THE POLITICAL SCENE

For some years, an investigation has been under way, looking into the logological characteristics of the names of the two major American political parties, the DEMOCRATIC and the REPUBLICAN parties. What follows is an interim report on the findings.

The first thing that strikes the researcher is the quality of parallelism exhibited by the two names. Both are 10-letter names including four different vowels and pronounced in four syllables, both display the same palindromic pattern in the distributions of consonants and vowels, and both include the five letters spelling a motto that could be adopted by either party to symbolize its concern for the public welfare: I CARE, a slogan easily transposed into the feminine first name ERICA, as well as into ACIER, the name of a yellow color. Neither name includes that letter commencing more English words than any other: the letter S.

Further examples of parallelism, as well as other interesting facets of the names, can be discovered by considering the possible transpositions, transadditions, transdeletions, and mutations to which the two names can be subjected.

As far as transdeletions are concerned, the word REPUBLICAN yields INCURABLE and BINUCLEAR, while the word DEMOCRATIC yields either DEClMATOR, or MEDICATOR, or MORDICATE.

In the case of transadditions, the name REPUBLICAN is a springboard to at least four: UNPRICEABLY, UNPRICEABLE (in the Oxford English Dictionary), UNCRISPABLE (a routine derivative of the dictionary verb "uncrisp"), and PRINCE ABDUL. Biographical dictionaries list various Moslem sultans named ABDUL, some of them in a father-son relationship to one another. The conclusion follows inescapably that at least some of these must have had the title "prince" before ascending to the throne.

The name DEMOCRATIC gives us a minimum of two transadditions: MORE CACTOID (an inflectional form of the adjective "cactoid"), and ARCHDEMITIC (a simple derivative of the adjective "demotic").

Naturally, greatest interest focuses on transpositions, or any rearrangements of exactly the ten letters in each name. It is here that
we observe a series of astonishing parallels. We discover, first of all, that both names are hilarious. The REPUBLICAN party is of PUN CALIBER while the DEMOCRATIC party, master of the COMEDIC ART, is RATED COMIC.

Both names can, next, be turned into impressive-sounding street names: REPUBLICAN is a rearrangement of RUBIN PLACE, while DEMOCRATIC is a transposal of MECLICE ROAD.

Both names can be turned into combinations of medical terms, in a variety of ways. REPUBLICAN can be mutated either into the combination ULNAR + BICEP, or into the combination RENAL + PUBIC. The case of DEMOCRATIC is more difficult, but persistence has triumphed over all obstacles. We know that there is an adjective DERMATIC. An obvious derivative of that adjective is the word CO-DERMATIC. Assigning a logical meaning to this derivative is a bit of a task. The word must be interpreted as "jointly dermatic". Jointly with what? Are we jointly considering the skins of two human beings? Are we jointly considering the skin and some other part of the body of one human being? Some further research into this murky problem seems indicated. Another shuffle of the letters in DEMOCRATIC produces two occupations, one of them that of the physician: MEDIC + ACTOR. If we think of a doctor as playing some sort of role on the stage of life, we can combine the two into one word: MEDIC-ACTOR.

In an even wider sweep, we encounter OCTADERMIC (having 8 skins), DIRECT COMA (to be distinguished from an indirect coma), and MEDICOCRAT (one who believes in government by physicians). There is also an affinity between the party names and the animal world. REPUBLICAN produces some rather strange animals, including the NUBILE CARP (a marriageable fish) and the LUPINE CRAB (wolflike seafood). A further example is the combination BRUIN + CAPLE (bear + horse). DEMOCRATIC displays multiplicity within the limits of just one rearrangement: CAT + DORMICE (plural of "dormouse").

Beyond this, transposals and mutations of the two party names diverge, into many different directions. Thus, thinking about the REPUBLICAN party, our Scottish friend, PLAIN BRUCE, tells us that the CUBAN PERIL in 1962, many of the aspects of which came to light on a NEAR-PUBLIC level, caused a RUBLE PANIC on the financial markets in Liverpool and Edinburgh. As for the DEMOCRATIC party, there is DOT CERAMIC (pottery decorated with dots), MICRO-ACTED (acted out in miniature), TO MAD CIRCE (probably the title of some 19th-century British poem), TIME ACCORD (an agreement on working hours between labor and management), ARCTIC DOME (the roof of a vaulted cavern in the far north), and OCCAM-TRIED (placed in judgment by William Occam, the noted Franciscan controversialist).

A further report on this intriguing subject will be issued when circumstances so warrant.