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# Pins Hopes on 'Crossovers'

By JAMES QUINN

The Rev. James M. Wall of Elmhurst is not one to back away from a challenge, but even he admits he is facing a tough one now.

He estimates that it will take at least 50,000 "crossover" Republican votes for him to unseat U.S. Rep. John N. Erlenborn (R-14th, Elmhurst) in next year's general election.

Mr. Wall, 43, of 451 S. Kenilworth, Elmhurst, was slated Sunday by the Du Page County Democratic Central Committee as a congressional candidate in the new 14th District. The district comprises all of Du Page County, except for a section of north Addison Township.

His opponent, now seeking his fifth two-

year term, ousted Democratic challenger William J. Adelman of Bensenville in the 1970 election, pulling 113,458 votes to Adelman's 55,689. Erlenborn received 70 per cent of the vote in Du Page County, making him the biggest vote-getter in the election.

That sort of plurality is one reason for Mr. Wall's candidacy. "I grew up in a Democratic state (he was born in Macon, Ga.) where there was an absolute one-party domination," he said. "I came to Du Page County 14 years ago and discovered to my horror exactly the same thing. It's just appalling to think of a county that makes an automatic endorsement of whatever candidate the Republicans put up."

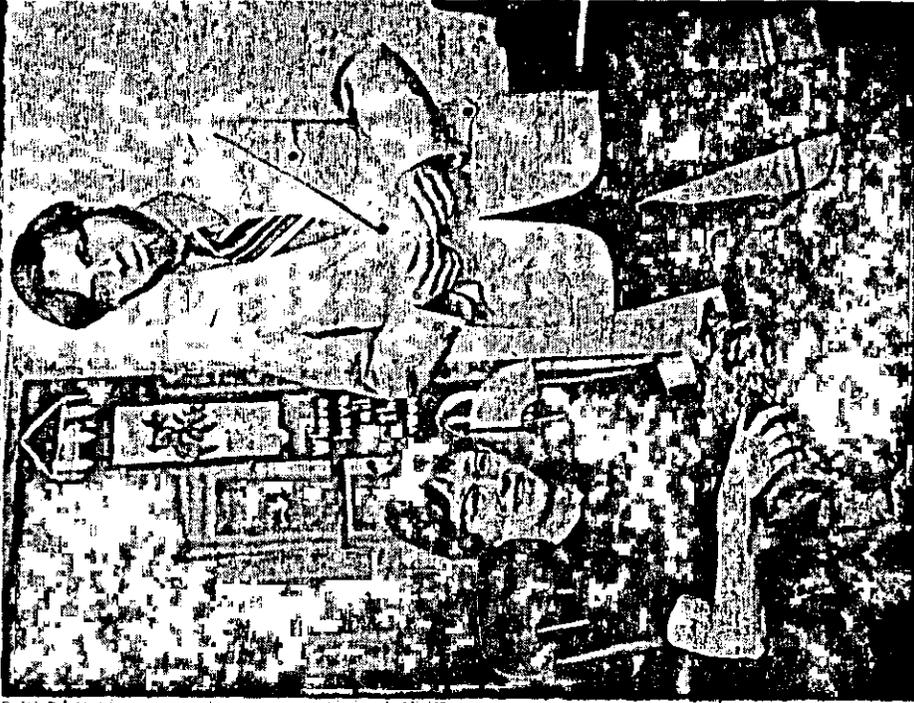
"Two he doesn't plan to attack Erlenborn specifically, preferring to mount a "re-searched," planned, issue-oriented campaign," Wall believes that "the danger of a one-party system is that it doesn't challenge the incumbent to aggressively serve or to inform his constituents."

The Democratic candidates for Illinois governor (U.S. Gov. Paul Simon and Daniel Walker), for example, will confront one another in the March 21 primary, and then the winner will take on incumbent Gov. Ogilvie next November. "But Erlenborn their car. B r u n o (trib. photo)

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# Erlenborn's Democratic Foe Pins Hopes on Crossovers

From page 1

confronts no one," Mr. Wall said, "and it weakens him as a congressman."

Mr. Wall has been the editor of *Christian Advocate*, a bimonthly magazine directed toward the leadership of the United Methodist Church, since 1963.

The magazine, published in Park Ridge, has a circulation of some 13,000, and deals with national and international issues and "the concern for the impact of the system on the individual and the responsibility of the individual in society," he said. Such concerns have helped him form his political philosophy.

Mr. Wall is also a film critic for his magazine, a teacher of film history courses at Elmhurst College, and author of the book "Church and Cinema," published this year. He believes that secular motion pictures are "a very important input for society. They tell us where we are and where we're going."

Mr. Wall's involvement with journalism grows out of his course work in the subject at Emory University in Atlanta. He was a sports writer for the *Atlanta Journal* for two years during school and after graduation, and considered making it his career. But the Korean War intervened. He served as an Air Force public information officer in Alaska, and returned to the Emory Theological Seminary after his term of service ended.

After two years as pastor of a church in Georgia, he moved to Illinois to work on his master's degree in theology and counseling at the University of Chicago. He has been a Democratic precinct committeeman since 1968.

Mr. Wall and his wife, Mary Eleanor, have three sons, David, 16, Bob (a name he prefers to Robert), 14, and Richard, 11. Mrs. Wall is co-convenor and chairman of the newly formed Du Page Democratic Women's Caucus, which will hold its next meeting Jan. 10 in the Berens Room of the Elmhurst Public Library. She is also first vice president of the Illinois division of the American Association of University Women.

