

Mythical Politicians Get Drubbing From Real Ones

For a novelist to create a large cast of mythical politicians seems to me a vast waste of time and effort, even as literary show business. If I read my newspaper correctly, the shenanigans in these novels have all been topped in the real arena. Yet politics, like sex, is a favorite theme of American writers, and the customers seem to go along with it. Look at Bailey and Knebel's "Convention," the most unnecessary omelet of the political-literary years. This is an important best-seller—all about a pair of Republican Presidential hopefuls jockeying for delegates in some FUTURE struggle.

Leo Katcher, a Hollywood writer and former New York journalist who has been active in California Democratic campaigns, introduces a novel called "Now is the Time..." This is based on a California gubernatorial primary in which a reader may notice some resemblance to Pat Brown's difficulties during the Caryl Chessman case—a skillfully fictionalized, of course.

A sheer story of literary carpentry, "Now is the Time" is a more interesting entertainment than "Convention." Katcher obviously has poured time, energy, and knowledge of campaign subtleties and absurdities into this. The put-upon gubernatorial hopeful is never identified by party. No matter. For as Katcher puts it: "Politics is America's bullring and the matador gets gored more often than he kills the bull..."

Yet one wonders. The real thing, in California politics, is so complicated, bizarre, cynical, funny, confusing; the real personalities so vivid, bland or unbelievable that a citizen-voter will never be able to grasp it all, or care to. Is the real thing too monolithic, incomprehensible, or frustrating that a reader feels more emotionally in tune with the more intimate figments of the novelist's imagination? "Now is the Time..." stirred little more than indifference in me. But look at "Convention." Katcher's view of the bullring should have such luck.

The above sent me to a couple of reference books. Here's a definition by Ambrose Bierce: "Elector—one

who enjoys the sacred privilege of voting for the man of another man's choice."

Franklin P. Adams: "Harding or Cox? Harding or Cox? You tell us, populi; you've got the vox."

Alfred M. Landon is a memorable observation, 1941: "Here we are tonight, just American citizens, facing a

situation growing worse every hour."

Heywood Brown. "Whenever there is reactionary work to be done somebody takes the name of Paul Revere in vain."

Alfred E. Smith: "Let's look at the record..."

Calvin Coolidge: "I do not choose to run."

Torrance Moose Lodge will hold a banquet and convention ball Saturday at the Moose Home, 1744 W. Carson St. The celebration will be held concurrently with the convention ball at the Conrad Hilton Hotel in Chicago where the Loyal Order of Moose are meeting in the 76th annual convention. Dan Hutchinson, Moose chef, will prepare the chicken dinner, served from 6 to 9 p.m., with all the trimmings including mashed potatoes and gravy, vegetables, salad roll and butter, and dessert. Women of the Moose Chap-

ter 44 will assist with the dinner. Lorraine Walker, senior regent, will be in charge. Mel Coates, lodge entertainment chairman, has announced the ball, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., will feature entertainment, including a door prize. The convention ball anban-

quet will be the first major social event of the new Moose year and B. E. Finke, new governor, has extended a cordial invitation to all Moose members and their guests. Joseph Marley, Junior past governor, is serving as ways and means chairman.

Meeting Slated By GOP Women

Members of the Torrance Republican Federated Women will meet at the Pancake House at the Del Amo Center at 10 a. m. next Tuesday to hear the Rev. Paul Cox, pastor of St.

Andrew's Presbyterian Church of Redondo Beach, speak on the subject of individual responsibility. The public may attend the meeting, Press Chairman Thelma Hart said.

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Church Group Meeting Here

Womans Society of Christian Service of the Torrance First Methodist Church will hold its monthly general meeting at 10 a. m. today in the Friendship Room of the Church. Prior to the business meeting, at 9:40 a prayer fellowship will be held in the Chapel, led by Mrs. Don Huxman, spiritual life chairman.

The business meeting will be conducted by Mrs. Chester Wiley, worship by the Ruth Circle. The hymns of John Wesley will be used.

The speaker will be the Rev. Arthur Nagel who will talk on "Our Methodist Heritage".

The luncheon theme is "World Federation of Methodist Women" and will be served by Adah Circle. Mrs. Frank Curry is circle chairman.

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