THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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PREDICAMENT OF THE SOUTHERN DEMOCRATS

WERE IT NOT so deadly serious to the people involved, we would give way to the temptation to chuckle loudly and long at the discomfiture of Southern Democratic leaders over Senator Russell's *volte face* on the Taft-Hartley Act.

The situation is not without its humorous aspects. For months, Southerners have been booming Russell's candidacy as an anti-Truman wedge at the upcoming convention. They have considered him "safe" on such touchy issues as FEPC and Taft-Hartley. Under the astute leadership of Senator Byrd of Virginia and Governor Byrnes of South Carolina, the South lined up almost solidly behind the Georgian.

And then, without warning, Senator Russell shifted ground. He began flirting with a compromise on FEPC. He announced that he wanted to "supplant" Taft-Hartley with new labor legislation. He openly sought President Truman's backing, and said he would support Mr. Truman if the President were nominated again.

In Virginia, where Democrats were assembled in convention ready to send an instructed pro-Russell delegation to Chicago, signals were quickly changed. Governor Tuck pointedly omitted a complimentary reference to Russell from his prepared address, and at the suggestion of Senator Byrd, the convention decided to send an uninstructed delegation.

In Russell's home state, *The Atlanta Journal* said the Senator's switch on Taft-Hartley "smacks of political expediency and seems out of character . . ." In Charleston, S. C., the unhappy *News & Courier* said Russell is "making a strong bid for Fair Deal support." The *Richmond Times-Dispatch* was plain angry: "In taking this weasel-worded line, in an attempt to attract support from President Truman, the unions and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Senator Russell has lost caste all around." And from the northern edge of Dixie, *The Baltimore Evening Sun* philosophically observed: "When the candidate backed by Jimmy Byrnes and Harry Byrd begins to cavort in this fashion, anything may happen. Truly, Presidential aspiration looses the joints of the politicoes and enables them to perform in wondrous ways."

If the Dixie delegates at Chicago find Russell's swing to the Fair Deal too distasteful, they are left with no really satisfactory alternative for the Presidency. Senator Kefauver has never been popular with Dixie politicians, and now he is advocating a change in Senate cloture rule to make it easier to shut off a filibuster. That will not increase his popularity. Averell Harriman, Vice-President Barkley and Senator McMahon are all out-and-out Fair Dealers. Senator Kerr of Oklahoma is wishy-washy. And with the possible exception of Senator Fulbright of Arkansas, none of these "favorite sons" is a natural recipient of Dixie favor—Senator Humphrey of Minnesota, Governor Devers of Massachusetts, Governor Williams of Michigan.

There is Governor Stevenson of Illinois, who believes that FEPC should be handled at the state level. But if Stevenson succeeds in removing himself from the running, it is beginning to appear that Southern Democrats may have to think about another third party movement. In that event, if we may be so bold, there is always the Republican Party and its candidate, Dwight Eisenhower.

A WELL-BALANCED SYSTEM

IN many fields, such as power production, agriculture, health, the dividing line between public and private business is vaguely drawn and hotly debated. The public interest will best be served, maintain some, by increased governmental intervention, while others are aghast at present governmental control. Rare and fortunate is the department in one of these controversial fields that escapes criticism from partisans of left or right.

Occasional criticism of this nature has been directed at Charlotte's Health Department. Our Mr. Reinemer, investigating these charges and inquiring into the work of the department, concluded in a final installment of a three-article series yesterday that the relationship between private and public practice here is well-balanced, and that Charlotteans have a Health Department in which they can take pride. A variety of attainments by the department support that conclusion.

Four years ago it ranked first among over 200 health departments in the nation in 12 of 78 categories rated by the American Public Health Associaion. In the APHA's next survey, in 1950, ratings by category were not made, but the overall rating of Charlotte increased considerably over its good 1948 standing.

Last year the incidence of all communicable diseases, with the exception of tuberculosis, decreased in Charlotte.

Medical workers, not only from North Carolina but from many parts of the U. S. and foreign countries, come to our Health Department for field training.

The department seems to have the wholehearted support and co-operation of most Charlotte doctors, who would be first to know of and resent any infringement on their practice. As one private practitioner put it, when you have good Health Department services (and he thinks we do) "it looks like they're taking business away from you, but actually they're building up your practice, because they're making the people public health conscious . . . Every time one of those nurses gets into a schoolroom she helps private practice."

