

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

60th Anniversary Year
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Truman and Douglas—1944-48

DEMOCRATIC calls to ditch Truman and draft Eisenhower grow in volume in the face of the discouraging prospect that it will not be possible to sidetrack President Truman from the nomination and General Eisenhower would not accept the honor even if the party could manage the difficult feat of naming him to head the ticket. However, the anti-Truman and pro-Eisenhower movements have now proceeded far enough—South, North, East and West—to make it clear that a great deal of behind-the-scenes plotting and discussion is going on among the politicians and anything can happen at the Philadelphia convention in July.

Among the Philadelphia surprises that may be considered is the possibility that the South will be confronted with a difficult choice between two well known men brought to the fore at the Chicago convention in 1944 as the result of another Southern revolt in the party which has an important relationship to the present contest. They are Harry S. Truman and Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas, who figured in the contest for second place on the 1944 ticket with Franklin D. Roosevelt. President Roosevelt sent a letter to the convention, in care of Robert E. Hannegan, saying that either Truman or Douglas would be acceptable to him as the party's nominee for Vice-President.

That Roosevelt letter dealt the final blow to the "Black Legion" fight to win the Vice-Presidential nomination over the opposition of the Southerners and the Northern and Middle Western city bosses. Truman sent the CIO leaders, and the Southerners are cooperative and the machine bosses found the conservative Missourian was

much closer to the liberal Justice Douglas than to their heart's desire. So Truman was in and on the way to the White House, Harry Wallace was out and Bill Douglas was forgotten.

In 1948, Justice Douglas is back in the political picture. In 1944, he received no consideration from the convention bosses because those worthies wanted a party regular as a compromise candidate in place of the leftist Wallace and another conspicuous New Dealer was not needed on the ticket with the Champ in order to give the party a potent appeal to labor and the independent voters. This year the situation is reversed. Roosevelt is gone, Wallace has bolted and the party needs a strong liberal leader above all else. Southerners Democrats haven't abandoned their conservative line but the leftist trend has had a large effect on all other elements of the party, including the conservative ones. It is a situation which recognizes that the Democrats can win only as the progressive party.

It was Truman's election-year turn to the left that brought on the 1948 Southern revolt over the civil rights issue and created the situation which revives political interest in Justice Douglas. Earlier this year, Truman managers talked of Douglas for second place on the ticket. When the party against Truman gained from both the left and the right, the Justice now finds himself in a very favorable position to be considered for first place. He is much more than General Eisenhower's logical rival to lead the Roosevelt followers. If the new draft Eisenhower movement fails and the Truman decline continues, the New Dealers will be persuaded a fine chance to nominate Douglas is a stake. The party will be for President the genuine, honest, discipline man who was passed up at Chicago in '44.

Arms Threat To U. S. Solvency

SENATOR HARRY F. BYRD of Virginia has introduced a resolution for a five-member subcommittee of the Senate Armed Forces Committee to study the effects of the enormous expenditures and the results of the enormous preparedness program we are undertaking. Only valid objection to this proposal which we can see is that it doesn't go far enough. It is designed primarily to estimate waste and inefficiency and as such is all to the good. However, something more specific and drastic is needed to guard against profiteering and corruption in this vast spending operation.

As Senator Byrd points out, "military expenditures do not mean military defense unless such expenditures are efficiently administered." Concerned with this, as is heightened by the statement of Secretary Marshall that our defense system is still only a "hollow shell" despite the fact that we have been providing about \$12 billion a year for military expenditures since the last war ended. Proposals now before Congress would raise the annual military outlay to \$18 billion or more for an indefinite period. The money must be paid by any states which that this tremendous military cost will be temporary," Senator Byrd states. "It is likely to continue for many, many years. The effectiveness of which these military expenditures are made may well determine whether or not we can preserve the solvency of our Government. It is not difficult to predict a \$50 billion peacetime budget in the next year or so, based upon military expenditures of from \$18 billion to \$20 billion, foreign aid of from \$7 billion to \$8 billion, interest on the public debt of \$5

billion, care of the veterans \$7 billion, and ordinary expense of Government about \$12 billion."

