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Republican Riots

This Meade Alcorn is a brass-knucks fighter whose intemperate partisanship leads him to make strange charges.

The latest one: The riots that greeted Vice President Nixon on his South American tour was a carefully contrived plan by the Republican Party to keep Nixon in the headlines and to make a martyr of him.

Alcorn may not have meant it that way, but that's the way it came out.

Alcorn's biggest trouble is that he doesn't know when to stop. He had a right to question whether Nixon should have continued his tour when the size and frenzy of the demonstrations against him became apparent.

He perhaps had the right, since national chairmen are paid to be full-time political breastbeaters, to suggest that Nixon's world tours are part of a political buildup.

At this point, Alcorn should have shut up. But he went on to say that "all the sympathy" for Nixon would not "conceal the fact that Nixon gained his reputation as a master of the smear technique" and that the Republicans are trying to make Nixon a martyr.

Alcorn's remarks were in the grossest taste and irrelevant. Somebody should put a governor on his tongue.

A Raise For Servicemen

With the President's signing of the bill providing pay raises for the military, the armed services are in a better position, not merely to retain able personnel but to recruit promising young men.

Better than the all-around pay raise was the bill's feature recognizing that not all service personnel have equal value to the services. Extra pay for proficiency, long an essential part of the civilian world, is now a part of the military as well.

Skilled enlisted personnel may command as much as $150 a month extra in proficiency pay. The same amount is available for captains through colonels as responsibility pay.

There are liberal (and logical) raises for generals and admirals, the men with the greatest responsibility but until now shamefully underpaid.

There can be little argument with this instance of government spending. It is an investment calculated to maintain and raise the standard of our armed forces, which is to say, our national defense.

Boy Executives

Everybody should know by now that women, by virtue of their greater longevity, are taking over the wealth of the nation. They are inheriting stock in corporations and generally assuming control.

Seizing on this line, the Association of Cosmetic Plastic Surgeons is urging that prematurely aged executives should have their faces lifted. Plastic surgeons attending a recent convention in Los Angeles agreed "that from a public relations standpoint it's important that today's corporation executive look youthful and vigorous, since more and more women are attending stockholder meetings and are taking an increased interest in companies whose common stocks they own."

It could backfire, of course. Imagine the shock of a wealthy, elderly lady when she attends a stockholder meeting for the first time to find her company being run by a bunch of seeming kids.

Patterson Smears Himself With Truth

PATTERSON, candidate for governor, is either scornful of the truth or the most innocent Boy Scout in the modern history of Alabama politics.

Patterson has now confirmed what *The Montgomery Advertiser* told the State of Alabama last Thursday.

Patterson finally admitted yesterday that Bob Shelton of Tuscaloosa, Grand Dragon of the Alabama Klan, has been his friend and political associate.

Patterson, who has lately been a fugitive from the press and live TV programs, was tracked down in Chilton County yesterday and asked once again if he knew Grand Dragon Shelton. Patterson finally admitted to both *The Advertiser* and *Birmingham News* that he did know Shelton, but did not know that Shelton was a Klansman.

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THIS is preposterous. For, as *The Advertiser* showed last Thursday, Shelton actually wrote a letter to the editor of the *Tuscaloosa Graphic* and signed himself: "Robert M. Shelton, Grand Dragon, Realm, Ala." The letter was about the Klan.

Therefore, everybody in Tuscaloosa County could read it in the paper that Shelton was a Klansman. But Patterson, while admitting close personal association with Shelton, asks Alabama to believe that he did not know his pal was a Klansman, and the Grand Dragon at that!

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THIS seems to be the Patterson pattern. Sometime back it was disclosed that, while crusading against loan sharks, he himself held stock in a loan firm.

When confronted with this documented truth, Patterson and his supporters cried "smear". Then Patterson said in substance, "I thought it was a bank."

Patterson at that time was not considered a strong candidate for governor and nobody bothered to put the spotlight on him and ask questions. Until this day, Patterson has never felt called upon to tell the people whether he still owns this stock.

