DMAS L EOBINSON J. E. DOWD HARRY S. ASHMORE
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## The Vetoes And The Party Lines

PRESIDENT TRUMAN, having twice exercised his Constitutional right to veto major acts of the 80th Congress, is now being accused of attempting to thwart the will of the people. The voters, it is argued, indicated their desire for labor curbs and reduced taxes when they gave the Republicans a Congressional misority, and it is therefore incumbent upon the President to sign any measures that may come before him.

come before him.

This theory has some merit, we suppose, but it is in conflict with the Constitution of the United States. That document is designed to make the Government responsive because the suppose of the construction of the Constitution of

The veto, of course, is not an absolute check. As final passage of the Taft-Hart-ley Bill demonstrates, the Congress can, if it is determined enough, impose its will upon a hostile President. But it does, in a

upon a hostile President. But it does in a season like this when one party controls the executive branch and the other the Congress, guarantee against precipitate shifts in policy.

This may be, as a good many political scientists have argued, a bad thing, product of a Constitutional flaw which guarantees an unwholesome division of responsibility, Senator Fulbright of Arkanasa had this in mind when, after the Republican triumph flast Fall, he proposed that Mr. Truman appoint a Republican successor and resign from office. This would have guaranteed harmony between Congress

and Executive which cannot, under our two-party system, be obtained any other

way.

It seems to us, however, that the current division between President and Congress is serving at least one useful purpose. It is clarifying the issues which will be preented to the people in 1948, restoring the perspective which has been blurred by the bipartisan nature of our current foreign policy and the period of uneasy collaboration on domestic affairs that preceded the recent values.

cent vetoes.

In a general sense at least, the Demo-cratic Party may be defined (comparative-ly, of course) as liberal, and the Republi-can Party as conservative. Except in the one-party South, where these distinctions an have no meaning, the voters will be given a choice between two political phil-crables, and there will be specific issues. given a choice between two political phil-coophies, and there will be specific issues upon which to test them. The Taft-Hartley Bill will have been in effect for more than a year, and the record will show whether Republican judgement was sound when it was offered as a solution to our labor-management difficulties, or whether Mr. Truman's arguments against it were valid.

If on the other hand, Mr. Truman had surrendered to the Republican majority the voters would have had no real basis for a choice between the two parties in 1948. Domestic policy would have been reduced to the bi-partisan status of foreign policy, and those who wanted to register their disagreement would have been powerless to

two Republican-sponsored measures Mr. Truman refused to sign, his vetoes are in keeping with the partisan tradition which is a cornerstone of our representative gov-ernment.

## Stability For The Building Industry

THE cost-plus construction contracts of
the war period, and the "escalator
clauses" that were common in the recent
era of great shortages, were marks of the
most fantastic period contractors have
ever known. They were products of a time
when as man who undertook a construction
job could not see beyond the end of his
nose, when the usual methods of figuring
costs were totally inadequate. Contracts
served only to guarantee that the work
would be done—not how much it would
cost or when it would be completed.

cost or when it would be completed.

It is cheerful news, therefore, that the Carolinas Branch of the Associated General Contractors is now calling upon all members in the two states—and their supplers—to abplish the "secalator clause" in all ruture contracts. The primary purpose of the clause was to project the contractor against the rising cost of materials. Bids were tentative, leaving leavey for reflucing at any point in the construction process. And this meant, of course, that the man who was footing the bill for the job

had no faint idea what the final cost would

The feorure and the mast construction of the chaotic conditions which forced the "escalator clause" upon the industry have now been largely eliminated. With the co-operation of suppliers, the organization believes that it should now be possible for its members to offer firm and final bids, and it urges them to do so in order to guard against "undeserved criticism."

No single step could do more to restore stability to the building industry than the proposal of the Associated Contractors. A flood of construction, which has been dealayed by the uncertainties of recent months, would be released fif prospective builders can be guaranteed that preliminary cost estimates will stand. If, as the organization says, there is no longer any justification for it he "escalator clause", there is also no longer any good readator clause. The contraction is not the contraction of the contractor of t

#### Instrument Of Public Service

GOVERNOR THURMOND of South Carolina is devoting a good deal of time these days to building support for one of the most ambitious programs of governmental reform ever broached in his state. The House of Representatives at its recent session passed a bill empowering the Governor and the presiding officers of the two houses to appoint a commission charged with revamping the entire state government. The Governor is now calling upon the voters to back his effort to put the measure through the Benate when it convenes sgain next year.

venes again next year.

