



'The New Breed'

VERSUS

'The New Coalition'



CHALLENGER Gary Frink sees a "new coalition" forming in the Democratic Party.

CONGRESSMAN Jack McDonald is one of the "new breed" of Michigan Republicans.

Jack McDonald is considered one of the "new breed" of Republican congressmen in Washington. It's not simply because he was one of five freshmen that Gov. Romney carried into office in 1966, and not simply because he's relatively young (38).

It's a matter of outlook. Says McDonald: "You have to say the 'new breed' as opposed to what? As opposed to the stereotype. To oversimplify a little, we're 'yay' sayers rather than 'nay' sayers. We're not there just to criticize the majority. We're there to offer constructive alternative programs to solve problems."

How does the "new breed" differ from the Democrats?

"IN ALL OUR programs, we strive to protect the freedom of the individual, and to place as much power and authority in the lowest unit of government possible—the city or township, the county, the state, and then the federal government as a last resort."

"We're interested in the involvement of the private sector and the people in problems, in ways other than just asking them to pay taxes."

"We prefer to give people a hand up rather than a hand-out."

"We're human liberals. If it hadn't been for the new breed of Republicans, there wouldn't have been enough votes to pass the poverty bill, rent supplements, model cities, open housing, the tax increase-spending cut, or gun control. I voted for all those measures."

"I'd hasten to add this: "The way I feel—and the way most of the new breed feels—we don't think these were good programs. But we didn't have a chance to vote on alternatives. We felt it would be inhumane to bring all those programs to a screeching halt at this time."

McDonald then expands on the question of why the new breed's alternatives call for a greater reliance not on "states' rights" but on "states' responsibilities."

"After people get in Washington awhile, they get the feeling that local and city officials aren't capable of handling their own problems. True, we have five or six states that have shown themselves unclear in the handling of their funds. But we shouldn't go to the other 44 and make them subservient."

LIKE OTHER "NEW breed" Republicans, McDonald has experience in local government. He was supervisor of Redford Township from 1961 until his election to Con-

gress in 1966 and chairman of the Wayne County Board of Supervisors in 1965. Most of the other Michigan freshmen had experience in the Legislature. In contrast, the typical Democrat opponent has more Washington experience but less home state political experience.

BORN IN DETROIT, McDonald graduated from Redford High School and spent three years at Wayne State University. He worked with his father and brothers in a small family contracting business, doing everything from surveying to driving a bulldozer, but left the firm when he was elected supervisor.

The contracting work accounts for McDonald's interest in public works and road building.

In Congress he has been on the Public Works Committee, wrote a bill on interstate highway safety standards, represented the House in an international highway conference in Lebanon, and won a re-election endorsement from the building trades.

In a debate last week, he outlined the theme of his campaign:

"We believe it's much better for people, through low-interest loans and sweat equity, to own their own homes than to be forced to live in public housing or be forced to live in homes where the government pays the rent. "We feel that people who need job training should be trained on the job, in our factories, with a partnership between industry and government, rather than in a Job Corps camp, many miles from their homes, for jobs that don't exist when the training period is over."

"We," in each case, means the GOP's "new breed."

House Republicans have set up a task force on urban affairs of which McDonald is a member. He speaks of the directions in which they're working:

"We've met with mayors, governors, people from Black Power, people from the far Right. . . . We've come up with an agenda:

- "Bloc grants and revenue sharing, as opposed to the categorical federal grant as we know it today."

- "Reform of our foreign aid."

- "Revise our military draft."

- "Enact national emergency strike legislation. We've been promised by the president for two years that he'd send a bill to Congress, and we haven't seen it yet."

"WE'RE going to do it next time."

Gary Frink was asking the pretty Livonia miss for her vote—he's the Democratic candidate for Congress in the 19th District—and wanted to know what she thought about the national issues of the day.

The girl said she was "disturbed" by the national ticket candidates—Nixon, Humphrey and Wallace—and thought that Gene McCarthy and the late Robert F. Kennedy talked "to the people" and seemed "concerned."