His political philosophy obviously is based on his Christian faith; Mr. Wall plans to "be very careful not to use theological language" in his campaign. He also plans to "run one race at a time," his own, tho "I think my peace stand would indicate a McGovern orientation" in his Presidential preference.

Mr. Wall plans to announce his positions on specific issues during his campaign. But he will deal with several general concerns, he said.

"We need to reorder our national priorities away from the kind of limited mind set that has kept us in Viet Nam," he said. He believes that altho President Nixon can't be faulted for withdrawing troops; that strategy is in effect a "sugarcoating" for the American people to cover the fact that American air power and battle deaths of Asians are continuing.

Public acceptance of that sugarcoating and growing apathy toward the war will make raising that issue difficult, he admits. "It's always easier to deal with the obvious."

"We need to heal the wounds of our nation," he said. "The war has been the primary cause, but ending the war won't heal the wounds." Some symptoms of these wounds include the treatment of young people who protest the war as "outcasts and criminals," society's rejection of Viet Nam veterans once they return, and the kind of "political shorthand" involved in name calling of various groups by high political officials.

Mr. Wall plans to seek the support of independents and Republicans as well as the Democratic organization in his campaign. And he is counting on the estimated 30,000 young people eligible to vote in the district.

## Glen Ellyn Man in Deep Freeze

Navy-PO 3C Jess C. Krueger, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Krueger, 22W533 Emerson, Glen Ellyn, is at the bottom of the world with Detachment Alfa of the Antarctic Support Activities, part of the 17th consecutive Operation Deep Freeze.

# Christian Century stops preaching, starts on road back



Tribune Photo by Hardy Wieting

The Rev. James Wall, in his three years as editor, has brought the Chicago-based Christian

Century magazine from a \$124,000 annual deficit to a profit-making publication.

By James Robison  
Religion Editor

THREE YEARS ago, the Rev. James M. Wall faced severe odds as he took over as editor of the Chicago-based Christian Century magazine, long-considered "must reading" for America's liberal Protestant community.

● The Century had lost some 7,000 subscribers in the five years before the Rev. Mr. Wall's appointment, leaving circulation at about 30,000.

● A costly merger with the dying British journal, New Christian, had added 8,000 subscribers, of whom few if any resubscribed.

● Annual deficits had reached \$124,000.

● The magazine's capital fund had dropped from \$650,000 to \$250,000 in four years.

● Foundations—sought out by the magazine to shore up the sagging operations—diagnosed the Century as a terminal case.

BUT NEXT week, as the 45-year-old United Methodist cleric enters his fourth year as editor, the magazine's condition will be stabilized if not revived.

Financially, the Century is back in the black with a \$400,000 annual budget. Editor Wall has cut his full-time staff by half, including a business manager whose job the Rev. Mr. Wall has assumed.

The weekly has been reduced from 52 to 44 issues annually, subscription rates are up from \$8 to \$12 yearly, now promotional efforts are under way, and a classified ad section has been added.

"I did all the normal things to cut back," he said, noting that his reforms even extended into the Century restrooms

where cloth towels were replaced by paper ones.

Circulation—while still down from the 38,000 subscription peak in the mid-'60s—is holding its own with a third of the subscribers being libraries. Renewal rates top 70 per cent ["very high as magazines go"], the Rev. Mr. Wall said.

**EDITORIALLY**, the magazine has turned away from pontification and preachy oratory. The new emphasis is on analysis honed from on-the-spot coverage of events—both religious and secular.

Viewing events from a vantage point built on the theology of the late Paul Tillich, the Rev. Mr. Wall said: "Tillich felt that you find religion more

when you probe into culture. That's how I see us [The Century]—at the intersection of religion and culture, interpreting and analyzing their relationships."

And so Managing Editor Dean Peerman began a series of reports from Latin America, flying there to take a look at post-Allende Chile. Black Associate Editor Cornish Rogers went to Mississippi to report on the organizing efforts of black sawmill workers. Editor Wall set off for South Dakota, filing stories on the American Indians and subsequent trials stemming from the Wounded Knee incident.

But the Rev. Mr. Wall thinks that the magazine should be

less predictable than it once was when it seemed to support liberal church causes without hesitation.

**SOME BELIEVE** he has dented the magazine's ecumenical stand by being critical of Catholics in an editorial condemning "The Exorcist." He has chastized the traditionally liberal National Council of Churches as being "too quick to respond to cause groups and not sophisticated enough in relating to Middle America."

The Georgia-born editor's affection for journalism was nurtured as a sportswriter under the direction of the late Ralph McGill of the Atlanta Constitution. After a stint as

an Air Force information officer in Anchorage, Alaska, Wall returned to the Atlanta newspapers to work his way thru Emory University's divinity school.

Eventually, he was assigned to a South Side Chicago parish, acquired a master's degree in religion from the University of Chicago, and spent the 13 years before his Century appointment as an editor for the United Methodists' Christian Advocate magazine.

**ALTHO HE** was Sen. George McGovern's Illinois delegation vice-chairman at the 1972 Democratic convention and ran unsuccessfully for a congressional seat in Illinois' 14th District, the Rev. Mr. Wall insists that the Century stay out of "partisan politics."

He's very conscious of the days when the Internal Revenue Service briefly withdrew the magazine's "nonprofit" status for its endorsement of President Lyndon Johnson.

"The line I have drawn is this: How the Democrats elect

delegates is not our concern," he said. "But affirmative action, how they treat women and minorities, is our concern."