The proposed commission, unlike most, is not a mere study and research group. It could not only recommend, it could act. Its program would become law unless the Legislature specifically vetoed it portion by portion. This provision, while taking away none of the Legislature's customary prerogatives, is a wise guarantee against pigeonholling and delay.

The governmental structure in South Carolina, as in most states, is the product of years of planless growth and expansion. The primary function of the commission, therefore, would be to work out a consolidation of the various bureaus and agencles which would eliminate a 11 overlapping. Governor Thurmond is convinced that a major saving in money, and a great gain in efficiency would result.

There are many political obstacles in the way of such far-reaching reform. The Governor apparently recognizes the natural resistance of politicians to change, and he is taking his plea to the people, trying to build up oppular support through radio addresses and stump speeches in every corner of the state.

addresses and atump specuses in con-ner of the state.

It's a brave and ambitious project, and we wish Governor Thurmond well. South Carolina's greatest need is, as he says, a program to "make government a workable instrument of public service."

#### 'Another Voice

## History's Royal Joke

WHEN Hitler fell, it was widely assumed that his Axis counterparts would not long survive the collapse of European Fascism. This was particularly true of speculalong survive the collapse of European Fas-cism. This was particularly true of specula-tion about the fate of Generalissimo Fran-cisco Franco, the Spanish dictator.

But El Caudillo, as he is called, is an ex-ceptionally durable politician. If it is necessary to herd the populace of Spanish cities into the streets to hall his passing, it is hardly required to take such unsubtle measures in his behalf in the Spanish Cor-tes, or Parliament.

tes, or Parliament.

The Cortes has enacted a "law of succession" granting Franco the right to life tenures as chief of State and permitting him to name his successor. This is hardly surprising, since nearly every member of the Cortes is appointed by Franco or depends upon him for office. In theory the new law provides for a monarchy, But the monarch, if any, will be the Generalisation monarch and the surprise of the control of the contr

only lives and thrives but reigns as well. As a product of Allied wartime expediency practiced to appease totalitarians of both the right and the left. Franco is a sort of living mockery of the democratic idealism for which so much blood was shed. History, in its wry way, has played a little joke—a royal one now, if you please. — Asheville Citizen.

If there is to be no inner tube in tomorrow's tire it is not known what the kids can carry out to the lake to simulate downed Pacific filers.

A popular writer on psychiatry comes out with the flat assertion that he under-stands women. But don't tell us, Bub; it's guessing that keeps us alive.

'Don't You Know There's A Housing Shortage Here?'



## People's Platform

# **Emphasis On Confusion**

Editors, The News:

A MID the present conditions of confusion and international unrest if dear in the confusion and international unrest in th

Editors. Tets News:

AMID the present conditions of confusion and a international unrest it doesn't require any international continuation of the continuation of the

-A. W. BLACK

#### Falling Market

Editors, THE NEWS

Cleanest

Gittors, THI News:

THE following is from The Monroe Journal

"Since Mecklenburg is going in the business
some people naturally ask why can't Union County

some people naturally ask why can't Union County
enging to Charlotte? The answer is, no ury opinion,
the people of Union County will never vote to establish them. Hence we hope no agrisation will be starttone to the start of the start of the startish them. Hence we hope no agrisation will be starttone to the start of the start of the starttone of the start of the start of the startconsiderable number of people in this town and
county want to buy liquic and while there is some
boostlegging. It is not sufficient to drive in minboostlegging it is not sufficient to drive in mintout for those who want it, perhaps the courts
can come down harder on the boostleggers.

Stores until some changes come about—that is to

put a back door to the store. When that is done
the de will turnried about the whore coming to

Charlotte. We're not suffering. Of course we don't

like to pay four dollars a pint to the bootleggers

over here, but since the election in Mecklenburg the

No. I don't think Monroe is the drivet town in

the state.

—R. E. BELK.

-R. E. BELK.