Now that he is the leading candidate for governor, everything about him and his record is a matter of legitimate public interest. He is indeed being smeared—with the truth.

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BE CERTAIN that more and more will come to light about Patterson and his Klan connections.

Already the State of Alabama sees that Judge George Wallace told the truth last Friday night in his speech when he charged that Patterson was "wrapped in a bedsheet with the Grand Dragon of the Klan."

While Patterson supporters yelped "smear", Patterson remained aloof. As smugly confident of election as was Thomas E. Dewey when he was running against Truman in 1948, Patterson stayed away from the stump and reporters. He didn't mean to come clean.

The variation of "I thought it was a bank" becomes "I thought the Grand Dragon was a Scoutmaster".

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LET Alabamians take another look at Patterson. If he is elected governor, he will be the least experienced governor in the history of Alabama. He came to Montgomery only four years ago and now wants to move into the Governor's Mansion.

Whether or not Patterson will ever achieve the distinction of becoming the least experienced governor in Alabama history, he has already achieved the distinction of being among the least experienced candidates—for he thought he could avoid coming clean with the people when there it was in his own handwriting.

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LET Alabamians read the man Patterson in the history of the past week.

A week ago today *The Advertiser* broke the story, "Atty. Gen. John Patterson, candidate for governor, is actively supported by the leadership of the Ku Klux Klan in Alabama. Patterson knows this."

The Advertiser wished to give Patterson every chance to offer comment or explanation. We tried to reach him in his Birmingham headquarters to tell him we were printing the story and a photostat of his letter about the Grand Dragon, "our mutual friend." We were surprised to find that he was so confident that he had the election sewed up that he was out in Hollywood making a TV movie.

The Advertiser followed Patterson across the continent by phone to get his statement, working through *The Los Angeles Times* and Associated Press bureau. Whereupon we got and printed on Pg. 1 the following statement from Patterson:

"This is amazing. I am not a member of the Ku Klux Klan. I have never been a member. I don't know anyone named Shelton."

Taking his time, Patterson finally returned to Alabama. He saw the story and the photostat of his letter about Shelton. He also saw the reprint of the story about *The Birmingham News* catching Shelton in his Birmingham headquarters, talking to none other than Patterson's brother, Maurice. He read how Shelton fled from reporters and disappeared through the office of his campaign manager, "Crump" Meriwether. Patterson read that Meriwether denied on his honor that he knew Shelton.

Judge Wallace made a statewide broadcast accusing Patterson of being wrapped in a bedsheet with the Grand Dragon. Every newspaper in Alabama carried an account of the disclosure by *The Advertiser*.

Every day the letters to the editor column crackled with disputes between Patterson and Wallace supporters over Patterson's Klan connections. There were editorials. There was another story about a Hale County klansman boasting of his support of Patterson.

Everybody in Alabama was discussing Patterson and the Grand Dragon—except Patterson.

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WHY didn't the spotless one come forward and tell the truth?

Is Patterson so contemptuous of public opinion that he thought he could let his statement stand that he didn't "know anyone named Shelton"? Like Hugo Black, Patterson first tried to ride out his Klan connections, and was finally forced to acknowledge them.

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MANY Alabamians were unmoved by Judge Wallace's warning that the election of Patterson might entail a revival of the Klan with its tradition of violence and terror.

Let the matter be considered another way, then.

One or two things is true—

¶ Patterson tried to deceive Alabama.

¶ Patterson is too innocent to be governor.

Here is the state's chief prosecutor and investigator riding around with the Grand Dragon of the Klan and doesn't even know the man is a klansman!

Here is the attorney general of Alabama now admitting that Shelton is his buddy but he didn't know that he was the head of the Klan, an organization officially listed along with the Communist Party and the Southern Negro Youth Conference as "subversive" by the Attorney General of the United States.

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IF THIS innocent, this Fearless Fosdick, is so dense he doesn't know that he is riding around with the Klan chief, how in the world can such a man investigate and bring to book the Folsom gang and the gangsters he talks about?

