

Fruit Of The One-Party System

WHATSOEVER the ultimate outcome of the political extravaganza now being staged by Georgia Democrats, it seems to us that it has provided a lesson all Southerners would do well to take to heart. Both Governor Aron and Herman Talmadge are jockeying for position on some of the thinnest legal ice in American political history, and the reason is that Georgia, like most Southern states, has kept the form of partisan politics while abandoning the substance.

In order to maintain the fiction that it conducts its government in accordance with the Constitution of the United States, Georgia stages a general election every two years, but since there is only one political party, the general election is an utterly meaningless ritual, a device for confirming the real choice made in the Democratic Primary.

Gambling Is A Horrid Word

WILLIAM H. HASKELL, a customer's man for a firm of Wall Street brokers, was called for jury duty in New York a few weeks ago. Like many a good man and true, he didn't want to serve, and he thought he saw a way out. The case on which he was to sit involved gambling, and Mr. Haskell announced that he was disqualified "because I'm a gambling man myself."

The implication of Mr. Haskell's statement was not lost on President Emil Schram of the New York Stock Exchange. Mr. Schram feels that there is a distinction between the stock market and a roulette table, and he promptly canceled Mr. Haskell's registration with the Exchange. "He has a misconception of the business in which he is engaged," we are informed lately. "Well, somebody has a misconception, certainly, but he is not so certain it is Mr. Haskell. We have been giving in reflection at a chart in the Business & Finance section of the current Time. There is a black line which charts the course of the stock market over the past twelve months, and a red line which charts the course of industrial production. The stock market curve looks like a mountain peak; the produc-

For The Love Of Democracy

DEMOCRACY is one of those words that mean all things to all men, but rarely has it been tortured as much as it has lately in connection with the proposal for a wet-dry referendum in Mecklenburg County. The proposal to let the residents of the City decide for themselves whether to drink legal or illegal liquor is praised on one side as an ultimate expression of the will of the people, and on the other as an attempt to pervert democratic principles.

Both sides have been guilty of some fanciful distortions. The course of the stock market has not gone up to date. As we understand their position it goes like this: (1) They want a statewide liquor referendum which will continue county option if they lose, but drop all the ABC counties if they win. (2) In counties now legally dry they don't want any election at all. But they want an immediate election in every ABC county. (3) If an election is forced in dry counties they want the people to vote for the ABC counties because they know the greatest strength of the ABC forces lies in the elites and towns; thus they bitterly oppose a separate election for the City of Charlotte because they believe they will lose it.

Another Voice

Ragged Dick And Tattered Tom

GONE is Horatio Alger. Gone even is the memory of his 119 books among today's children. And those aging ones among us who knew *Ragged Dick* and *Tattered Tom* are suddenly brought to face the fact that Alger did die almost 50 years ago, and that the boy who wrote was unworthy of immortality.

He never wrote a great and serious novel which seems to have been his other ambition. He ground out his rags-to-riches novels sometimes at a rate of one every two weeks. He made two trips to Paris which appear to have been entirely for the sake of the right of the people. "On behalf of the registered voters..."



Bertram Benedict

Defense At A Saving

UNIFICATION of the Army and Navy will be again urged on Congress in a special message, President Truman announced in his annual message last Jan. 6. He recommended a special Department of National Defense in his budget message delivered on Jan. 10. In both messages he declared that unification would cut the cost of Government as well as advance the efficiency of national defense.

ministration is no guaranty of economy and efficiency if its chain of command is too long. Indeed, that the experience of business corporations has been that decentralization is often necessary for savings and close supervision. This side argues further that competition keeps the Army and Navy each on its toes and that any real savings or unification are obtainable and have been obtained by co-operation between the two services—Editorial Research Reports.

Senator Soaper Says:

CONSIDER the letter-carrier, as he makes his momentous round. He is not entitled to portable-to-portable pay.

Another qualified paradise is the South Polar region, where there are no cold wars, no weeds, no insects and—hold it, boys—no women.

However, the 1946 estimate for national defense looms large if compared with the actual expenditure for the year. It is \$5 billion (60 per cent) higher than the actual cost in the preparation year of 1941, and almost 10 billion (700 per cent) higher than actual cost in the prewar year of 1939.

The ten best dressed women are picked, and have their little days of publicity. And then there's Sally Rand, who's been picked for the same reason.

