

## Who Is "Weakening" the President?

No one in the political history of Texas has been able to charm votes from the electorate by a radio campaign so well as has Governor W. Lee O'Daniel. And, once elected, his continued radio reports to the people of the state have been a potent force in holding his following together.

So, it was not unexpected that he should turn immediately to the microphone once he had announced for United States senator and begin an almost daily speech-making program that would take his views on current issues, and his reports on past achievements, to the voters.

The governor has covered a good deal of ground in his broadcasts but, it seems to us that he weakened his case by talking a little too much about the politicians. He has been so dramatically effective in lambasting the "professional politicians" of Texas for the last three years that the temptation to widen the field apparently was too strong and he permitted himself to broadcast charges that the more conservative are likely to consider a little wild.

For example, he declared in that first campaign speech that "Roosevelt is a great man, but regardless of how great a man he may be, he is weakened by being surrounded by a gang of pussyfooters who make politics their business and who could not manage a peanut wagon of their own successfully." He admitted that the president is surrounded by many good men, "but he needs more good men."

The governor was graceful enough not to name names, but we are inclined to believe that people would like to know at this point the names of the "pussyfooters" who are weakening the president.

Surely, he does not mean the Texas delegation in the congress. Does he refer, by any chance, to Sam Rayburn of Texas, the speaker of the house? Does he consider the brilliant secretary of state, Cordell Hull, a dangerous man around the president? Are the actions of the two military secretaries, Mr. Stimson and Mr. Knox, the acts of "pussyfooters?"

Would the charge go far enough to include the majority leaders in the senate and the house, who are consulted on matters of importance affecting legislation?

Would it, perhaps, include the Republican candidate for president, Wendell Willkie, who has had a lot to say at the White House in the last few months?

Surely not. Undoubtedly, the governor does not mean these men. But whom does he mean?

Or is it faintly possible that he found the charges leveled at state "pie-eaters," among the group of office-holders and would-be office-holders, so successful as to induce him to apply the same technique in the larger field of the nation?

The governor has a great host of friends, a majority of whom were among the 85 per cent of Texans who voted for President Roosevelt at the 1940 election, and it is doubtful if they will believe that the president's chief advisers are "pussy-footing," "pie-eating" politicians.