Undoubtedly there will be instances in the future where some seeming conflict arises. But if such issues are approached with the broad-minded viewpoint which characterizes most of our doctors and health officials, it seems that they will be solved without undue strain. As for now, our best manners to Dr. M. B. Bethel, city health officer, and his staff. We, and certainly Dr. Bethel, would not suggest that Charlotte's improving health is not due principally to the work of Charlotte's private doctors. But the Health Department is complementing their work in a happy way.

LADIES, YOU'RE BEING WOOED

THE women bless 'em, are being ardently pursued these days. The pursuer's objective, though (and we hope this isn't too much of a letdown for the girls) is merely an affirmative nod come election time.

Distaff Democrats are now trying to outdo the GOP lassies who took some hard knocks in Chicago which will be hard to recoup. Sen. Margaret Chase Smith was to make a major speech there but had to give way to Senator McCarthy. Clare Booth Luce was trotted out to nominate Mrs. Smith for Vice-President, but in the rush to agree on Senator Nixon it was decided to not even make this gesture to the women, and Mrs. Luce just made a little speech about Mrs. Smith.

Then, too, the Republicans adopted a rule which in effect will destroy the present balance between men and women on the national committee, by giving bonus seats, most of which will go to state chairmen.

The lady Democrats are emphasizing this Republican "inequality" while telling the girls back home about their 12-room headquarters in Chicago. (The poor Republican ladies had to operate out of one room.) Now a boomlet for Mrs. India Edwards as Veep is under way.

More than that, while three Republican women addressed their convention, the Democratic women will practically take over the rostrum. Several Illinois men will speak, of course, and there'll be the keynote by Governor Dever, Chairman McKinney's speech, and Rep. Sam Rayburn will say a few words. But look at the rest of the speaker list:

Perle Mesta, Minister to Luxembourg.

Mrs. Eugenie A. Anderson, Ambassador to Denmark.

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Delegate to the U. N.

Mrs. Georgia Neese Clark, treasurer of the U. S.

Mrs. Elizabeth A. Conkey, national committeewoman.

Mrs. India Edwards, vice chairman of the national committee.

Well, maybe this array of speakers will convince some of the watching housewives that theirs is the Democratic Party. But while the girls are gabbing the boys will be in the backroom, just like Republicans, deciding on the next President—and his running mate.

From The Baltimore Evening Sun

RECREATION WANTED

A DISPATCH from Stratford-on-Avon tells us that the town council has voted to spend about $560 a week, beginning in August, to bring vaudeville into a variety hall not far from the Shakespeare Memorial Theater.

Nor is the council unaware of what it is doing. One of its members said with fine candor, "A lot of people simply get tired of living with Shakespeare's spirit day and night." What they want is a few lively music-hall turns.

Let's not be too quick to cry "Profanation! Base ingratitude." True, the town lives on and by the poet's fame. It's hard or bust for Stratford. The "birthplace" is its bread and rationed butter. Stratford works hard at the Shakespeare business. But then you know how it is with a job. One's thankful for it but wants a change after the all-day grind, something different after hours. It isn't Shakespeare's spirit that Stratfordians mind living with day and night, it's the job.

So it isn't surprising they call for vaudeville. The surprise is, rather, that in England there's still a vaudeville to call for.

Plastic surgeons are reported to be using sandpaper to smooth up rough and pock-marked skin. An adaption of the principle demonstrated by the old nose to the grindstone, no doubt.—*Greenville (S. C.) Piedmont.*

A Kentucky weekly reports the trial of a man charged with "shooting a rifle aimlessly and at random." Evidently it's against the law to shoot a rifle and not be trying to hit somebody or something.—*Lexington (Ky.) Leader.*

'How About Rudolph P. Fretwhittle?'

People's Platform

Letters should be brief. The writer's name and address must be given, but may be withheld from publication in the discretion of the Editors. The News reserves the right to condense.

Gordon Gray For Veep?

DANBURY

AS the meeting of the National Democratic Convention draws closer, I would like to make a suggestion to the N. C. delegation, and that is, that they present the name of one of our outstanding North Carolinians for the office of Vice-President.

No matter how you size this man up he will meet the requirements. He has youth, intelligence, industry, proven ability, a spirit of humility, courage, financial independence, and a pleasing personality, plus an unusual grasp of world problems, economic understanding, and a liberal-conservative outlook qualifies this great Tar Heel, not only for the vice-presidency, but even for the presidency.

