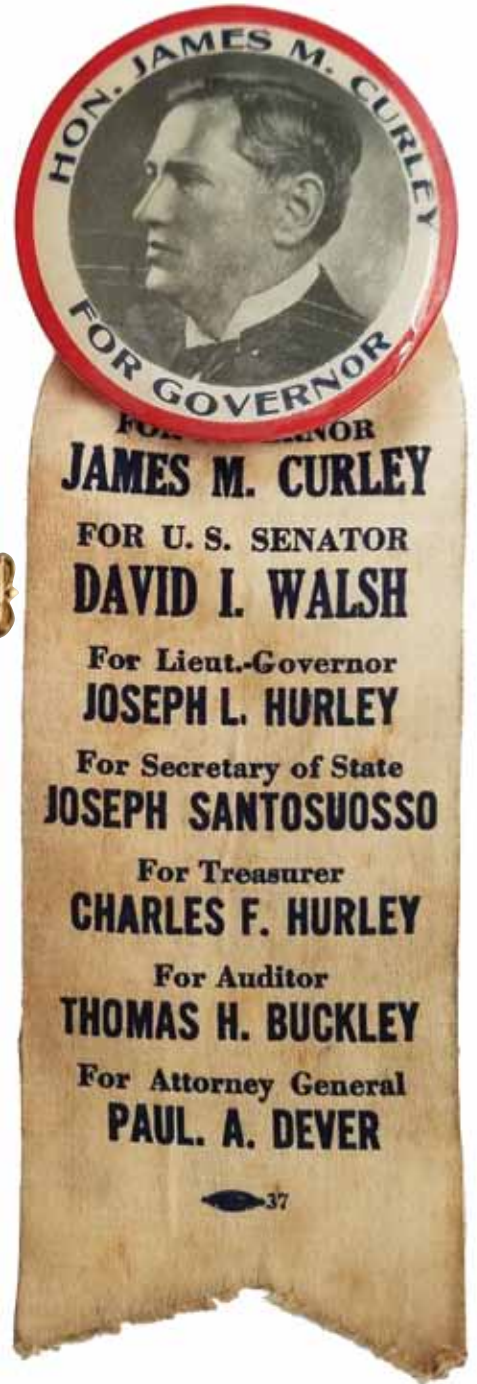
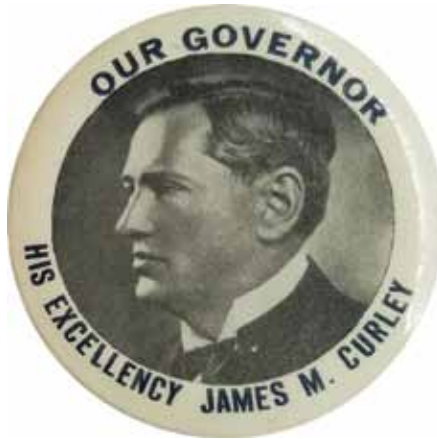
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