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--DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN FOR CALIFORNIA?--

Whispered about in Washington during the recent meeting of the Democratic Advisory Committee was a plan to make Paul Ziffren the new Democratic National Chairman.

This stemmed from two motives. One is general dissatisfaction with amiable, hard-working Paul Butler of Indiana, the present chairman. Southern Democrats, including Lyndon Johnson of Texas, are irked at Butler, chiefly because he has challenged southern leadership. Some northern Democrats have also been rubbed the wrong way.

Sentiment for Ziffren originates with his former law partner, Col. Jack Arvey, the big Chicago Democrat. Some years ago when Ziffren went to California from Chicago, Arvey advised him to get into politics and take a leading role in the Democratic party. Arvey, who is a past master at politics, felt that the Democratic party in California needed rebuilding.

Ziffren has followed his advice. He is now Democratic National Committeeman for California, has helped organize clubs all over the state. He has made some enemies but is an energetic liberal who doesn't straddle issues and doesn't compromise with the Republican opposition as do some Democrats in California.

At any rate, his old law partner would like to make him the new national chairman. This would be quite a change from precedent, which, ever since 1924, has called for an Irish Catholic to be Democratic chairman. The last Protestant Democratic chairmen were Cordell Hull of Tennessee in 1920 and Homer Cummings from Connecticut in 1924. Since then Democratic chairmen have included Jim Farley of New York, Frank Walker of Scranton, Pa., boss Ed Flynn of the Bronx, Bob Hannegan of St. Louis, Bill Boyle of Kansas City, Steve Mitchell of Chicago, and Paul Butler of South Bend, Ind.

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