A man this easily deceived, if he was deceived, might easily wind up appointing the Grand Dragon to be chief of the Highway Patrol.

Here is Shelton, a man who has signed his name publicly as the Grand Dragon and Patterson doesn't know he's a klansman.

If that escaped Patterson, what else may have escaped Patterson about other of his supporters? He can't rely on *The Advertiser* to tell him everything.

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AND finally, is this some kind of Krazy Kat comedy that the Attorney General of Alabama associates with a man whose organization is listed as "subversive" and, if he has any gratitude, will feel under obligation to him for services rendered?

Moon Over China

The next nation to launch a moon, Moscow says, will be Red China.

A front-page editorial in *Pravda* quotes one Kuo Mo-jo, president of the Red Chinese Academy of Sciences, as saying that Chinese scientists have been studying Soviet space technology and will soon be ready to do it themselves.

More likely, the Chinese moon will be a Soviet lend-lease model launched by Russian scientists but, for authenticity, broadcasting in Chinese.

But it's highly unlikely that the Soviet will open up much of its missile data to China, whose growth and scientific progress Russia knows may be a future threat to the Soviet.

★ Tell It To Old Grandma ★

Your name and address must be given on letter ★ But upon request, name will often be withheld at the Editor's discretion ★ We reserve the right to shorten letters ★ No poetry, please ★ Repeat: No letter will be printed unless Editor knows who wrote it.

More Like A Shout

EDITOR, THE ADVERTISER — Mr. Patterson's failure to accept the invitation to appear on the TV program "Alabama Press Conference" Sunday gives credit to his campaign manager, Mr. Meriwether.

No doubt this talented salesman knew the hazards of allowing the candidate to subject himself to the scrutiny of an alert panel and no doubt the decision to be absent was Mr. Meriwether's.

The oily campaign during the primary, however, should not prove adequate for Mr. Patterson to slide home June 3. Most people seem aware that we have a candidate in Judge Wallace, but only a peculiar sort of salesmanship from Patterson camp.

The Birmingham Post refers to "whispering" campaigns issuing from backers of Judge Wallace. John Temple Graves et al must be as deaf as they are deluded to call *that* whispering.

A. P. BLACKERBY.
Rt. 2, Foley, Ala.

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Myths Debunked

Editor, The Advertiser:

I think it is time some people were awakened and freed from a delusion under which they are suffering.

In the first place, John Patterson had nothing to do with clearing up Phenix City. The credit should go to Macdonald Gallion, since His Highness didn't become attorney general for nine months after his father's death.

Secondly, Mr. Patterson didn't wave his magic wand and cause the NAACP to vanish from Alabama. There are still 50,000 members of the NAACP operating as much as they ever were, and anybody who thinks differently should ask Mr. Patterson.

If everyone would read the newspapers instead of propaganda sheets, we would hear no more of these ignorant remarks.

MRS. LOUISE F. SOUTHERN.
Opelika, Ala.

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Open The Record

Editor, The Advertiser:

Charles Meriwether, Candidate Patterson's campaign manager and ex-Boss Crump's man, has been running advertisements in the weekly newspapers picturing Candidate Patterson as *the moral candidate* in the governor's race.

The ads insinuate that other candidates could be immoral. Since Candidate Patterson's manager and ex-Crumpite has raised the issue I think the voters are entitled to know the real facts concerning the moral records of the remaining candidates for governor as proved by documentary evidence.

SAM T. WILSON.
Dothan, Ala.

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Honesty Is Not Enough

Editor, The Advertiser:

I would like for someone to answer one question for me. Of what or whom is John Patterson afraid?

Judge Wallace has offered to meet him in a statewide television program to express both men's views on vital issues. I have seen no reply from Mr. Patterson. A Montgomery television station has invited both candidates to appear on a panel discussion and Wallace has accepted. From Patterson no reply.

