

'Put Me In, Coach! Put Me In!'

Marquis Childs
Lewis, The Tragedian

How Divided Is The GOP?

THE issue of party regularity is old and worn in the South, at the polling places at least. It is a little surprising, however, to see it springing full-blown from the forehead of Republican Chairman a Reece.

Ah, the changes time hath wrought. It was just a year ago that Democratic Chairman Hannegan pleaded with the Democrats (even threatened, some of the Southerners said) to get together and support the Administration program in Congress. Now, in the echo, Chairman Reece is pleading with Republican Congressmen to lead to the Party line and erase the yawning schism between the Old Guard and the Young Guard.

Chairman Hannegan got his compunction, first from members of his Party and later from the people at the polls. Chairman Reece has also received the first part of the treatment: Senator Morse of Oregon has denounced his "dictatorial methods" and declared his intention to vote his conscience, even as did Senator Hoey a year ago.

There is an understandable tendency among the Republicans to sneer at this evidence of Republican division, which appears on the surface to effect the cleavage in their own Party. The comparison, however, is not too apt. It is quite true that there is a basic ideological cleavage and difference between isolationists and internationalists, for instance — but the greatest difference is not over direction, but over method. The overwhelming majority of Republicans prefer the old, the conservative, and act accordingly. They all

want to reduce taxes, for instance, even though they are having difficulty in agreeing on the amount.

The Democratic Party, on the other hand, is now in a struggle with complete wings facing in opposite directions. Its liberals, such as have survived the storm, believe the New Deal should be continued on a permanent basis. The conservative faction, which includes the majority of Southerners, shares the outlook of the most conservative Republicans on virtually all domestic matters and for some years now has voted accordingly.

When the Democratic Party gave the GOP actual control of the 79th Congress, even though the Democrats still held a paper majority. The only regularity among most of the Southerners was the regularity with which they joined the Republicans in sabotaging President Truman's reconversion program. The path across the aisle, however, is still one-way: split though the GOP may be, there are no signs of any Republican ally ready to support that tired little band of Democratic regulars who would like to do something about, say, housing.

Mr. Reece is really worried, we gather, because he does not know what to do as conservative as he and his bosses think it should be. Recalling Mr. Reece's past contributions to public understanding of the New Deal, the New Deal and Communistic interchangeability, he would say the area of Republican disagreement can be extended considerably before there is any real danger that the GOP is about to desert the standards of McKinley and Harding.

Harry And George On The Road

FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT, who was supposed to be able to charm the birds down out of the trees, never received a warmer welcome in a foreign nation than that accorded Harry S. Truman in Mexico. The Mexicans began throwing their congratulations at the moment he landed in Mexico City, and before he finished his sight-seeing and a speech-making the crowds were crying "Viva Arriño!" The affectionate Spanish diminutive has probably been conferred upon a foreigner in so short a time.

One of the reasons, we suspect, is that Mr. Truman is the sort of man who has no regard for protocol. He is simple, unassuming, and impulsive. The diplomats of all the world capitals are still trying to figure out the true significance of his sudden junket to Mexico, and the reason for his unprecedented invitation to the Mexican Ambassador to accompany him, not only to Mexico City but to Grand View. The answer seems to be that Harry Truman always wanted to go to Mexico, and happens to consider the Mexican Ambassador a clever and capable diplomat. But there is also an obvious connotation that the President, if it has occurred to him, might not like, if he is able to find time to make neighborhood calls on 21 nations, it can only mean that the isn't much for him to do in Washington, or more bluntly, that there isn't much in Washington he can do.

Mr. Truman, we suspect, will resist the effort to convert him into an American celebrity in many ways. But there is one in South Africa enjoying a social success comparable to Mr. Truman's in Mexico. The pleasant smile, the non-controversial speech, the democratic handshakes and the fact that he isn't much for him to do in Washington, or more bluntly, that there isn't much in Washington he can do.