After she had left, Frink shook his head: "These guys have turned off a lot of people, and not just young ones. Before television, people wanted to be entertained by politics. Now they want to be challenged."

The talk turned to the profound convulsions now gripping the American political party system, and Frink said:

"THE OLD COALITION has broken down in the Democratic Party. It was composed of the intellectuals, the working man, ethnic groups, Negroes and the South."

"The new politics is a coalition of people taking a more imaginative approach to problems. I'm not part of the New Left, but I'll be part of the 'new coalition,'" said Frink, a lawyer who talks like an academician at times.

Frink wasn't part of the peacenik movement within his party, and in the primary the members of the Conference of Concerned Democrats threw their support to Ron Mardiros, a strongly anti-war candidate.

Frink goes on about the "new coalition," which hasn't actually jelled yet:

"Its bedrock will be the intellectual community—university students and professors. It will include the presently disadvantaged groups, suburbanites and the college-educated generally. . . . And certain progressive elements in labor."

"Bobby Kennedy was as close as anyone to putting it together. Not Gene McCarthy, though; he was a one-issue thing."

FRINK HIMSELF ironically has the credentials of an old coalition Democrat. He grew up in Pontiac and after high school "worked on the line at G.M. Truck and coach, married and began raising a family." In the plant, he was a member of United Auto Workers Local 549.

He spent three years (1952-54) at Michigan State and got his degree at American College in Mexico City in 1955. He was a college alumni director, a car salesman and for three years a Prentice-Hall publications representative to universities in the Caribbean, Virgin Islands and Venezuela.

In 1961 Frink made a big decision for a man with a young family: He entered the University of Michigan law school. Law is a traditional discipline, a traditional source for traditional New Deal Democrats, and it's a little unusual for a "new coalition" man to come from that area rather than sociology or philosophy.

After law school he went to Washington—first to the Department of Commerce, then for two years as legislative assistant to 2nd District Congressman Weston Vivian, finally as an aide to a House subcommittee on postal affairs. He also worked on a task force on air and water pollution.

He returned to Michigan in May to run for Congress. His income? "I borrow it. Friends give it. My savings are gone. We're broke. Money's going to be a problem."

FRINK'S TWO CENTRAL issues are the war in Vietnam and the question of "Will our urban society survive?"

Telling Them Apart

Usually, one good way to tell two candidates' systems of values is to find out what they would cut out of a budget if they were forced to choose between several alternatives.

We gave them five alternatives: The war in Vietnam, the Job Corps, the space program, interstate highways, or the national parks.

It didn't work with McDonald and Frink, however.

Frink first picked the war. But later he revised his answer to attack the manned space program, which he called "a PR gimmick." He said the "real value is in the unmanned space program," in the scientific sense.

McDonald first picked farm subsidies and foreign aid, but that didn't count because they weren't on the list. He then pointed out that he had voted for a cut in the space program — "but not for Vietnam as long as 500,000 of our troops are there."

Urbanism isn't exactly a hot issue among suburban voters, who make up most of the 19th District. "It's a 'them and us' feeling out here," says Frink, not a little unhappily.

"Congressman McDonald talks a bout 'economy in government.' I would like to keep in mind the fact the war in Vietnam is costing us \$40 billion currently. We are not achieving our goals with our military force in Vietnam."

"I believe we can save money . . . by doing everything possible to de-Americanize that war."

How to de-Americanize the war? "Very simply. Begin in a programed way to turn the actual fighting back to the South Vietnamese. Give them all of the exchequer, all of the help, all of the logistical support we can—but turn the land war back where every American general who has had experience in Asia said it should be."

McDonald says his polls show that crime is the No. 1 issue in the minds of voters, but Frink doesn't think of it that way.

"THE ISSUE IS 'will our urban society survive?'"

"We must make an open-ended commitment to analyze and solve the urban problems—the racial problems, air and water pollution; housing, open space—we should make our cities healthful places to live in. "Crime is a part of it."

STORY: Tim Richard

PHOTOS: Dennis Pajot



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McDONALD (seated) and Frink met in debate last week before the Redford Chamber of Commerce.