Could it be that Mr. Patterson feels that he cannot measure up in face to face discussion? Segregation is only one problem that a governor must face. I think the voters should know the experience and opinions of both men on many more issues. that are of vital importance.

Wallace has done a good job so far in trying to let the people know what he stands for. Now let us hear more from Patterson than we have. I know many honest, sincere, intelligent men that I do not feel would qualify to be governor.

What about it Mr. Patterson. What do you really have to offer the people, except a hue and cry?

JACK SULLIVAN.
Fort Deposit, Ala.

The Lyons Den
By Leonard Lyons

S. HUROK, the impresario, is swamped with mail orders for the sensational Moiseyev Ballet troupe. The tour is all sold out—in advance. Their Madison Square Garden bookings also are sell-outs. The Russian dancers, incidentally, are paid in dollars but will have no use for this money in Russia. Hurok therefore has arranged for them to have three days free in New York just for shopping.

THE mules used in Ingrid Bergman's new movie, *The Inn Of The Sixth Happiness*, are imported from Ireland—because there aren't any mules in England . . . Cary Grant was informed from Europe on the *Ile de France*. He refuses to sail on any other ship—because it was the *Ile de France* that picked up his wife when she was a passenger on the Andrea Doria . . . Alexander Ince, the producer, tells of a Budapest cafe he knew where the bouncer refused a straight salary but demanded a per-capita fee.

MAYOR WAGNER'S aide, Stanley Lowell, told Carmine De Sapio he couldn't attend the big Democratic dinner because he had to take his son to a Cub Scout rally. De Sapio replied that it was good, long-range thinking for him to mingle with Cub Scouts: "They're all potential Democratic voters" . . . Marlene Dietrich signed to do 10 radio segments a week for NBC's *Monitor* . . . Georgia Gibbs' booking into the Copa May 22 came after a chance meeting with the club owner while waiting for a cab.

HUME CRONYN and his wife, Jessica Tandy, have co-starred in three plays. They were asked about their reactions when one of them became ill during a performance. Miss Tandy confessed: "I say to Hume, 'Take it easy darling—but for God's sake, *give*.'"

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Klan Will Strut If Patterson Wins

So Predicts Greensboro Editor Who Is Also A Citizens Council Member; Declares KKK And Patterson Leadership 'Almost Indistinguishable'

Editor Hamner Cobbs In The Greensboro Watchman

(This editorial by Hamner Cobbs, a distinguished weekly editor, appeared in The Greensboro Watchman *yesterday afternoon. It was written before John Patterson admitted that he was a friend of the Grand Dragon of the Ku Klux Klan. He challenged Patterson to sue him.—Ed.)*

JUDGE GEORGE WALLACE should be elected governor of Alabama, in the runoff of June 3, for two basic reasons:

¶ In the first place, he is the better qualified of the two men, by background, training and experience.

¶ In the second place, the odor of the Ku Klux Klan has enveloped John Patterson to such an extent that he should be obnoxious to the majority of Alabamians.

George Wallace was born and reared on a farm. Left fatherless as a small boy, he has nevertheless gone on to educate himself through the college level, largely through his own efforts. In public life he has served ably in the legislature and on the bench of the circuit court. He has become known, on a southwide basis, for his work in behalf of a segregated society, on a lawful basis.

There are few men we have encountered in public life in the past 30 years with a finer warmth of personality. He is an educated man, with a gift for grasping every angle of a public problem. He is one of the finest public speakers which Alabama has produced in the past quarter century.

A MATURE CAMPAIGNER

Although only 39 years of age, Judge Wallace showed his maturity by the manner in which he met the scurrilous smear attack made on him in the first primary. A veteran with a fine war record covering more than three years in the armed forces during World War II, he nevertheless had to face unsigned charges that he was a "draft dodger." The man who first served notice on federal authorities that they would not be permitted unlimited access to his court records for the sake of indicting a whole people, he nevertheless had to face the utterly ridiculous charge, again unsigned, that he was a "communist."