Although we still are nominally at peace, the need for Congressional safeguards on the American armament program is more urgent than ever in wartime. Senator Byrd makes that point clear enough when he declares:

"Financial preparedness is just as important as military preparedness. It is well for us to recognize now that the impact upon our domestic economy of an annual budget of \$50 billion will have far-reaching effects and will require the most careful planning if we are to avoid war controls in time of peace, which will undermine our American way of life."

Senator Byrd has understated the danger to America if anything, in warning that we are operating on a very narrow margin of solvency. We are going all-out in an arms race before we have made a dent in the bill for the last war, which left us with a public debt that stood at \$248 billion in 1947. Taxes of all kinds take a third of our income and almost 80 cents of the Federal tax dollar already goes for past wars or defense measures.

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Special Case For Margarine

IN the case of oleomargarine, there still is a chance for the people to score at least one clear-cut victory in the 80th Congress. That opportunity comes with a movement for a discharge petition in the House which would free margarine legislation from the House Committee on Agriculture and bring it to the floor of the House for open debate and a vote.

Signatures of 218 Representatives are required to make the petition effective. After that, the bill to repeal and modify the discrimination against margarine in the Agricultural would have to run the House and Senate gauntlets. Prospects are fair that it will receive approval if it can be pried out of the Committee's coils.

To a unique extent, the margarine issue justifies the use of the discharge petition remedy. That rule was established by Congress to force a Committee to report bills instead of pigeonholing them in cases where the Committee obviously was abusing its power to delay the popular will. The action or inaction on the margarine bills is a classic example of such dictatorial control by a small group of Congressmen. For 42 years, the Agriculture Committee has been burying bills which would end the indefensible tax on margarine imposed at the behest of the big

grease, the Republican leadership will have to show more interest in economic justice than it has exhibited to date. Fifteen of the 16 Committee votes to shelve the bills came from Republicans and the 10 who voted against them were Democrats. Republicans in the Senate defeated a Democratic attempt to add a margarine repeal to the tax bill. The GOP thus clearly bears the responsibility for maintaining a system that unfairly penalizes the merchants who distribute margarine and the consumers who produce the ingredients, the industry that makes the product and the millions who use the poor man's spread on their bread.

At the end of a sermon in an upstate church an ardent prohibitionist was permitted by the entirely anti-prohibitionist parson to say a few words on his pet subject. "Brethren," he said, "if I had all the money in the world, I would like to buy the world. I would like to buy the whole of it into the Mississippi. He sat down, and in the pause that followed the parson rose. "We shall conclude," he said, "by singing Hymn 127, 'Shall We Gather At The River?' "

Jackman (Miss.) Daily News.

The Sunday papers carried a story from Georgetown bearing this headline: "Official Says War Harmless." That's probably true, but there are some people who are going to be mighty hard to convince. I don't need Georgetown residents, but most everywhere who hold to the old belief that its rats' pipes—*Lexington (Ky.) Leader.*

Well, He Sure Got Partition Over Here



People's Platform

A Blow To Our Civil Rights

FAYETTEVILLE

Editor, This News:

THE statement recently made by our good Governor, that North Carolina already has an anti-lynch law, one much stronger than anything Congress has considered, is a statement calculated to prove the inadvisability of such Federal legislation. If such legislation be needed to correct any situation in any state, however, it could hardly be made merely to apply to one single state—an action which would constitute race discrimination in itself. It would have to apply to all, no matter what Governor Cherry says, or thinks, and even though for my own part, I agree with his position, I am sure that the people of this state would not want to see such a law enacted. As a candidate for nomination as State Representative, however, I respectfully invite your earnest attention to the position which I have taken on this matter.

