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Progressive Party Of Idaho

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raised funds and by November was on the ballot in 45 states. The PCA set a record of nearly \$3 spent for each vote cast for Wallace, and most of this money came from small contributors collected at paid-admission, voluntary-contribution rallies.

The Progressive Party convention met in Philadelphia on July 23, 1948, and nominated Wallace for President and singing cowboy and Democratic U.S. Senator from Idaho Glen Taylor for Vice President. Among the 3,240 delegates and alternates were many women, Blacks, and young people but few professional politicians. The platform urged world government and understanding between the superpowers and opposed the Marshall Plan, the Truman Doctrine, and racial segregation. The convention's defeat of the Vermont Resolution that stated that the party did not intend to give blanket endorsement to the foreign policy of any nation (such as Russia) led to press charges that the Progressive Party was Communist dominated. The party's chances were hurt as well by Truman's announcement of the Fair Deal, by increasing Soviet intransigence, and by charges that it was splitting the liberal vote. Wallace's party was also hurt by such organizational failures as the absence of a sound machine at the ward and precinct levels, factionalism in some state organizations, the absence of a working labor organization, and ballot accessibility problems.

After electoral defeat in 1948, most liberals including Taylor reestablished their major party ties. Wallace, increasingly disillusioned with Soviet intransigence and leftist Progressive tactics that alienated moderates, resigned from the party after it opposed American entry into the Korean conflict. The party disappeared after its little-known candidates received only 140,023 votes in the 1952 presidential election. The Progressive Party nevertheless receives some credit for Truman's move to the left domestically (the Fair Deal). Wallace also receives praise for risking violence and egg throwers by speaking to integrated audiences in the South.

See also: AFL-CIO COPE, Elections of 1944 and 1948, Harry S Truman, Henry Wallace

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Progressive Party of Idaho

An example of economic protest politics and state-level radicalism that emerged in jurisdictions outside the Northeast and the South in the 1920s and 1930s, the Progressive Party of Idaho (1920-1928) came into being in part because of the diffusion to Idaho of electoral tactics and protest ideology generated during the rise of the North Dakota Nonpartisan League. An offshoot of the League, the National Nonpartisan League, assigned a minister and former master of the North Dakota State Grange, Ray McKaig, to organize an Idaho Nonpartisan League. As in North Dakota and other states, the Idaho league would "bore from within" one of the regular parties, thus leapfrogging the conservative elements in the party into gubernatorial and legislative power. McKaig's ministry to Idaho was successful enough to launch a League candidate in 1918 for governor, who, running as a Democrat, gained 40 percent of the vote. In response, the 1919 Idaho legislature radically revised Idaho electoral law in order to force the organization of a third party.

In 1920 a League candidate ran as an Independent, winning 20 percent of the vote, and two League candidates ran as Progressive Party candidates for Congress. In 1922, 1924, and 1926, the Progressive Party, now Idaho's second party, vigorously contested statewide elections. But in 1928, shortly before the elections, the Progressive Party disbanded because of a collective decision among the Progressive Party's tiny cadre of competent politicians to fuse with the regular parties and because no talented, middle-level activists seemed able and willing to take their place.

In the 1930s a few remaining Progressive Party activists, hoping to copy the Minnesota Farmer-Labor Party, sought to broker an alliance between Idaho farm and labor leaders. But Idaho Grange and Idaho Federation of Labor leaders declined to invest their resources in an Idaho Farmer-Labor Party.

See also: Minnesota Farmer-Labor Party, National Nonpartisan League, North Dakota Nonpartisan League, Progressive Party

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