

DEMOCRATS, FEARING IKE, SEEK HARMONY

APARENTLY the young progressives of the Democratic Party, having brought the convention to a deep sleep, are now decided not to force the North-South issue this year. There were at least three developments in the past 24 hours that pointed to this conclusion.

The so-called "loyalty pledge," adopted Monday night after angry and bitter debate, was softened slightly by its sponsors last night. Several Southern states had said they would refuse to give assurance of loyalty because their state laws or their constitution in their state parties forbade them to do so. Although there is nothing in the resolution that would compel anyone to do anything illegal, the addition of a provision specifically exempting delegates who believe in the resolution as in conflict with state laws appears to have satisfied the objectors.

After Vice-President Alben Barkley fired his angry blast at Democratic labor union bosses and reportedly calling on his legs to leave Chicago, the Democratic leadership intervened to restore harmony. Instead of leaving Chicago, the Veep has been put on the program. He will make a speech, probably along the lines of his famed 1948 keynote address.

There were reports early this morning that the platform committee had worked out the resolution on candor by some of the rights plank that may be acceptable all around and thus preclude another roaring floor fight.

And beyond those tangible developments, there was a steadily growing groundswell of support for Illinois Gov. Adlai Stevenson and the threat to Democratic dominance posed by Stevenson's backers were active in the harmony moves. Let their candidate inherit a party so badly divided that it would be ineffectual against the Republicans in November.

But if a direct showdown between the liberals of the North and West and the conservatives of the South is avoided this year in the interest of a solid front for November, it will be a postponement only, and will mainly reflect grave concern over the threat to Democratic dominance posed by General Eisenhower's candidacy. The difference between the two wings of the party are too deep and too irreconcilable for any new-found harmony to prevail after November.

A PARTY REALIGNMENT IS DEELED

EVENTS at the 1952 national conventions point up the clear and pressing need for a major realignment of the two big U. S. political parties.

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This division has showed itself at both national conventions. At the Republican session two weeks ago, it was reflected in the Taft-Eisenhower battle; at the current Democratic session, it first showed up in the fight over the loyalty pledge and promised to give trouble later in the convention.

The results of the 1952 realignment houses is the abandonment of party responsibility. The American voter, unlike his British cousin, has no opportunity to vote for a party program, for there is no assurance that the party gains power, it is reflected in the Taft-Eisenhower battle; at the current Democratic session, it first showed up in the fight over the loyalty pledge and promised to give trouble later in the convention.

and their differences on domestic policy are largely differences of degree.

A realignment that would put the conservative Democrats and Republicans in one party and the progressive Democrats and Republicans in another, would eliminate "me-tooism" from the political jargon and would give the American voters a real opportunity to choose between two different political parties.

Such a realignment would upset historical precedents, and violate long established party loyalties. But if we are to judge from the 1948 and 1952 conventions of both national parties, it will come eventually.

DOES HE MEAN IT?

THERE IS, we suspect, a touch of Mark Twain's tongue-in-cheek, enigma for Caesar in the assertion of a recently-arrived Japanese envoy that "We have come not to borrow, but to pay."

Juichi Tsuchida says his mission is to repay \$400 million Japan borrowed from private companies prior to World War II.

With helpful eyes on Juichi's sleeve, we nevertheless must see the yen before we can.

It would be a wonderful reversal of a trend if Japan did pay, and joined the lonely front of nations that are repaying.

THE RELENTLESS CAR WAR

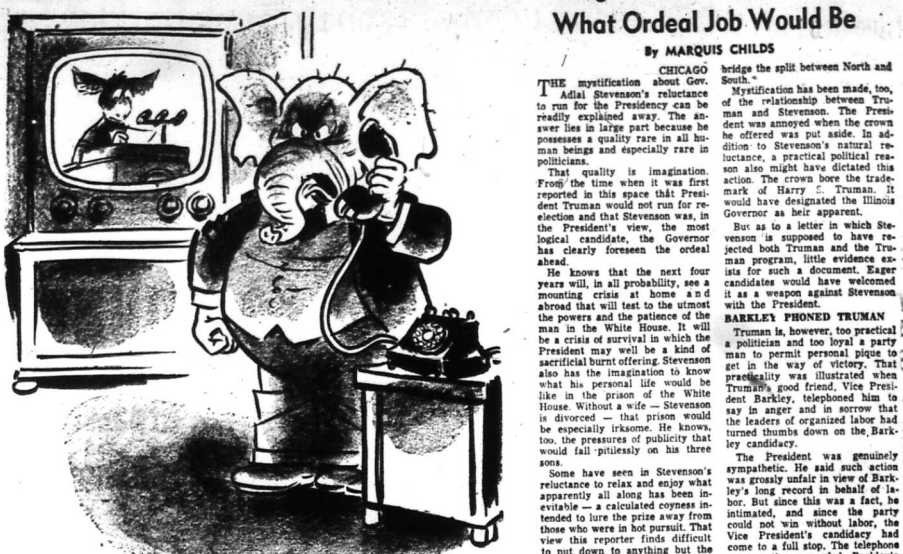
THE KOREAN WAR, in slightly over two years, has cost the U. S. 18,000 fatalities, 82,000 injuries, with 13,000 men missing.