I have been following his career since I first came to North Carolina in 1939, and I have found that he is a leader of old and young, he impresses me as a typical American, a man of fine family and background, and one who is willing to serve irrespective of honorarium or honors.

The members of the North Carolina delegation could not render any greater service to America and the world than to put his name up for the vice-presidency. They will, indeed, be rendering a great service to America and the world for in Gordon Gray one finds the embodiment of sincerity, integrity, spirituality, and a desire "not to be ministered unto, but to minister."

—LOUIS J. YELANJIAN

Same Old Republicans

CHARLOTTE.

Editors, THE NEWS:

THERE is just a bit of irony in the manner the Eisenhower Republicans are palavering at present. First, at the convention they yelled time and again from the loud-speakers, "Break the solid South in November." Then they come back home and start wheedling and begging the Democrats to move over and make room for a Republican office-holder in November.

Well, Sir, they broke the solid South and kept her broke for about 75 years. The South was a veritable whipping boy and we of the South have long memories on that score. I hope we don't give them a single crumby office in November.

All reports indicate that Wall Street has been up to its old tricks again, dictating Eisenhower to the convention over Taft, a capable and honorable man. They'll have a hard time selling Eisenhower to the Republicans, let alone to Democrats.

My advice to all is not to snatch a ride on the so-called Eisenhower band-wagon. It's phony and a phantom. Its spokes are loose and it likely is not even as stout as the old Hoover cart.

MERCER J. BLANKENSHIP

Wants Feature Page Moved

CHARLOTTE.

Editors, THE NEWS:

FOR the life of me I haven't been able to figure out why you had to move the most interesting articles in your paper from the back of the second section to the inside front page of that same section.

I am referring to Rev. Herbert Spaugh's column and Eric Brandeis, etc. I have looked at the back page of the second section since this removal, and can't seem to see the importance of the move.

Is it not possible to put this page back where it was so it will be more convenient for people to read? As you know, there are people that still read Rev. Herbert Spaugh's column who do not have time to read the balance of the paper, and when one has to open the page, then he has to double it back — etc., which takes time and wrinkles the paper.

What do you say that you put this page back in its former place? Thank you very much indeed.

—MRS. GERTRUDE SHORT

Square Dances A Nuisance

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

IT is hoped that the Parks and Recreation Commission will give no serious consideration to Mr. Rhodes' recent proposal that model plane flying be allowed in parks that are close to residential areas.

The Commission made a fair and wise decision when this noise-making sport was banned. It should go further and stop the square dance nuisance at Freedom Park each Tuesday night.

It is difficult to understand why the City makes strict zoning laws to protect property values and afford its citizens the enjoyment of their homes in the evening hours, and then turn loose a jug band with a loud public address system to disturb the peace and quiet of a neighborhood with this annoyance.

—W. M. FOWLER

Guidance For Girls Needed

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

ABOUT one out of each ten children born in Charlotte is illegitimate, as the law says, or born out of wedlock.

During the years when I was president of the Community Chest and later, when Chairman of the Park & Recreation Commission, I gave much thought to the question of youth guidance, and still do. I saw, and continue to see, how the emphasis of youth guidance was laid on the guidance of our boys with much less emphasis on the guidance of our girls.

A large part of the money used by the Chest agencies for youth guidance is spent on our boys. Also, a larger part of money spent by the Park & Recreation Commission for its youth recreation program is spent on our boys.

The substantial 10 per cent of our children born out of wedlock are born under a great handicap for which they are not responsible, and which may follow them to the end of their time.

I think this serious condition might be largely corrected if great numbers of our moral, spiritual, educational and recreational leaders should bond together for this purpose. Are they ready to accept the challenge?

—CHARLES R. STONE.

Truman-Controlled Delegates Estimated At 200 To 400

By JOSEPH & STEWART ALSOP

WASHINGTON

IN THE NEXT great drama to be staged at Chicago, the most important actor will remain in the wings (or rather here in Washington) until the grand climax. By an authoritative estimate, Harry S. Truman can swing at least 400 Democratic delegate votes to any candidate the convention likes; and can give at least 200 delegate votes to a candidate the convention does not like.

Such, at any rate, is said to be the President's measurement of his own power in his party. All those close to Truman agree that the President is deadset against being drafted himself. And they also picture him, at this decisive moment, as being in the mood of a cheerful traveler happily surveying a Swedish smorgasbord table.

DECISION MADE?

