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THOMAS L. ROBINSON ..... Publisher
J. R. DOWD ..... General Manager
B. S. GRIFFITH ..... Executive Editor
WILLIAM M. REDDIG ..... Editor

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Truman's Duty To Boss Hague

HARRY S. TRUMAN, President of the United States and protege of the late King Tom Pendergast of Kansas City, has had a chance to make an extensive study of the habits, caprices and peculiarities of Democratic machine bosses. He has been trained to endure the various forms of torture which these small-time fuehrers apply on their subjects when they are displeased but we doubt if even he was prepared for the ordeal he faced this week, when he had to listen to Boss Hague lecturing him publicly on his duty to the people of the nation and the world in the struggle for democracy.

Mr. Hague issued his appeal to the President's patriotic and libertarian sentiments, telling him to get out of the race for the Presidential nomination, just after Mr. Hague had demonstrated he still maintains his authoritarian hold on New Jersey. The Boss emphasized his call to duty for Truman by announcing he would cast the votes of the entire New Jersey delegation for Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower.

In the Democratic Party rush to dump Truman and draft Eisenhower, which now has collapsed, we have several indications that this was not primarily a movement to save the country or the world, but the climax of a once great party's dissolution—the final act of a break-up which long has been under way. Nothing could do more to heighten that impression than the spectacle presented by Boss Hague, the Grand Cyclops of Jersey City regimentation, in manning the ramparts for freedom's defense.

Although the revolt against Truman now appears to have been squelched it is widely believed that the Democrats drove the last nail in their party's coffin this week with their demonstration against the Administration and what follows in Philadelphia will be anti-climax. Political pundits already are hanging out the crepe and speculating on when, if ever, the party of Jefferson, Wilson and Roosevelt will rise again.

It may be argued by some that President Truman brought all this on himself. There is, to be sure, both political logic and a certain poetic justice in the fact that the last, unkindest cut of all comes from a machine boss. This is a not inappropriate fate for a man who was elevated to the Senate by a Kansas City boss and placed in line for succession to the Presidency by the manipulations of other city-machine bosses, including Jersey City's Mr. Hague, Chicago's Mr. Kelly and Memphis' Mr. Crump.

While we cannot yet be sure that this show is proceeding entirely according to the rules of Greek tragedy, it is certain that Mr. Truman finds himself in so much hot water today largely because he carried out the designs of the bosses who slipped him into the Vice-Presidency in 1944. Their main purpose in that operation was to check the New Deal movement that had revitalized the party in 1932. The Hagues, the Crumps, the Kellys, and the Tammanyites wanted no more of it after Roosevelt, and they got their wish with Harry Truman.

Considering this aspect of the business, we may say that Mr. Truman is performing his highest duty to the nation and the world by refusing to let the Hagues and the Crumps put off the day of reckoning for their own bossism, as they were trying to do in their Eisenhower draft. It's hard on the party but true Democrats may console themselves with the thought that nearly sixteen years on the outside looking in was good for the soul of the Republican Party. There is reason to hope that an even shorter period in the political desert will give the Democratic Party a New Look.

Turn Light On War Profiteers

ANOTHER war scandal has been brought to light and with it comes a reminder that we still have a Senate War Investigating Committee. We have been wondering for some months what the Committee was doing or planning to do, and we still are wondering.

James E. Kilday, the Justice Department's chief of transportation, anti-trust division, declared before a House Expenditures subcommittee this week that the Government had been overcharged many millions of dollars in freight rates set by Army and Navy officers who returned to their civilian posts after the war. He recommended "that they be looked into criminally."

Rep. Bender of Ohio, Republican chairman of the subcommittee, assures us that the alleged gouge is no small item. He asserts that secret testimony disclosed overpayment of as much as $300 million during the war and added that $1 billion a year is now being wasted through failure to negotiate favorable rates for the Government's huge volume of freight shipments.

That brings us to the retiring, if not moribund Senate War Investigating Committee, to which attention was directed when the House subcommittee announced that it would supoena Bennett E. Meyers.

Meyers is the retired two-star general who enriched himself on Government war contracts while serving as an Air Force purchasing officer and was sent to prison after his depredations were uncovered by the Senate investigators. A witness before the House group testified this week that the probers overlooked some of Meyers' purchasing activities involving oil companies and urged that they dig deeper.