I have in mind that portion of the civil rights message containing Mr. Truman's assertion that, "No all groups are free to live and work where they please or to improve their conditions of life by their own efforts." In this particular, the Executive was on sound ground. Sir, and when one considers the relation of the so-called anti-lynch law to the so-called anti-labor law (i.e., the so-called "Taft-Hartley" law), which prevents any group migration from this state, for any reason of economic advantage, one may well stop and ask Sir, whether North Carolina even recognizes the Constitution as a matter of fact. It is well known that this anti-labor law is a violation of the Constitution, and it is well known that the anti-lynch law is a violation of the Constitution. The Executive was on sound ground when he said that the anti-lynch law is a violation of the Constitution.

EDWARD J. CALVERT.

CHARLOTTE

Editor, This News:

PERMIT me sufficient space in your valued paper in which to challenge the contention of Mr. Frank O. Clark, who is a member of the North Carolina State Board of Education, that the anti-lynch law is a violation of the Constitution. In the inception of Mr. Clark's reply to my recent letter he quoted verbatim an elaborate summary of the anti-lynch law, which I had previously published in this paper. I had previously published in this paper a statement of Mr. Clark's in which he stated that the anti-lynch law is a violation of the Constitution. I had previously published in this paper a statement of Mr. Clark's in which he stated that the anti-lynch law is a violation of the Constitution.

WILLIAM C. MONTGOMERY.

Editor, This News:

WE hope that you who begins every July to hold for a White Christmas has had some of the white stuff to last him until July 1950—*Memphis Press-Scimitar.*

WASHINGTON

MEMO to Senator Taft:

While you and I are in frequent disagreement, I have considerable admiration for your courage and tenacity. I therefore present for your consideration a problem of vital importance to the country.

As you know, the Administration is now planning to embark on a gigantic arms program, including thousands of atomic bombs, thousands of jet fighters, and thousands of carry rockets close to enemy shores, new airplanes can carry rockets close to enemy shores, new airplanes can carry rockets close to enemy shores, new airplanes can carry rockets close to enemy shores.

In addition the National Defense Department urges a large-scale program whereby we weaponize every American in the United States.

While this program may not be adopted, yet if only half of it is adopted, it will result in the greatest inflation in the history of the United States.

Marquis Childs

U. S. Preparedness

WASHINGTON
MEMBERS of the Senate Armed Services Committee, listened with solemn and grave concern to Secretary of State George C. Marshall as he explained the reasons for the urgent call for the draft and universal military training. Most of the members came away convinced, and they will carry their conviction to the floor of the Senate.

But at the same time many of these members harbor serious doubts about the effectiveness of the leadership of the armed services. What is especially disturbing is the fact that there is no real readiness for the present emergency. The Pentagon seems to be as completely paralyzed as the average citizen.

A draft bill was not ready for presentation to Congress. It has been necessary to improvise one while Congress waits. In terms of action on the program, this is not serious. It is, however, a serious position on the preparedness of the armed services.

The war in Europe has been over for nearly three years. Yet there is no evidence that anyone has made any over-all reappraisal of the nation's military situation. The nation's military situation is not being reappraised. The nation's military situation is not being reappraised.

DRAFT POLICY
Draft policy in World War II took no account of the real demands of the nation. It was a policy of the nation's military situation. It was a policy of the nation's military situation.

Throughout the war, leading scientists repeatedly sought to bring about a change in this policy. They understood how deep the war was in the roads being made in the nation's basic research and, even more important, in scientific training.

But they got nowhere. Contrary to the policy in every other country, the teaching of science was brought down to a standard in the United States. A four-year gap now remains between the United States and the rest of the world.

Still in charge of the Office of Selective Service Records is Maj. General H. H. Arnold, who is responsible for World War II draft policy. Presumably he will have a great deal to say about the new draft bill. This time, however, members of Congress are likely to

DeWitt MacKenzie

Test For Religion

AP Foreign Affairs Analyst

HISTORY records few, if any political elections upon which so much has depended as the 1948 election in Europe between Communism and democracy. The outcome may determine the fate of the world.

This momentous electoral contest is between the powerful Communist Party and the Catholic Church, headed by Premier Alcide De Gasperi, who now presides over a coalition government in Italy. If the Reds can elect enough members to the Assembly, they will have gained a priceless Mediterranean base from which to conduct a campaign of Western Europe.

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