The People's Platform is available to any reader who cares to mount it. Communications possible, and on only oncode, typewriten if possible, and on only oncode, typewriten if the Libet and obscenity will be deleted—otherwise anything opes. Each letter must be signed although, in exceptional cases and upon request, TERN NEWS, MINDEL STREAMS.

### Marquis Childs

## Labor Bill Strategy

veto of the labor bill.

Given White House strategy on
the labor bill, President Truman
had very little choice in the matter.
You can argue that the strategy
was wrong and ventor may prove
the strategy
was trong and ventor may prove
treat the strategy
that the str

uesk. ne nad jo veto il.
He had to veto it because he had
deliberately refrained from working
with Congress to get the kind of
bill he might have approved. That
bill he might have approved. That
to be bottom. The expectation was that,
given enough rope, the extremist
Republicans would write a bill so
crudely restrictive that no President could stip\_it.

dent could sign\_it.

BOOBY TEALS

Senator Ives of New York got in
the way of that strategy. On his
insistence, the final bill was more
moderate than the intentions of
ly important, it was made to could
are more "reasonable" than in reality it was The President's veto meating the way of a far and free collective bargaining under the bill. They
are obstacles that, in many the
boolty traps laid for organized isbor.

of a pre-election year.

Looking at its objectively, however, you must conclude that if politice, and here the primary consideration, sained or to have let it become law without a signature. The President could have written a message point-could have written a message point-could have written a message point-base without a signature. The President could have written a message point-base without a signature of the message point-base without a signature of the message point-base without a signature of the message point-base with the will of the majority, he was reluctantly permitting it to become law.

#### REAL AIM

But a veto of the labor binot likely to win this crowd to tive support of Mr. Truman. I touchatone is foreign policy real aim of a third party founder the auspices of those mow seem likely to back it with the property of the constructive foreign policy successfully and the support of the constructive foreign policy successfully marshall has advocated to the constructive foreign policy successfully marshall has advocated to the constructive foreign policy successfully marshall has advocated to the constructive foreign policy successfully marshall has advocated to the constructive foreign policy successfully marshall has advocated to the constructive foreign policy successfully marshall has advocated to the constructive foreign policy successfully marshall has advocated to the constructive foreign policy successfully marshall has advocated to the constructive foreign policy successfully marshall has advocated to the constructive foreign policy successfully marshall has advocated to the constructive foreign policy successfully marshall has advocated to the constructive foreign policy successfully marshall has advocated to the constructive foreign policy successfully marshall has advocated to the constructive foreign policy successfully marshall has advocated to the constructive foreign policy successfully marshall has advocated to the constructive foreign policy successfully marshall has advocated to the constructive foreign policy successfully marshall have been successfully as a successful foreign policy successfully marshall have been successfully as a successful foreign policy successfully marshall have been successfully as a successfully marshall have been successfully as a successful foreign policy success

Nor is the President likely to win many-recruits from the right of labor in the AP, of L. That cam; and there are more and more indications that Lewis has made a deawith Governor Thomas E. Dewer in any event, the doughty Lewis will try to swing all the votes he can away from Truman.

### Samuel Grafton

# Props Under Boom

NEW YORK.
The experied recasion, for which economists have been knutting little garments for months, hand arrived yet. The reason, some say is that the American counting is based by several experts, which are now running to about thritten billions of dollar a year, or about five times as much pre-war.

ing.

We like to think that the rest of
the world dapperfist on America's
weath, but it also happens to be
true that America depends at this
moment, on the rest of the world's
poverty, without which the stream
of goods flowing out from our
shores might come to a sudden halt. MORE THAN YOU KNOW

believe in housing just as our forcism loan program supports the
businesses of a lot of people who
don't have much pattence with
don't have much pattence with
The Wager-Fillender-Trit, bill,
then, has this special extra moucharitable function. Its amuscharitable function. Its amuscharitable function. Its amuscharitable function. Its amuscharitable function.

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#### CRUDE PLANNING

### TOO OFFENSIVE?

# Drew Pearson's : Joe Blythe's 'Filibuster' Nipped In Bud

INSIDE fact is that the Southern Democratic leaders who met with President Truman recently, had a secret season before going to the White House at which most of them had pretty well resolved their differences regarding the controversial Taft-Hartley Bill.

At this mestics Y.