Communists And Civil Liberties

AN man can be a member of the Communist Party and still be a good American citizen. This is the answer that Americans would answer no. In that case, is an American Communist still entitled to the civil liberties guaranteed to all American citizens? We don't know how the American people would answer, but we can answer the one. It seems likely that they don't quite know themselves.

The post-war witch hunts now in progress at every level of government have raised the question of membership campaigns in Raleigh and Winston-Salem have accepted paid advertisements from the Communist Party on the ground that the Party is not illegal and its ads contained nothing that would be a basis for refusal, they felt, that they would have to refuse an ad submitted by the Democratic Party. This is reasonable enough, but it hasn't spared the newspapers the violent criticism of their membership campaigns. On the other hand, many would provide them with an altruistic appeal to the disgruntled among us. A Communist speaking his piece in the pages of the Southern Statesman, or in the North Carolina Legislature, is no threat at all. A Communist persecuted, denied the rights accorded other citizens, and driven underground, might be. At least the Czars found that it worked out that way.

Another Voice

SO a Columbus, Ohio, editor can't find out how are things in Glocca Morra because the trans-Atlantic telephone operator can't find the Glocca Morra of the song.

Reading & Writing

Our Educational Methods

THE fact that 100,000 white students are receiving sub-standard instruction in elementary and secondary public schools, as established in a survey by Dr. James E. Hillman of the State Department of Public Instruction, makes it easier to understand why North Carolina high school graduates are found to be less ready for college freshman work than are high school graduates from other states.

It makes it easier to understand, but it does not make it easier to accept. Over a period of approximately fifteen years I have been told by college professors in this state that boys and girls go to college from North Carolina high schools armed with the required credits, the usual scattering of extra credits, and standard diplomas. They get in college and then founder helplessly for the first semester or longer, until they try to learn to read. They know the words on the paper all right, but the words just don't mean anything to them. I'm told they have not mastered the trick or the habit of the fundamentals, if you will, of correlating the written word system with "progressive" thought.

It is not that a condition so general can be laid to the percentage of teachers holding sub-standard certificates. Though the unqualified teacher or the one more hazy in the twelve year preparation for college, or worse still, to the handicap of making a living without benefit of higher education, it seems to me that the chief failure of our schools lies in the methods of teaching in our elementary grades. The high school teacher and the teen-age boy or girl should be expected to enter away time over the fundamentals of reading, writing, and arithmetic. The high school teacher (with grade English will tell you that many students reach their college level with a blank slate of preparation, and a shocking disregard for punctuation, spelling, and grammar. Many students who receive their grades through the American high school and junior high school find themselves less than ready for the final year's work before college.

Reading & Writing

Our Educational Methods

NOT even I would recommend going back to one-teacher schools, where each child was allowed to progress according to his own ability, application, and background, but if the lumbering, overgrown system is to be supported by the people of North Carolina it must prove itself by turning the children out of the schools in order to stand on equal footing with high school graduates from any other section in the United States.

Teacher-qualification, teacher-pay, teacher-load, and teacher-shortage are all fundamental and pertinent, but the amount of learning acquired in twelve years is the exact of the whole matter, the reason and the result. Now, while the battle for adequate teacher-pay is making the State school system, it is a mighty good time to overhaul the system. The success of any system must be judged by its finished product and not by the means of its production. It is the mental growth of the child as he goes through the mill is the result.

The fact that 100,000 North Carolina children are receiving instruction from teachers who hold sub-standard certificates, but that the number of children who are being taught is more than the figures would be, if we had them giving the number of North Carolina children who have been through the mill, is a very serious matter. Margaret Smithurst, in The Raleigh News & Observer.

Senator Soaper Says:

A CONSERVATIVE Democrat writes he has some good news for the State. It is a good news for a 1947 Christmas tree. Los Angeles City firemen blossom out in slacks, sports shirts and gay belts instead of suspenders. It is to find a set of pastel dominos, with polka dots.

This maneuvering for control of the New York Central is like old times—the depression, when it was being riddled away, but the old old days are the best of times. Chest examinations of school children point the way to needed corrections—as in Grosz Pointe (Mich.) where a strange condition in several high schools turned out to be a doorknob behind the X-ray machine.



