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TORRANCE

It's Your Country.

By JOHN W. BECK

How Bipartisan Can We Get?

WHY VOTE? When a nation's government becomes completely bipartisan its people have about as much opportunity to register their wishes on vital issues as the people of Soviet Russia have today. In this country we are still offered two ballots with different names; but after we have heeded the urgent admonitions to "vote—vote as you please, but VOTE," many of us leave the voting booths with the sick, uneasy feeling that somehow we have been tricked.

We realize that whether our vote was on the winning or the losing side, it actually didn't make much difference. We exercised our privilege with respect to labels, names, and personalities, and that's about all. So far as the vital issues confronting us are concerned, the net results would have been about the same if we had stayed at home.

The majority of American voters felt in 1952 that the Democrats had been in power long enough, too long, indeed. The country wanted, and thought it was electing, a Republican president who would take hold of the new broom handed him and sweep out the policymakers of the New Deal and Fair Deal administrations. We had a right to expect a Republican cabinet and a Republican administration in actuality as well as in name.

DISILLUSIONMENT: Disillusionment came when we realized that we had elected a president who didn't know and didn't care whether he was a Repub-

lican or a Democrat, and apparently still doesn't know and doesn't care. Under such circumstances a two-party political system dies, as ours is dying. That is a very dangerous thing for a self-governing people, for it leads to apathy on the part of a vast number of voters. It is in such soil that the seeds of dictatorship are planted and in such soil that they flourish.

Evidence that our bipartisan, left-to-center administration faithfully carries out the policies of its immediate predecessors is so abundant that it could not be missed by anyone who can hear or read. The Big Government born of the New Deal has continued to grow. Government spending has continued to rise. States' rights have continued to suffer. Left-wing internationalism has continued to mold our foreign policy.

Our Secretary of State, John Foster Dulles, is a holdover from the Truman-Acheson regime, as are many others in policy-making positions in our government. Charles Bohlen, our longstanding ambassador to Russia, is of the New-Fair Deal persuasion. So is James Conant, U.S. high commissioner in Germany. Many others of the old Truman-Acheson-Marshall crowd have been well taken care of by a chief executive who, before his election, vowed to clean out the mess in Washington. We can now expect the appointment of still more so-called Democrats to policy-making positions in our so-called Republican administration. Watch for one as assistant to Dulles, and don't be surprised if the queen of the

ADA is appointed to represent us in India.

WRITE-IN IGNORED: The mighty Life magazine, ardently pro-Eisenhower and bipartisan, contemplates the results of the recent election with great glee. Seven pages of the Nov. 15 issue are devoted to a big buildup of Democrats, New Deal Republicans, and the ADA-backed Clifford Case, most of whom, according to Life, were elected because of their hatred for Senator McCarthy. Life finds this good.

Significantly, not one word was said about the history-making write-in election of Strom Thurmond to the U.S. senate from South Carolina. This, Life ignored; mention of it might have put ideas into the heads of voters in other states.

In an editorial in the same issue Life chortles over the new "coalition" government which they say is exactly what Eisenhower's whole experience has fitted him to lead. Alas, how true! If the new coalition tips "a little farther left of center," Life sees in this a better chance for progress through acceleration of the social aspects of Eisenhower's domestic program.

NEW PARTY NEEDED: To millions of Americans who feel that the Roosevelt-Truman-Eisenhower programs have already tipped our country too far left of center, the new coalition offers little hope. A party label can be a very empty thing when there is no difference in party principles and objectives. Even the Saturday Evening



LAW IN ACTION

WORK CONTRACT

Suppose you have just been hired as a machinist or a truck driver or carpenter. You have given the clerk your name, address and social security number. Your new employer has told you to come to work tomorrow at 8 o'clock.

You have just made a contract with your new employer. In a contract two or more people exchange promises to do certain things for each other. In some contracts, the terms are written out—as when you buy a house or a car. But you do not need to spell out all the promises in a contract to work.

Simple words: "You want to Post, which at times during the past two years has shown alarming symptoms of political schizophrenia, states in its editorial of Nov. 20 that it is becoming increasingly difficult to tell whether a candidate is a Republican or a Democrat so far as party principles are concerned. The Post views this as a dangerous situation because it leaves so many voters virtually disfranchised. And in this the Post happens to be entirely correct.

With the two major political parties of the country standing for the same things, the people have no voice in their own government. Such complete bipartisanship results in the destruction of self-government and creates an intolerable situation which can be remedied only through the creation of a new political party.

work for me?" and your reply: "O.K."—will be enough to put the contract into effect.

As a rule you and your employer agree on the job you will do and the pay he will give. But suppose nobody told you how often you get paid. Then the law says your wages can come due twice a month.

Most likely the other workers get paid at set times, say once a week. Even though you and your employer don't mention it, the law then takes it that you both agreed that you would get paid then also.

Besides your employer's duty as to your hours, pay, and working conditions, you, too, have taken on a few duties. Say so or not, the law assumes you agreed to come to work on time, to do satisfactory work, and to do your job as best you can.

Apart from any special contract, if your employer dislikes your work he can discharge you. If you do not like your job you can quit. Unless you agree otherwise, this firing and quitting can take place any time. Upon notice either employer or employee can end the employment.

If your employer has signed a collective bargaining contract with the union covering your work, the contract may make other provisions as to discharge. When your employer discharges you, you get paid at once. If you quit, he must pay you in three days. Or, if you give him three days notice, he must pay you when you quit.

Of course, in some jobs it is a courtesy to give longer notice when you can keep your name as a reliable worker, especially if it takes time to break in the new worker.

NOTE: The State Bar of California offers this column for your information so that you may know more about how to act under our laws.

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