Proposals to unify the administration of the Army and Navy have frequently come before at times when the need to cut Government costs was pressing. Back in 1912 President Taft appointed a Commission on Economy and Efficiency. It was considering unification of the armed forces when its life was terminated by World War I.

The saying of world diplomats brings to mind another of the late Dr. C. Fleet's lines, in "I gotta talk." "I'm the sheriff."

The Navy has almost always opposed unification, except for occasional proposals to place the Army lines up, been Army for Navy against.

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Opponents of unification argue that a single administration would mean a loss of the independence of the Army and Navy. They argue that the Army and Navy have different traditions and that unification would mean a loss of the independence of the Army and Navy.

In 1912, Theodore Roosevelt tried to draw together liberals regardless of party in the United States, but he failed in doing this with the Progressive Party. Perhaps he might have at-

THE FIRST BRITISH... THE nature of this compromise was not... to the Senate. But it was well known to the Republican rebels. Against the background of the announced plan to continue the special committee.

Sen. Charles W. Tobey of New Hampshire led off in his forthright New England fashion. He reviewed the legislative program of the National Act, pointing out the confusion and uncertainty caused in the past by overlapping committees. The continuation of a special committee at any stage of the new session would, he argued, weaken the whole purpose of the reorganization.

The text came over continuation of the Senate's Special Defense Investigating Committee on policy, under the efficient chairmanship of Sen. Robert A. Taft, had decided to grant this committee an additional year of existence.

REASON SIMPLE The reason for this decision was simple. It lay in the stout, determined backbone of Sen. Charles Brewster. If the committee was given a new lease on life, Brewster, as its chairman, would be turning a vista which Brewster found irresistible. After all, had not the Senate's Special Defense Investigating Committee, under the chairmanship of that distinguished member of the Presidency?

Finally a compromise was worked out that was intended to placate all concerned. The Defense Investigating Committee, with its promise of sensational headlines, was to be continued for one year. Brewster happy. But in return he had to promise to keep out of Germany and off the floor of the Armed Forces Committee.

ON TO VICTORY No one had any illusions, while the debate went on that the position of one leadership or another would be altered. The leaders knew where they wanted to go. They are on the way to ultimate victory in 1948.

NEW LIBERAL GROUP Harold Ickes

WASHINGTON THE liberals who, under the name of "American for Progress," have taken such a firm stand at their meeting in Washington on Jan. 4, are not to be taken for granted. They are not under the feet of the Henry A. Wallace liberal group.

NON-PARTISAN The question remains whether Americans for Democratic Action, which was launched with the blessing of Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, is an organization within the Democratic Party or a separate liberal group not allied with either of the major parties.

NON TOO LATE Perhaps it still is not too late for real liberals to form a new organization free of the dominance of either of the major party machines. The real difference between the two existing organizations is that the Progressive Citizens of America lacked the courage, as it were, to break away from the Democratic Party.

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Drew Pearson's Byrnes Called Molotov's Buff On Italy Merry-Go-Round

(NOTE—This is the second of Drew Pearson's columns on the secret negotiations between Byrnes and Molotov. The Russians which finally broke the USA-USSR deadlock.)

up in this country. Most people had great admiration for Russia. But it got now. When you follow a consistent policy of calling us names, naturally you can't expect us to love you.

Dalton, approached Byrnes with the proposal that the United States pay 50 to 60 per cent of the British deficit. But it was not so simple. The British had had a hard time in the United States, they wanted to buy U. S. goods and that they couldn't afford to bear such a heavy burden.

WASHINGTON COLIMAX of the bitter, long-drawn diplomatic battle between Russia and the United States came when the Yugoslavs walked out of the peace talks in New York, and then came round to Secretary Byrnes in Washington.

Molotov seemed shaken by Byrnes's statement. Almost immediately he made a statement to the press in which he said that the Russians were not in a hurry to sign the Italian Treaty.

Byrnes replied that he couldn't do that. He couldn't do that. He couldn't do that. He couldn't do that. He couldn't do that. He couldn't do that.

Byrnes also proceeded to give Molotov some friendly but straight-forward-to-the-shoulder advice on U. S.-USSR relations. "You don't seem to realize," he said, "that Russia has used up the tremendous reservoir of goodwill it had built up in this country."

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Molotov Reverses

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