BY THE ILLUSTRATION PARTY

Reading & Writing

Our Educational Methods

prepared group, which, therefore, must take most of her time. The children who have digested, by hook or by crook, the menu of the grade below find themselves on the same monotonous treadmill each year and must sit it out, often unnoticed for lack of time by the teacher, while they hear day-by-day the repetition of the unlearned lessons of the year before being drilled into the hopeless who must, willy-nilly, be kept in their age group, and helped in the fight to make the grade sooner or later. The brighter child happens to be, the more deadly the boredom, the more sure the setting up of defense mechanisms to protect his or her sanity by completely shutting out the teacher's words.

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WHEN John L. Lewis first began his performance before the Senate Committee on Education and Labor got the impression that he had grown old and tired. On the day before, the Supreme Court had struck him down and he seemed in a chastened mood.

But this was a superficial impression. When the old actor really got going, he showed that he was anything at the top of his form. The time it was a different role. Instead of Hamlet, it was King Lear—the aging monarch who sees the world, and the great tragedian played it up to the hilt. His voice, which had begun low and almost inaudible, rose to a roar of noble emphasis. He threw out his hands in a wild gesture, and a dozen flash bulbs caught it in a split second. The crowd-ringing packed in the committee room had the same effect as the same Lewis, the master of the public appearance, the special pleading, the no-holds-barred.

Members of the committee found it difficult or impossible to break through the barrage of words and the force of the senators. Taft, Ball, Aiken, Ellender and Smith all tried in vain. Taft had particularly bad luck. He remarked that Lewis was assuming that he was the master of the United Mine Workers Union. This remark followed some discussion of the teacher's vote, and perhaps the DMW was not the most democratic organization in the world, but Lewis, as he was an autocrat, Lewis leaned back, surveyed the Senator from Ohio and delivered himself of the following to him.

"There have been reports in the newspapers that you are a Republican in Congress. Senator, but I would not want to hear you pretend to be anything but a Democrat. I had discussed with you your truth or falsity. If they laugh and applause from the crowd. Grinning, Taft explained that you could not order the Senate to pass a law. You could do anything; it could be done only by persuasion. But when the Senator death protest too much," said the old Shakespeare in the witness chair.

Samuel Grafton

American Superiority

THE traveling American is king of the smoking room these days. Currency restrictions touch him not. He is the only one who can stand on equal footing with high school graduates from any other section in the United States.

HELPFUL HINTS
Americans are full of ideas, though not very clear ones, for saving the money they have. They are full of ideas, though not very clear ones, for saving the money they have. They are full of ideas, though not very clear ones, for saving the money they have.

There is only one dissent and it is based on a curious ground. One thing that has not been said in course America is the world's last stronghold against racialism. One thing that has not been said in course America is the world's last stronghold against racialism.

Freshman Questions Senior
REPRESENTATIVE Jack Jarvis, New York City Republican, is asking that freshman Congressmen should be given a list of questions to answer at the end of their first year.

Jarvis took his bill and voted for the bill only to discover later that insufficient funds were provided for the bill. Jarvis took his bill and voted for the bill only to discover later that insufficient funds were provided for the bill.

Dr. W. Pearson's Merry-Go-Round - Lewis Had Premonition of Court Ruling

JOHN L. Lewis seemed to have a premonition as to what would happen to his case when he was before the Court's decision, the big blue-tinted mine worker book made a significant, rather plaintive talk before a number of Republican Senators.

John L. Lewis was called on at the end of the dinner and took fifteen minutes to appear for a return to "free enterprise." There can be no free enterprise, he said, if the rights of labor are restricted.

you and other leaders of labor have a major responsibility in this. You should conduct yourselves as if you were the only people in the world.

WHEELER Honored At Dinner
ALLEGEDLY the dinner was given in honor of ex-Democratic Senator Burr Wheeler of Montana. Lewis is the man who persuaded the Anaconda Copper Co. to support Wheeler when Burr was in danger of being defeated for the Senate in 1922.

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