



## THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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MONDAY, MARCH 10, 1958

### Racial Justice: The Vicious Circles

MANY bright-bannered idealists who have taken refuge in the quaint notion that all the southern Negro needed to raise his rank in society was a court view are having some soul-wracking second thoughts today.

Some, like William Faulkner, are wondering aloud whether the Negro is ready for first class citizenship in Dixie after all.

The arbitrary decision that the Negro is "just like everybody else" is of course no truer than the old-fashioned idea that the Negro, by nature, is inferior to everybody else. He is, to a great extent, the prisoner of his environment, his status, his color, his lack of essential rights and opportunities.

If he is not inferior as a man the forces that shape his presence on the southern scene are indeed inferior.

It is easy to blame deficiencies in southern public school facilities for Negroes for the whole problem and decide that desegregation will solve everything. It is not as simple as that.

The institutions that determine the Negro's place in society are weak all along the line—and the resulting interrelationships simply worsen the situation. Consider higher education. Consider the testimony last week of a senior at Southern University, a state-supported institution for Negroes in Louisiana:

"A person has to make a lot of special effort to get a really good education here. Sometimes it takes a lot of do-it-yourself because the teaching isn't good enough. And there is a vicious circle under way. The teachers teach poorly, and the students—many of whom go into teaching—then go out and teach poorly in the Negro public schools. Then poorly taught kids come here to study and graduate as poorly taught teachers."

There is unfortunately more truth than fiction in the statement and it applies not only to Southern University but to any number of colleges for Negroes in the South.

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# What Could Nixon Do If He Became 'Acting President'?

By STEWART ALSOP

WASHINGTON  
AT HIS press conference last week, President Eisenhower looked and talked better than he has for a very long time. He seemed ruddy, vigorous, and his manner was both alert and relaxed. Even so, there were more questions about the problem of the presidential succession than about any other topic in view of the President's medical history. It is no doubt natural that this should be so.

As the President said, "There are a lot of people who are not better lawyers than I am, making a lot of comments on this thing." But it does not require a degree in constitutional law to understand why House Speaker Sam Rayburn and a few others are so

adamantly opposed to creating what Rayburn calls a new "office of acting president." All it requires is an effort of imagination to sense of the political realities.

Suppose that the President suffered another "emission." Suppose that he was partially disabled, but that his doctors held out some hope that before the end of his term, he might again assume the office. Under the President's agreement with Vice President, the Vice President would then become "acting president," while the President would presumably retire to Gettysburg to recuperate.

### LACK POWER

But what kind of President is an "acting president"? In terms of the political realities, an acting president is not really president at all, so long as it is hoped or expected that the President himself will resume office. For in a practical, if not in a legal sense, an acting president would lack the untrammeled power to hire and fire on which his authority over the Executive Branch is based.

Take three specific examples. The most obvious is that of Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson. It is a good bet that, if Nixon became president in his own right, one of his first acts would be to replace Benson. For Nixon has long lent a sympathetic ear to the walls of mid-West Republicans who consider Benson a political disaster.

### SEAT-WARMER

Yet how could an acting president, a mere seat-warmer, awaiting the President's return, fire the man whom the President has defended more fiercely and stubbornly than any of his other subordinates?

Another obvious example is that of presidential aide Sherman Adams. Far more than Nixon himself, Adams has been the real acting president during the President's illnesses. Nixon and Adams are cordial, but they are not personally close. Almost the first thought of any president is to have his own man, a man responsive to him and his alone, as his chief administrative assistant.

Yet how could a mere acting president, while the real President still lived and hoped to return, fire the man closest to the President and most trusted by him?

Finally, take a less obvious example, that of Secretary of State John Foster Dulles. Again, the relationship between Nixon and Dulles is cordial enough. But every president in history, and for very good reason, has always wanted his own man in the crucial foreign policy post.

Yet how could a temporary

president replace a man whom the President has described as one of the greatest secretaries of state in American history?

The list could be lengthened almost indefinitely. But the point is surely clear. So long as there remained a chance that the President would assume office, the acting president would be a mere shadow of a president. The members of the administration would be from in position, and so would the policies they represented.

### NO NEAT ANSWER

For a time, no doubt—a month or two—this system could be made to work somehow, especially if it were considered certain that the President would return. But in such times as these, it could not possibly be made to work indefinitely. For these times urgently require a real, and not a shadow, President.