It is quite possible that the President has already made his choice among the bewildering variety of Democratic candidates who constitute the smorgasbord. If so, he has only whispered it to one or two confidential agents. In any case, one can venture a highly informed guess as to where the choice may fall, and where it will not fall. Proceeding by the method of elimination, the candidates who are highly unlikely to get the Presidential nod are the following:

Sen. Estes Kefauver of Tennessee. Truman's low opinion of Kefauver is unchanged, although those close to the White House say the President will not interpose a veto if the convention goes Kefauver's way.

Sen. Robert A. Kerr, of Oklahoma. Kerr is a Truman crony, and is supported by other Truman cronies, but his associates are too oily, and Truman thinks he has no national standing.

Sen. Richard B. Russell of Georgia. Truman likes and respects Russell, and is grateful for his co-operation in the effort to work out an agreed civil rights plank. But he feels Russell cannot carry the big northern states.

Among the serious, active candidates, therefore, the President's choice may be considered as lying between W. Averell Harriman and Vice President Alben Barkley. Each of these two has his own special attraction and drawbacks in the President's eyes.

Harriman is a 100 per cent Fair Dealer, who would fight it out with Gen. Eisenhower on domestic issues in the hammer-and-tongs manner. Truman admires. Harriman's candidacy was strongly encouraged by the White House. It did not begin as a serious candidacy, but Harriman has made it into a serious candidacy by his own sheer guts and determination. The President has been much impressed by reports, recently received of Harriman's performance in Colorado and other Rocky Mountain states. Moreover, he likes Harriman best of all the candidates.

The objection to Harriman is that his nomination would commit the Democratic party to an extreme and radical strategy. Initially, the President favored such a strategy against Gen. Eisenhower. The South was to be cast to the winds. A strong, aggressive fight on home issues was to win the northern states. But the recent performance of Gen. Eisenhower and the Republicans in general, has made this strategy less attractive. And because of the southerners' opposition, a Truman nod to Harriman would be almost sure to split the Democratic party.

As for Vice President Barkley, he is the candidate of the Senate and not of the White House. Truman does not much love Barkley, despite the faithful service Barkley has given to him. Yet Barkley is a vigorous campaigner. He would unite the party instead of dividing it. He has a surprising amount of hidden northern support. The objection to him, both in the eyes of Truman and of the party in general, is simply his age. Because the Vice President is seventy-four, he looks, inevitably like a caretaker candidate. And since Truman and most other Democrats now think the party can win against Eisenhower, a caretaker candidate is not a tempting candidate.

VEEP OR HARRIMAN

If all goes as now planned, the President will weigh these pros and cons until the appropriate time (unless he has already made his decision). Then, when the right time comes, either Harriman or Barkley will benefit by the laying on of hands. If Barkley is the choice, the laying on of hands can easily be enough to put him over. If Harriman is chosen, the outcome will be more doubtful, because of the southerners.

In short, despite the greatness of the President's potential influence, and his present intention to choose a candidate of his own at the right time, the final decision of this Democratic convention is still unpredictable. The plain truth is that the delegates will perceive the same objections to either of the President's choices as the President himself has noted. And if the convention thinks that these objections are insuperable, a kind of basket-of-eels deadlock can still result, and the convention can still turn to Gov. Adlai Stevenson of Illinois.

Wisconsin Democratic Fight May Give McCarthy Victory

By MARQUIS CHILDS

MADISON, Wis.

WHAT HAS happened in the Democratic party here in Wisconsin typifies the troubles the party seems bound to experience on the national scale at the end of 20 years in power. Organization and discipline are cast aside as personal rivalries come to the surface.

Senator Joseph McCarthy is up for re-election in November. In one term in the Senate he has made himself the most intensely controversial figure in that body. By many, including important elements of the press, he is denounced as a demagogue spreading fear and suspicion, his reckless charges of communism largely unfounded. To many others he is a hero and crusader. And for cynical Republicans he is, at the very least, a handy stick to beat the Democratic dog.

In recent years a younger generation of Democrats has put a considerable organizing effort into a party that never amounted to much in what was, prior to 1932, a solidly Republican state. A Democratic organizing committee under the leadership of James E. Doyle, Madison attorney, did the kind of grass-roots work that had previously been neglected.

A PRIME TARGET

For these younger Democrats McCarthy was a prime target. Two months ago they announced they had agreed to back one man, Henry Reuss, of Milwaukee, in the Democratic primary in September. They gave out with a chorus of harmony.