Our only objection to George Wallace is his former association with Folsom. This he admits, and he has the company of an overwhelming majority of Alabamians. On the other hand, he insists he broke with Folsom several years ago, and certainly the Folsom crowd did not support him in the first primary. We give the Patterson family full credit for having broken with the old Phenix City racketeering machine, and by the same token, we give Wallace full credit for having broken with Folsom. Certainly his support by such newspapers as *The Montgomery Advertiser* and *The Selma Times-Journal*, which have led the entire state in the anti-Folsom crusade, gives ample proof of this.

BIGOTED KLAN AN NAACP TOOL

As for the second of the two major issues—the Klan issue—it is a lot more complicated, and it will take far more words to cover.

Let us predicate our remarks with this: The editor of this newspaper was not only fighting for segregation but leading this entire state in the fight when some of the current Klansmen were running around with bare feet in rompers. We took a beating, in the Eastern and so-called "liberal" press of the nation, that no other man in the modern history of Alabama has taken. And where, as a result of this, do we stand today? We stand exactly where we stood in the 1930s and 1940s; we said then, and we now repeat, that segregation can and must be maintained by lawful and constitutional means—and we maintained then, as we do now, that a small minority of zealots, however fine their intentions, hurt the cause rather than help it by hiding under bedsheets, threatening, if not carrying out, their plans through extra-legal measures.

The editor of this newspaper is a member of the Citizens Council, and happy for anyone to know it. It is an open organization; overwhelming numbers of responsible white people in this county, and other Black Belt counties, are members of this organization, which is dedicated to maintaining segregation within the law. On the other hand, the Ku Klux Klan—by reason of its past viciousness, and by reason of the fact that it is secret both in membership and operation—does not and cannot claim the loyalty of more than a small minority. While the Ku Klux Klan has a continued segregation as one of its goals, it is actually doing more harm than good. By its very nature and past record, it is narrow, bigoted and secret, and it repels those very people whose help should be enlisted. Instead of uniting the South on a thing of vital importance to us, it is so very divisive that it is driving a wedge between us. It is doing exactly what the NAACP wants; it is tearing us apart when we ought to be uniting.

KLAN AND PATTERSON LEADERSHIP

We were dragged into this controversy through the news columns of *The Montgomery Advertiser*, by the utterance of a self-confessed Klansman—and we intend to speak our piece. We say, without any fear of being contradicted, that the Ku Klux Klan not only supported John Patterson almost to a man in the first primary in this and neighboring counties, but that it took virtual charge of his campaign. There may have been a very few deviations, due largely to personal loyalties elsewhere, but by and large the Ku Klux Klan in Hale County was synonymous with John Patterson on May 6, and it remains so today. Those in the Klan are almost indistinguishable from those in the Patterson leadership.

The Klan members were responsible for the Patterson campaign and they were hilarious in victory. They remain confident, and we don't blame them. By no means do we intend to say that all the voters who went for Mr. Patterson were Klan members or even Klan sympathizers. A lot of people were fooled by his generalities, and we even know of one or two Catholic votes which he received locally! It was a fine campaign of deception, under the leadership of the incomparable Charles Meriwether, a master at political legerdemain, and we take off our hat to the brilliance of it all. Nevertheless, we know that, when the fog has cleared, there will stand the Ku Klux Klan grinning and taking full credit for it all—and rightly so!

CHALLENGE TO PATTERSON: ADMIT KLAN CONNECTION—OR SUE

This campaign of deception has enlisted such worthy support as the *Birmingham Post-Herald*. That newspaper has simply been fooled by a modern Meriwether edition of the old shell game. Now you see it; now you don't. For instance, we say to that newspaper that when John Patterson denies knowing Robert Shelton, the Grand Dragon of the Ku Klux Klan, or denies his earnest support, that Mr. Patterson is either (1) guilty of an utter falsehood or (2) he has memory so short that he is not qualified to serve as governor of this state. This is not a rich or powerful newspaper, as are so many of our dailies, but we are solvent, and subject to suit, and we make the direct charge that Mr. Patterson not only knows Mr. Shelton, and has referred to him in letters sent over this part of the state as our "mutual friend," but that he has met with Robert Shelton, the Ku Kluxer in political conference.