What is the solution? The answer is that there is no neat and comfortable solution which can be confidently written down in advance. As the President himself said, "It is almost impossible to make a formula that is going to work." The problem really comes down to a matter of the President's judgment and that of his medical advisers.

If they felt reasonably certain that the President could again assume his office in a brief time, then the agreement between the President and the vice president would be an adequate if unsatisfactory answer to the problem. But if there were real doubt that the President could resume his duties for many months, if at all, then only one course would really be open to the President—to resign, and turn over the office itself, as well as its powers and duties, to the vice president.

## 'Sure I'm Above Water—But I Certainly Ain't High On Th' Hog Now'



### The Other 'President'

## Johnson In Action

By DORIS FLEESON

WASHINGTON  
THE first 100 days of Lyndon Johnson got underway with a bang. Apparently the senator from Texas took the titular President of the United States has had his chance—and muffed it.

In any case, rising in the Senate in all the pomp of his place as Democratic majority leader, Johnson broke into the morning hour to announce a full-scale attack on the economic recession.

He said he planned not only to live up to his responsibilities as majority leader but to discharge them as effectively, as he could and he added:

"I am aided by a cabinet made up of men of great ability. I have conferred with them. I think they will expound action in an attempt to prevent the unemployment rolls from growing out of hand."

He said he had conferred with the leaders of the House and had been assured by the Speaker and the majority leader there that "the House would act. He even thought the administration could be relied on to name some of the projects to be aided."

### SWIFT REPORTS

The neglected press gallery, which had so much trouble in years past, thinks he is going to be President in 1960, said one.

"That fellow thinks he's going to be President in 1960," said one.

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### STANDS TAKEN

He has staked out for himself every major issue in this session. After the Russians made their pioneering breakthrough into outer space, he took over the satellite-missile gap as chairman of the Preparedness subcommittee of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

His purely military stance on outer space has been a most variable comment, and the orbiting of the first Explorer also took some of the sting from the military aspect. Johnson moved on to the question of control of outer space for peaceful purposes. He introduced a resolution for a committee to consider that problem and thereby became that committee's chairman.

Now he is taking command of his party's anti-recession drive. He introduced a resolution for a committee to consider that problem and thereby became that committee's chairman.

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repeated. "Heck, he thinks he is" was the swift riposte.

Another mused aloud: "I wonder if he has a clear understanding with Sen. Mansfield in case of disability. As yet, Mansfield is Johnson's second-in-command; like President Eisenhower, Johnson has had a severe heart attack."

### SEVENTH DAY

Still another paused in his mad rush of filing statements, resolutions and schedules to suggest: "And on the seventh day he rested."

Committee chairmen rarely seen on the Senate floor were obediently on hand for the occasion. One after another they rose to assure their leader that their committees were busy as birds dogs on the scent of remedies for the nation's economic ills.

### GOP QUIET

No Republican rose to intimate that there were two ends to Pennsylvania Avenue. Johnson's leap on the bandwagon. This was Sen. Henry C. Doroughak of Ohio, who hopefully asked Johnson for assurances that he would not rely solely on the executive branch for leadership in the matter of reciprocal trade. Doroughak is against it.

The scope and strength of Johnson's program, it is felt, is apparent here. Two questions immediately suggest themselves. One is whether, in view of his health, he is not trying to do too much. The other is whether he can be effective on so broad a front.

The more our government is centralized the easier it is for big business groups to bring pressure on the central government. As Benjamin Franklin so aptly said immediately after the Constitution of the United States became effective: "The people should keep their government as local as possible."

The people were not satisfied with the U. S. Constitution as it was drafted. Led by Thomas Jefferson, they demanded that amendments be made to the constitution; that's how the first ten amendments came into being.

If you will read the Constitution carefully you will see that it, as for as safeguarding the liberties of the people are concerned, the Constitution as first written was inadequate. It simply a set of rules regulating the operation of the government. There is one thing that the people do not give enough consideration to, and it is the most important.

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### Don't Blame Ike: Blame The Congress

Hamilton

THE PRIMARY duty of a political party after they have gained a victory at the polls in a national election is to try to operate the national government in a manner that will help all of the people.