Psychologically, a political campaign is very much like the "thriller" melodramas of the old days, Mr. Myers indicated. The skillful campaigner finds out in advance what things his audience is most likely to hate and fear, and he casts these things in the role of the villain.

The villains may be high taxes, war, insufferable bureaucracy, communism, immorality, political corruption—or even civil liberties, Mr. Myers indicated. The political opponents are cleverly made to seem to personify these villains.

The candidate himself is, of course, the hero, the "knight in shining armor" who will save the voter from being ravaged by the villains and by their agents, dupes or

accomplices.

That puts the voter in the role of the

"At this point the heroine—that is, the audience—should come in for a great deal of praise. Its worthwhileness and virtues should be painted in the brightest colors. Each member of the audience should be made to feel his extreme worth, and how horrible it would really be if any of the villains should actually win out, and how lucky he is to have a man before him who is ready to fight for him and save him from a fate worse than death."

But now the campaigner has worked himself into a bad position. For the beautiful heroine ordinarily does nothing to save herself. It is the hero who acts. How is he

to get the voter to the polls?

"To bring this about calls for extremely fast footwork," Mr. Myers explains, "and our campaigner must skillfully and smoothly pull off what we may call a 'switch.' He must subtly and adroitly switch roles with the audience so that at election time, the audience members will be the heroes, and he the heroine who must be saved from his opponents by the votes which the audience members must cast."

Science News Letter, July 17, 1948

ZOOLOGY

Wolves Studied by Leading Soviet Zoologist

➤ WOLVES (the kind that howl, not the ones that whistle) are the special subjects of study of Prof. A. Kohts of the Darwin Museum, one of Russia's leading zoologists, according to word received indirectly from Moscow. He has had especially good opportunities to build up his collection lately, because of the increase of the wildlife population of the USSR that followed the war's devastation.

The wolf species of northern Europe and Asia is identical with that of North America, Prof. Kohts declares. Differences are mainly in coat color. While North American wolves are gray, European wolves have a range of color from practically black in Spain to a sandy hue in the solitary wolves of the Arabian desert. Wolves of the cold Tibetan plateau, he adds, have woolly coats.

Science News Letter, July 17, 1948

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