KKK SNICKERS AT POST-HERALD

The *Birmingham Post-Herald* ought to be told the facts of life; namely, that Klansmen in this section are laughing up their sleeves at the gullibility of that newspaper. The extent to which this campaign of deception is being carried is well illustrated by a letter written by a self-confessed member of the Greensboro Klan to *The Montgomery Advertiser*. This Klansman protests when *The Advertiser* offers documentary proof that Shelton, the Grand Dragon, and Patterson, the candidate, are in cahoots. He calls this a "smear." Wouldn't you hate to be connected with an organization which, by your own admission, "smears" a politician when it touches him?

We do not believe that, as individuals the people who constitute the Ku Klux Klan in this country are guilty of, or intent upon, any lawless activities. The Alabama anti-masking law is a great help. In fact, up to the time of this unpleasantness, we were happy to call some of these Ku Kluxers our personal friends. Some of them have done business with us—and we have done business with them; a few of them are subscribers to this newspaper, of long and good standing. It is simply by associating themselves as a group with an organization whose very name has been linked for many years past with extra-legal activities, that they come into a bad light. Do you recall that the men who emasculated the innocent Birmingham Negro were also people who called themselves Ku Klux Klansmen?

The worst of which we directly accuse them is a minor but irritating happening. Virtually all candidates were guilty of abusing utility poles and other public places with their political posters, but it took the Patterson crowd in Greensboro to plaster just about every parking meter in this community with Patterson stickers two nights before the election. Would they have been able to get by with this had they not had the blessing—or the help—of certain law enforcement officers who are active in the Klan? This is a small item, but where will this extra-legal privilege lead?

ANCESTRY OF THE KLAN

These Klansmen need a little brushing up on the historical background of their organization. They take some sort of bold pride in linking themselves with the Ku Klux Klan of the Reconstruction Days. They should be told the facts of life, namely, that they are not descendants of the Ku Klux Klan of 1870; they have merely confiscated that name. They are direct descendants of the old Know Nothing Party of the 1850s, and certain of their activities have a remarkable resemblance to the secret and political principles of those anti-Irish trouble-makers. Some of our local Klansmen have remarkably fine Irish names. Are they aware of the fact that they are aligning themselves with the very same elements which fought their great-grandfathers, and made things so difficult for them a century ago?

CAN PATTERSON DENY THE EVIDENCE?

Why does Mr. Patterson remain so strangely silent on this issue of the Klan? Surprised in Los Angeles, he denied knowing Shelton, the Grand Dragon. Does he deny his own signature in the letter which was offered as documentary proof that he (Patterson) and certain Klan members were "mutual friends" of the Klan leader? It is common knowledge that this letter was circulated all over this part of Alabama. Does Mr. Patterson deny it? Will he tell us why Shelton dodged through the Patterson headquarters in Birmingham in evading newspaper men? Will he tell us what has happened to Shelton, his Klan supporter, since that time, and why he is apparently hiding out? Will Mr. Patterson tell us why he is so silent on the repeal of the anti-masking law? Why does he, as chief law enforcement officer of this state, refuse to condemn the attempt to bomb the Birmingham Jewish synagogue? Judge Wallace did. Is he afraid that such a denunciation will get him in bad with the Klan? Is he avoiding a live television appearance under questioning because he is afraid to answer these and similar questions?

BEDSHEETS & CROSSES AT THE CAPITOL

It all boils down to this: Aside from the capabilities of the two candidates, the election will be decided on this one major issue:

The election of George Wallace will mean a repudiation of the Ku Klux Klan in Alabama.

The election of John Patterson will be interpreted by the Klan as a major victory, and we will be the first to admit it in print. In that event, for the next four years the escutcheon of Alabama will proclaim the bedsheet and the burning cross.