Reuss, who served with the Office of Price Administration in Washington and the Economic Co-operation Administration in Paris fell somewhat short of the ideal candidate to take on McCarthy. He lacked experience in the rough and tumble of politics. But he was earnest and hard-working and he had got into the field first.

All was serene until just before the deadline for filing in the primary. Then, without prior notice, one of the leaders who had joined in the harmony chorus, Thomas E. Fairchild, jumped into the race. Fairchild, beaver of a name long distinguished in Republican affairs in the state was United States attorney for western Wisconsin.

The contest between Fairchild and Reuss means that much of the Democrats' time and money will go into this intraparty struggle. While somewhat better known, Fairchild also has handicaps, one of them being the absence of a war record. McCarthy exploits to the fullest his service in the U. S. Marine Corps.

Wisconsin will be a dark and bloody battleground. That much is for certain. It is doubtful that the Democrats can muster very much strength for the short but intensive Fall campaign if they go through their own Kilkenny fight before September.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Speaker Rayburn Is A Reluctant Candidate

CHICAGO

IF a popularity vote were taken in the House of Representatives, the winner among the Democrats—perhaps even among the Republicans—would be an egg-bald gentleman from Texas who presides over the House with an iron hand, and who is affectionately referred to as "Sam."

Speaker Sam Rayburn would be the ideal candidate for the Democratic ticket today if he were ten years younger. Just past his 70th birthday, however, Sam is not an active candidate, though if his friends had their way, he would be.

It has now been almost 40 years since Sam came up from the Texas prairies to sit in Congress. That was in 1913, during the administration of Woodrow Wilson. Sam has seen two great wars since then. He has weathered the Republican victories that swept many of his Democratic colleagues out of office. He has helped write legislation for six different Presidents.

And through it all he has still kept his integrity, his idealism, and his sense of humor.

Cornerstone Of New Deal

MOST people have forgotten it, but Sam Rayburn was responsible for writing most of the legislative cornerstone of the New Deal—the laws which no Republicans are likely to wipe off the books. As chairman of the Interstate Commerce Committee, it was Sam's job to push through the Truth-in-Securities Act and the Securities & Exchange Commission which cleaned up Wall Street, the Holding Corporation Act which broke up some of the big utility combines; plus rural electrification, and the Federal Communications Act.

Few men in the past century can equal that record.

Friends who have talked to "Mr. Democrat" about running for President don't get much encouragement. On the contrary, Sam talks seriously of retiring from Congress altogether.

His chief dream is to build a library in his home town, Bonham, Texas. He has already raised part of the money for the project, has collected an old mantelpiece from the White House when it was remodeled, and gathered together an assortment of gavels he used in presiding over joint sessions of Congress when addressed by Queen Elizabeth, Winston Churchill, General MacArthur, General Eisenhower, and others.

Sam has also made arrangements to take his Congressional desk back home from Washington, and wants to set up an exact replica of his Speaker's office. There, surrounded by the laws which he helped to write, the hearings he has held, and the records of the debates he has argued, Sam wants to sit and visit with the people he loves, and enjoy life.

Eisenhower And France

A NUMBER of readers have queried me as to what General Eisenhower actually said about atheism in France and the disintegration of the French moral fiber. They have also asked about the propriety of publishing his remarks, for fear it would play into Communist hands.

The answer to question No. 1 is that the General, in talking to the press and a group of delegates at Chicago on July 8, did criticize France for its religious and moral attitude. The newspapers did not invent his remarks. He volunteered them.

The answer to question No. 2 is that there wasn't the remotest chance of hushing up the General's statement, since it was cabled to France by the press associations and by French newsmen within a matter of minutes. It was published in all the French newspapers the same day.

For instance, here is the "bulletin" which International News Service cabled to France:

"General Eisenhower said today France has 'gone astray' morally and declared one of the reasons is that the French brag that they are 50 per cent agnostic or atheist.

"He asserted France has reached the point where the moral fiber disintegrates, and added:

" 'One reason France has gone astray is that they brag that they are 50 per cent agnostic or atheist.' "

Other cabled dispatches to France were similar.

Scrutinizing A Candidate

THOSE who expressed the view that Eisenhower's statement should have been suppressed or not commented upon apparently forget two things:

1. It is not possible for the United States any longer to live ostrichlike with our heads in the sand. As the most powerful country in the world, what our leaders do or say is cabled immediately to every part of the world.

2. One of the most important reason for an election campaign is to gauge and size up the candidate. To do that it is necessary to know what he says, and what his judgment is regarding any and every important situation.