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WASHINGTON REPORT

BY FULTON LEWIS, JR.

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WASHINGTON, MAY 17--Hopes of "moderates" that the Democratic Party will be able to unite on one of their kind, spurred by the Texas victory of Senate Majority Leader Lyndon Johnson, have suffered a cold water dousing setting them back to their pre-Texas low level.

It was administered by Americans For Democratic Action, which bids fair to exercise a controlling influence over the August Democratic National Convention, as it did in 1948 and 1952.

Meeting in annual convention, ADA has decreed that nothing less than the "liberalism" of the three top contenders for the Democratic Presidential nomination will be acceptable to it. It will have no truck with any sort of "compromise," and without mentioning names, places the Johnson-ian compromise approach outside its pale.

Joseph L. Rauh, Jr., re-elected by the convention for a second term as National Chairman, puts it succinctly: ADA, he says, must fight "the idea that there is inherent virtue in compromising great issues."

Curiously, in the various stories about the ADA convention in The Washington Post, The New York Times and other newspapers, I find no mention of the interesting recent activities of this Washington attorney re-elected as National Chairman by this great "liberal" organization, this pious foe of McCarthyism, this incessant critic of "special interest" influence in government.

I refer, of course, to Rauh's central role in the infamous Paul Hughes case, in which Rauh paid almost $10,000 to Hughes in the belief the latter was on the staff of the McCarthy Committee and in return would deliver to him, Rauh, secret documents and material from the Committee files.

Obviously, bribing a supposed government employe to turn over secret information to someone who has no right whatsoever to that material, is perfectly all right with ADA as long as the person involved is one of its own. I shudder to think of its wrath if the case had involved a Republican or conservative Democrat seeking to buy such information.

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