But the Car War, in one year—1951, has cost the U. S. 27,100 fatalities, 1,962,000 injuries.

Considering these grim statistics, it is not surprising that a man intimately connected with auto accidents, such as Officer Payne of the Mecklenburg County Police (see People's Platform) suggests mechanical limitations of automobiles to a top speed of 50 miles per hour. What is surprising is the fact that drastic auto accidents have been taken to increase highway killing.

While we are not persuaded that Mr. Payne's suggested solution is the wisest course, we do believe it warrants thoughtful consideration by automobile manufacturers, legislators and citizens who will impress their views upon lawmakers. Excessive speed is the biggest single cause of highway fatalities, and a reduction in top capable speed will cut down the toll. A speed of over 50 miles per hour can, however, be a safe speed

'What Do You Mean What Program Am I Listening To?'



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.

A New National Party

Editor, THE NEWS

ROUGHLY speaking, we have in this country about four influential political groups (I did not say parties, I said groups). One of these is known as the Old Guard crowd, composed considerably of those characterized by the late Willard Allen White as "The Banker-Control of Industry outfit" which held domination and power over this nation from the post Civil War era until the advent of F. D. R. It is of course obvious under whose banners this group was marching in recent weeks.

Cut Car Speed To 50 MPH

Editor, THE NEWS

IHAVE BEEN reading the editorials in THE Charlotte News for more years than I care to think of and am convinced that you are earnest and sincere in your convictions and believe that your expressed opinions relating to traffic violations, accidents, injuries and fatalities are from the bottom of your heart. I thoroughly agree with you in all that you say on this subject but do not think you go quite far enough.

CONVICTION, NOT COYNESSE

In the past a dozen times this reporter has talked Stevenson and he has been in the past six months and each time he has spoken with deep conviction — almost anguished — and he has determined not to run for President. He marshaled all the reasons, personal and public.

Truman On Candidates

The man who is identified with that switch of influence, perhaps pick, his successor. Here is a summary of how he seems to be reacting:

On the regular ticket, the President has played his political cards close to his chest. Never has he disclosed his hand regarding a possible successor.

Truman on Candidates

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FROM THE RALEIGH NEWS & OBSERVER

THE NEED REMAINS

A GLOWING report by the National Association of Real Estate Boards today in a campaign to get cities to abolish substandard conditions contains the welcome news that 111 cities and 32 states are helping in the campaign. Any drive which helps to raise the living standards of Americans deserves the widest support.

The history of the public housing fight, which has found this Association and its allies solidly arrayed against low-rent housing projects every step of the way, suggests that not all of the motives in this campaign are unselfish. Indeed, this report undoubtedly will be used at the next session of Congress which is called upon to appropriate money for low-rent housing. The real estate lobby, by emphasizing the scope of the campaign, will use such reports in an effort to block the housing appropriations, if the past is a valid guide.

This campaign has merit, of course. It is encouraging cities to enforce ordinances against substandard housing, thereby forcing improvements. The report also noted that 600 unhealthful and insanitary buildings, for example, were demolished. It is clear, however, that the inhabitants of the demolished build-

ings lived in the "unfit" dwellings because they could not afford their rent and not because they chose such suicidal surroundings. What happens to them? The answer, if no low-rent housing is available as new homes, is that they will move elsewhere, and start new slums.

As landlady in this campaign may be, it does not for a moment remove the need for adequate housing at low rents for the millions of Americans of low income. So far, the government has been forced to provide by far the largest portion of this kind of housing. Everybody will welcome the day that members of the National Association of Real Estate Boards and other landlords can take over this government function. But the day is not yet here.

A Nebraska judge sent a woman to jail for refusing to talk. He should have released her in custody of her husband—Kingsport (Tenn.) Times.

It wouldn't be so bad if careless drivers used telephone poles instead of making no moving targets.—Tallahassee (Fla.) Democrat.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

THE favorite occupation of this convention is quoting the regular ticket, the President has played his political cards close to his chest. Never has he disclosed his hand regarding a possible successor.

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Many Aim To Know Truman's Choice

WHAT happened was that the Senator from Georgia had dinner with Chicago Gov. Louis B. Bairo. He had a long talk with the Chicago Mayor, who had a bid for Illinois' big bloc of delegates. Arvey, a diplomat, tried to let Russell down easily by explaining that his anti-labor bias had been a major factor in his winning of the party—especially his support of the Taft-Hartley Act.

Later, Russell related this to his public relations adviser, Dave Harman, who is a representative of Lewis. Lewis then concocted a statement, and slipped it to the Georgia Senator through Charney. It may well be that this was a strong civil rights plank in the platform. It was a strong civil rights plank in 1948 which led the states right movement and cost Truman those 39 electoral votes.

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