

MONDAY, JUNE 30, 1947

The Strange Career Of Senator Taft

SENATOR TAFT is the unquestioned leader of the Republican forces in Congress, dividing his powers only with the Senate. Taft, who is supposed to be the GOP field marshal in charge of foreign affairs. Mr. Taft goes full credit for passage of the restrictive Taft-Hartley labor bill, passage of the across-the-board income tax reduction bill (later vetoed), dismantling of OPA, emancipation of rent controls, etc.

In an interview the other day he came out flabby against Universal Military Training, insisting that he would like to see Taft split and split the Republican party. "Normally it might be considered smart politics to oppose UMT, but in this season of the great Red scare the opinion seems to be true. The opinion polls show that most citizens believe that, or at least are willing to accept it. Such potent organizations as the American League are actively campaigning for it. And, of course, the measure is an integral part of the foreign policy which the Republicans are supposed to be supporting.

The Un-Registered Mrs. Roosevelt

THE editors of The Social Register being omniscient as well as anonymous, it is not their custom to explain why a person who has been included in the list for some years is abruptly unlisted in a new edition. Observation in the past, however, has established a few rough rules of thumb under which the social arbiters seem to operate.

In The Register remained unimpaired. Nor we are happy to note, was she ruled out outright when she took up the plebeian career of journalism and made occasional side excursions into radio.

The South Will Miss Old Jim

OLD JIM CURLEY has gone to jail at the Massachusetts State House. The straggled Boston Irishman who idolized him will miss him and mourn him. And, oddly enough, the South will miss Jim Curley, too.

Even when his predilection for fraud was established in court, as it was at least twice—the Honorable Jim did not suffer at the polls. After his last conviction, his admirers waited for him with signs and songs and made it clear that no judge could make their persecutors here a bum.

Another Voice

MAYNE ALBRIGHT, youngest and last of three — beg pardon, four; as usual we were about to forget: What's-His-Name, the youngest son of the late Senator Albright, has announced his intention to run for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination, is beginning to indicate that he may know his political way around. Not that we deem his offer to debate the other candidates to be either a particularly original or particularly pertinent; but his rallying to the support of President Truman's good of the labor bill more nearly makes good campaign sense.

So without cavil—also without committing me to any constraint to call it a "Well played" job, as you are disposed distinctly to register pleasure that there has been some fresh blood injected into the Florida Democratic primary.

People's Platform

DAVIDSON
The People's Platform of the 21st is an interesting article, but one at once dogmatic in tone and quite disputatious. By John W. Hester, senior attorney of Oxford, under the heading "Non-existent Funds." As I understand it, he is largely in agreement with John Flynn in an article in the May issue of the Readers Digest under the heading "Our Present Dilemma: Federal Old Age Pension Plan," this charge being based on the fact that the Government has collected nearly nine billions of this fund, of which it has borrowed seven and a half billions to pay its running expenses, the security offered being U. S. Government bonds, the payment of which can be effected only by further borrowing.

On Social Security

DAVIDSON
The Social Security Reserve Committee (Flyn) "The Social Security Reserve Committee," Harper's Magazine, Feb. 1939. Except as a matter of bookkeeping there is of course not much sense in the holder of a reserve fund investing it in his own promises to pay. Even so it may not have been such a bad method of keeping books, as some of the critics seemed to think. In any event so long as a public debt exists, interest on it will have to be paid, no matter whether the bonds are held in a reserve fund for old age pensions or are owned by private persons.

Drew Pearson's: Vatican Paper Warns Of U.S.-Soviet Rift

WASHINGTON
This is going to be what editors call a "think" column. Working newspapermen also call it "thumb-sucking." Reason: the author of a well known column who wears out shoelatchet writing it. You suck it out of your thumb.

Message From Greece

WASHINGTON
A loving editor who has made Greece one of his stopping points on a tour of Europe sends an urgent message. The editor is William R. News of the Arizona Daily Star. Tuesday, the 29th of June, he was in the Westerman in the Teddy Roosevelt tradition. From Athens he writes:

Marquis Childs

WASHINGTON
If Golden would be satisfactory, top AFL leaders gave him their endorsement. This is a measure both specific and far-reaching, says one in which adversity is closing the gap between the rival factions of labor. It is also the result of the efforts of the Department of Labor to bring Tuesday's meeting of the important group of presiding a united front when they go to work.

Harsh Epitaph?

MONROE
[THE News on June 12 two days before the ABC election referred to the statement made by 75 Mecklenburg ministers that Chief Littlejohn had "surrendered to the wet forces." The editors called this statement a "contemptuous" assertion.