At this meeting, Mississippi leaders first contended that the President should sign the bill, but changed their minds after Paul Brown, former national committeemas from first productions and the committeemas from the committee of the committee of the committeemas from the committee of the committee of the committee of the bill."

Georgia's former Governor and national committeeman. Ed. Rivers, headed off further friction, declaring the bill should be read thoroughly and digested by all of us" before deciding on its merits or demerits.

"A lot of my people in Georgia would like to see this bill signed by the President and become law," declared Rivers, "out, trankly, I don't know whiteher it would be smart for the President to sign it. Like a lot of other people, I haven't read the bill as jet.

I haven't read the bill as yet."

When Southern leaders later arrived at the White House
the only one who started to talk — and was quickly shushed
by the President — was Alabama's Colone Maximo Ruston,
political hot potato for the Republicans next year II it
became law over a Presidential voto, and as the meeting
broke up, one leader assured Truman: "Mr. President, we're
as solid in the South as ever."

#### Sullivan Blocks Filibuster

Sullivan Blocks r Hibbuser

CAEL SULLIVAN, Democratic executive director, diploGrantically managed to nlp a threatened fillbuster during
the conference with President Truman.

Joe Brythe, of Charlotte, North Carolina's national committeeman, had come to Washington bristling with various
gripes spainst the Administration, on labor and other matters. As Sullivan precepted Brythe to Truman, be remarked.

"Joe, here, had a lot of things on his chest today, Mr President, but I think you'll be glad to know that he got them all off at a meeting before we came here." Blythe looked daggers at Sullivan for a moment, but his face slowly creased into an ear-to-ear grin.

"Well, now," he drawled, "you've gone and messed up good speech I was about to deliver."

## One Marshal Too Many\*

SPEAKING of Truman's Kansas City pals, one inside story of the Potsdam Conference can now be told. When the President left for Potsdam he took with him several old friends, including White House, court jester George Allen and Pred Cantiled, U. S. Marshal In Kansas City.

Canfield was Truman's field artillery sergeant in World War I and his appointment as U. S. Marshal was one of the first Truman made after he became president.

In Potsdam Truman made after he became president.

In Potsdam Truman entertained Generalissimo Stalin on afternoon at tea, in the course of which he introduced his friends and aides to the Soviet chief of State. "Marshal Stalin," said the President, "I want you to et Marshal Canfield of Kansas City,"

Stalin put on his most charming smile and gave Can-field an unusually big "Hello."

field an unusually big "Hello."

Abodi an hour after, tea, Canfield received a phone call from Stalin's aide inviting him to a special reception at Soviet headquarters, where the U. S. Marshai was informed he was to receive the Order of Suvorov, the Order of Lenin and the Order of the Red Army, in recognition of his services as marshal of the United States.

When embarrassed Harry Truman got wind of this, he led to explain to Stain that Canfield was not a marshal the United States Army, but only the marshal serving the United States Court House in Kansas City. Stalin uldn't quite understand the distinction.

"Well, the point is," concluded President Truman, "that

we have 125 marshals in the United States. If you give all these medals to only one of them, the other 124 will be highly insulted, and you wouldn't want to do that."

So Marshal Stalin dropped the idea of honoring U. 8. Marshal Pred Canfield of Kannas City.

#### Republicans Appease Farmers

SENATE Republicans have compared notes backstage re-garding the sharp House cuts in agriculture appropriations, and have decided that their GOP collegaues ornia-tions, and have decided that their GOP collegaues ornia-other side of the Capitol went too far. House economy, they conclude, may save dollars, but still lose, votes.

The most significant remark was dropped by powerful P policy maker Bob Taft in a private conversation with a colleagues.

"I think the House's 32 per cent cut" is too much," he revealed. "I would say ten per cent is about right."

Another backstage discussion took place between Democratic Senator Dick Russell of Georgia and Republican George Alken of Vermont. "One thing I won't compromise on," declared Russ, who is one of the farmers' most vigorous Senate champion "is soil conservation. If the committee doesn't restore in full, I can promise a tremendous fight on the floor,"

"All except Harry Byrd. I'm not sure about Byrd," Russell added.

"You can count on at least sixteen Republican votes, interjected Alken.

nerjected Alken.

It is general Senate opinion that the bill will be sted liem by item on the Senate floor unless the Apriations Committee reduces the House cuts by at items of the April 19 the April