

# THIS WEEK AND NEXT

by Ray Argyle



## Elections every two years

Canadians who lament the frequency of federal elections the past few years are prone to forget that the United States goes through a full-fledged national vote every two years.

The "off-year" or "mid-term" elections, as they are called in the U.S., come half-way between presidential contests. The campaign for this year's voting in November — less than three months away — is building to a boil and the Democrats are in trouble over Vietnam and the Negro backlash.

Every two years, including presidential election years, the entire 435-seat House of Representatives is up for grabs, along with one-third of the 100-seat Senate. Senators — two from each state — are elected for six years but as one-third of the seats are voted on alternately, the Congress is in an almost constant state of change.

As most everyone knows, the off-year elections almost always produce setbacks for the President's party. For one thing, weak candidates cannot ride to victory on their president's coattails, and voters who may be disenchanted with the administration often take this opportunity to rebuke the President without having to vote against him personally.

The only modern exceptions to this rule came in 1934 when President Roosevelt actually strengthened his following in Congress, and in 1962 when President Kennedy managed to keep his losses to a virtually irreducible minimum. In 1962, however, President Kennedy had the missile crisis going for him (the country tends to unite around the President in times of crisis) and the Democrats were able to regain some traditional Democratic seats which had been lost in 1960 at the hands of voters suspicious of the prospects of a Catholic President.

So now come the 1966 mid-term elections. In the wake of the 1964 Johnsonian landslide resulting from the debacle of Goldwater extremism, the Democrats enjoy their greatest majority in 30 years — 155 in the

House and 36 in the Senate.

It is a rule of politics that the more seats you have, the more you are likely to lose. Witness the Diefenbaker reversal of 1962 when the greatest parliamentary majority in Canada's history was cut to an actual minority in the House of Commons.

The Congress under Johnson has just come through two of the most productive years of its history, writing into law measures which Kennedy had begun to advocate but had no hope of achieving. These include the civil rights act, the voting rights act, tax reduction, medicare for the aged, massive conservation and other historic moves toward "The Great Society."

Despite all this, Americans have become increasingly uneasy about President Johnson. In Vietnam, he has adopted the war policy for which he had denounced Goldwater in 1964. His popularity in early summer fell below the 50 per cent. mark but after the Hanoi bombings, bounced back up to 54 per cent. as Americans hoped that escalation would bring an early end to the fighting there.

Republicans freely admit that Vietnam will be the deciding factor in the November elections. If the present stalemate continues, the Republicans will benefit. Solid U.S. successes, or by ironic contrast, equally solid Communist successes which would seem to threaten the security of the United States, would benefit the Democrats.

**The Democrats, as the authors of Negro civil rights legislation, are being hurt by the Black Power movement and Negro violence in the big cities. The fact that white society is still fundamentally responsible for Negro violence in that such outbursts are the result of generations of enslavement and oppression, will not mollify many voters.**

The Black Power movement, meanwhile, is far closer to success than most Americans realize. While Negroes comprise only 10 per cent. of the population, they are in positions of a majority or near-majority in

many cities, most notably Washington, D.C.

The big question in November is not how many seats the Democrats will lose, but whether they will lose them to moderate

Republicans, or to arch-conservatives who would permit the re-establishment of the old reactionary coalition between conservative Republicans and the southern Democrats.

## MRS. CORRIGAN (Continued from page 7)

money covered Rummoli Board. Mistress of Ceremonies, Mrs. Helmink, read a poem dedicated to "Our Newfie Rose" written by Mr. Jack Todd. A framed copy of the verse was presented to Mrs. Corrigan as a keepsake.

A most delightful lunch was served before the party broke up.

---

Bill Baillie is in Port Arthur General Hospital recovering from surgery until the end of this week. He would greatly appreciate a visit from any friend in the lakehead this week.

Mrs. E. Salesse is a patient in a Lakehead hospital this week.

Mr. and Mrs. P. Gombola of Greenville, So. Carolina and family, were guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. D. Boudreau and visited old friends here last week.

## PLAYGROUND WIND-UP

Despite the dampness of the weather, neither the children nor their leaders seemed dismayed and their Wind-up Camp Out took place in the Arena before a small group of appreciative parents.

Singing games and skits performed by the children formed the program which was followed by the presentation of awards. These were based on attendance and general participation and given to both senior and junior girl and boy. Diane Coupal and Stephen Gorham received the junior prizes and Wendy Schritt and Maurice Cadieux the senior awards.

The playground leaders then presented their director, Janice McInnes with a gift in appreciation of her work in planning and co-ordinating the program for 1966.

Free popcorn for all was distributed and the 1966 playground season came to a close.

## TERRACE BAY WITHOUT A TAXI

Now that Taxi service is no longer available in Terrace Bay those departing or arriving by train are

continued page 9 ....