ON ELECTION NIGHT in 1916, Woodrow Wilson sat at home eating crackers and drinking milk while waiting for returns. At 10:30 when the returns indicated certain defeat for him, Mr. Wilson announced, "I am going to bed...you all seem so glum." He retired believing that he had lost. Next morning, returns from California gave Wilson thirteen additional electoral votes, enough to ensure his re-election. Our elections have always stirred emotions. Especially in recent campaigns. The campaign of 1940 climaxed in a flare of violence which saw Mr. Willkie and his wife being bombarded with everything from overripe fruit to rocks and metal waste baskets. Afterwards, Mrs. Willkie cried, "How could we lose? We tried so hard!" In the 1952 election, Mr. Stevenson, after conceding the victory to Mr. Eisenhower, remarked that he was "too old to cry, and it hurt too much to laugh". Tomorrow evening, local partisans of the two candidates will watch the returns. The fact that many will have cast their ballot for the first time in a presidential election may cause emotions to run high. Where is the enterprising Sorinite who'll come up with a couple thousand pins bearing the word "SMILE". Well.....with or without pins, remember to keep your temper and tongue under control, whatever the outcome.

• "ONE YEAR FOR CHRIST IN THE MISSIONS". This is the title of a talk by Rev. Fred Underwood, C.S.C., slated for 8:00 P.M. Thursday evening in the Law Auditorium. There have been numerous inquiries about the chance of a student spending a year working in the missions. Here's your chance to talk with someone who can give you the facts. Father Underwood is one of the founders of The Volunteer Teachers Mission Service.

IN THE WALL STREET JOURNAL for October 6, 1960, appeared an article by
Ray Vicker entitled "The Catholic Church". The article has been much-
quoted for its remarks on the fiscal condition of the Church. Worth not-
ing, too, is what Mr. Vicker has to say about a Catholic becoming Presi-
dent.

The Papacy itself has not made any official statement about the Church's “position” on
the possibility of a Catholic becoming President of the U.S. and whether a Catholic
President would face conflicts between his obligations to his faith and his obligations to the
Constitution.

"We have taken no official position concerning the candidacy of Senator Kennedy
nor about any possible conflicts which might arise from it," says one Vatican official pri-
vately. But some Catholic churchmen in the U.S. have indicated what they believe the
Church's position is on this issue of separation of church and state.

Archbishop Karl J. Alter of the Cincinnati
Archdiocese recently said in a Catholic pub-
lication: "There is no doctrine of the Catholic
Church which is in conflict with the Constitu-
tion of the United States, and hence there can
be no conflict between the obligations imposed
by the Church and those imposed by the Con-
stitution."

In a recent and widely-disseminated speech,
the Rev. Gustave Weigel, a prominent Jesuit
teologian at Maryland's Woodstock College,
said this about the possibility of a Catholic
President: "As for the interference of the
bishops or the Pope, it can be said without
hesitation that there would be none of it. The
Pope does not meddle with the political activ-
ity of Adenauer or DeGaulle, nor would either
man permit it." The leaders of West Ger-
many and France are Catholics.

The Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Ro-
mano not long ago issued a statement defining
the role of a Catholic in public life: it was
issued to clarify the position of Catholics hold-
ning public office in Italy, where Communism
has been a definite threat. Positions taken by
the Vatican newspaper are not binding on
Catholics, of course, but they may represent
the thinking of top Church officials in some
situations.

Basically, the article in L'Osservatore Ro-
mano contended that you can't separate the
Catholic from the citizen. A Catholic, it said,
"must in every sector of his life draw the
inspiration for his conduct in both private and
public from the laws, orientation and instruc-
tion of the hierarchy." The statement said that
sometimes "politics touches the altar" and
when it does, the Church has a duty to inform
the faithful concerning directions they should
take in their conduct. But the statement was
tempered by the thought that "there is a very
broad field" in which a Catholic politician can
move without conflicting with any Church
regulations.

No Catholic Church officials have risen to
dispute the statement made by Sen. John Ken-
nedy last month before a meeting of the
Greater Houston Ministerial Association. At
that time Sen. Kennedy said, among other
things: "Whatever issue may come before me
as President, if I should be elected—on birth
control, divorce, censorship, gambling, or any
other subject—I will make my decision in
accordance with what my conscience tells me
to be in the national interest, and without re-
gard to outside religious pressure or dictate.
And no power or threat of punishment could
cause me to decide otherwise."

In answering a question about the possibility
of any state-church conflict in the Presidency,
a member of the Curia, the church's ruling
body in the Vatican, answered irritably: "There
have been many Catholic governors in various
states of the United States, while Catholic
mayors have been common in numerous Amer-
ican cities. There are many Catholics holding
such positions today. I know of no case where
Catholic doctrine conflicted with the official
duties of the elective office. If there are no such
collections at the local and state levels, why
should we assume there should be any at the
national level?"