

Riles in, Rafferty Out

By ROBERT E. SEGAL

A huge number of people stood firm with Max Rafferty in the recent California election--2,681,831. They knew they could count on him to be high on their concept of patriotism. As State Superintendent of Public Instruction, he used a darling little red schoolhouse as his campaign symbol when he first ran back in 1962; and later on, he said among, oh, so many other stirring things, that the kids should be singing "You're A Grand Old Flag" and "Yankee Doodle Boy" in the schools.

So here Max Rafferty had better than two and a half million voters behind him; and yet he was knocked out of his elective educational office. He was the loser to his black assistant, Wilson Riles, who got 3,156,144 votes.

It's pretty hard to know just why Educator Riles beat Educator Rafferty. Rafferty fans had maintained that the reading scores of many of California's 5,000,000 boys and girls were improving. But Riles' backers insisted that education was going downhill under Rafferty.

The issue may have been that simple; but the Rafferty story seems more complex than that to a lot of people who have followed his career with fascination. For Max Rafferty is a true-blue American, a super-duper tub thumper for the stars and stripes and prayer in the public schools.

You always knew where Max Rafferty stood. Way back in 1961, when he had been made superintendent of the La Canyada, California, school system, near Pasadena (remember the battle over the school curriculum there?), he was asked to make a speech. He let fire with both barrels on patriotism and found himself in the Reader's Digest almost over night.

He has been a wow on the service club circuit. Long before Spiro Agnew took to minting and merchandising cute cliches, Max Rafferty was bringing the silent munchers to their feet with his blood-tingling appeals for a more moral America.

In the mind of Max Rafferty, the man who still stands out as the greatest educator of the 20th Century is the late Walt Disney. Max

Rafferty offered himself as "a gadfly on the rump of American education," chased John Dewey into the hills, seized upon the Dictionary of American Slang as "a handbook of sexual perversion" and convinced people that the curriculum at Berkeley consisted of sex, drugs, and treason."

Along the way, he picked up the votes of hundreds of thousands who were certain a huge conspiracy hangs over the land, committed to brainwashing the youngsters free of any patriotic thoughts. Running for office, he maintained that the people who opposed him are people who would like to have Communists teaching in the schools. Two years ago, when he conducted a smear campaign against Senator Thomas Kuchel--a campaign condemned by a number of key California Republicans--Educator Rafferty stated that it was his hope that every member of the John Birch Society would vote for him.

So it was that in 1968, he dumped Senator Kuchel and seized the Republican nomination for the U.S. Senate. "A vote for Rafferty is a vote for the new leadership America wants," Richard Nixon, a fellow Californian, said in backing Educator Rafferty for the Senate that year. But then Max Rafferty took one step too far in a political campaign; he accused his Democratic opponent, Alan Cranston, of advocating a policy of betrayal in Vietnam; and so many California voters got so furious at this low punch that Cranston was sent to Washington.

Having thus grabbed for the high brass ring and missed it, Dr. Rafferty returned to his educational chores. But not for long. Wilson Camanza Riles, who has come up the bitter path of life through boyhood as a black orphan and sweaty labor in a sawmill, has convinced most of the California voters, that it is time to dump the politician-educator and get on with the job of providing California's children with solid education. The kids will get their 3 Rs. Superintendent Riles will see to that. But that 4th R for Rafferty--that's gone.

NEW YORK - Milos Canning Works of Haifa, Israel, exported tomato products totalling some \$1.7 million for the fiscal year, mainly to the United States.

NEW YORK - The American Jewish Committee charged that the Soviet Embassy in Washington, in denying the existence of anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union, ignored the "more than 200 petitions from Soviet Jews which have already been made public outside of the Soviet Union."

NEW YORK - The American Jewish Congress announced the opening of a Soviet Jewry "hot line" to disseminate current information on the plight of the Russian Jewish community. Callers dialing (212) TRafalgar 9-4553, a special phone set up in Stephen Wise Congress House here will hear a recorded message with up-to-date news of developments affecting the lives of the 3 million Jews in the U.S.S.R.

NEW YORK--Melvin K. Jarfeld, retired member of the Police Department of the City of New York, a veteran of World War II and Korea, and a Major in the U.S. Army Reserve, has been elected President of the Association of Americans & Canadians for Aliyah.

ORANGE, Conn. (JNS)--The dedication of one of the most magnificent Jewish day school buildings in the United States took place in this New Haven suburb, in the presence of more than 1,000 local residents, rabbis and lay leaders.

WASHINGTON--B'nai B'rith is making available three new Israeli first-day stamp covers, which may be purchased from the B'nai B'rith Klutznick Exhibit Hall, 1646 Rhode Island Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

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