The Senate group seems to have lost the remarkable zeal for investigating which it displayed in its vain search for irregularities in the war contracts of Howard Hughes, who was thought to be a Roosevelt friend. It has been resting since General Meyers appeared before it as a witness against Hughes and betrayed himself. Its record to date exposes this Republican-directed committee to the charge that it is more interested in partisan activity than in uncovering war profiteering and graft.

The disclosures before the House subcommittee recall Comptroller General Lindsay Warren's statement that one out of every twenty war contracts apparently were tainted with fraud. They will revive the old Washington gossip that the surface of wartime boodling hasn't even been scratched. Where, oh where, are the Senate investigators?

Let's Give Our Jaws A Rest

WE FIGURE we can't win when it comes to talking about international affairs. War talk is always one of two things: damaging to the nerves or more than a mite monotonous.

And folks are beginning to catch on. Everybody from Bernard Baruch to our favorite barber wants to change the subject from war or to just stop talking altogether for a while.

In the case of Mr. Baruch, Presidential adviser, financier, bench-sitter and one-time employer of Billy Rose, resistance to war talk is a passive matter. Mr. Baruch said in London Tuesday, "In this unsettled world, individuals without definite responsibilities should not be talking."

So, Mr. Baruch is not talking these days except as a mystery voice on a radio quiz program and in Holland as an expert on horticulture.

Even the insect world seems to be co-operating in the movement for less talk about war, hot or cold. For example, out in Malolos—a community of sorts in the Philippines — the termites, night-flying termites, that is, have taken matters into their own hands and flown spang into the air intake of the Voice of America radio station's diesel plant. They had a little help from the moths in that enterprise.

Another large portion of the insect kingdom co-operated, too. Locusts and ants chewed the plastic insulation off the short-wave cables. On top of all that, a rat gnawed the lead cover off a power cable and a water buffalo got his rope tangled in an antenna guy wire.

As they say when the bill collector is at the door: "Shhh! Don't say anything and maybe it'll go away."

From The Norfolk Virginian-Pilot

Listen To The Mocking Bird

IN NORFOLK as in New Orleans, in town and country, the mocking bird is trilling his notes throughout the South. Show-off that he is, he will favor you with a song on any night he pleases.

Mocking birds, the ornithologists tell us, are fond of human society—at a respectful distance, of course. Probably it would be more accurate to say that they are fond of an audience. In captivity, they have been known to display the mimicry which makes them the Davy Garricks of birds by imitating the mewing of cats, the barking of dogs, the screech of barnyard chickens. But the mocker prefers, so to speak, not to sit in the scorner's seat. He is an artist and he likes to sing and maybe to sense in his heart the silent plaudits of his audience.

The goer-by-night in the lonely street, or the wakeful, bedfast insomniac, will hear him when the moon comes up. He will vary his song incredibly. A sharp, insistent repeated note is followed by a magnificent trill dropping into discord and fading into an undulant glissando. He sings tenor or baritone as he pleases. Standing in the shadows, one can feebly imitate his passage with a pursed-up whistle. He will listen and repeat the notes. Vary your own notes, and he will follow the new strain, improving on it like the conscientious artist he is.

A remarkable fellow, the mocking bird. Jefferson wrote that he had heard Europe's nightingale and that its song couldn't compare with the mocking bird's. He is our own American Philomela. He must be heard to be appreciated; and every night now is concert-night.

Discouraging upon past tenses, our Mr. Colby says it's not correct to say, She went to a dressmaker to have a skirt fit. However, a woman may look as if she had had a skirt seizure. — *Arkansas Gazette.*

'Ah, It's Nice To Relax'

People's Platform

Who Is The 'People's Choice?'

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

AS A REGULAR reader of your daily editorials I have noticed that each day your stories are gradually changing from their old policies of backing the people's choice in all political races and are forever suggesting to your readers that they cast their votes for your candidate because he will win anyway. Now that is bad for it means that your new publisher or editors know more how the voter should do than the voter himself.

As a reminder may I remind you of the would-be bankers' Governor, Charles Johnson of North Carolina. Remember the editorials? Mr. Editor, we all have convictions.

But my letter to you today is about your front page headlines in the July 7th issue of THE NEWS, which I and millions of other readers over the country will note is a AP issue from Philadelphia.

The AP states that Mr. Truman has become so upset at the voters of this country who may attend the convention at Philadelphia to see how Democracy works that he has seen to it that one of his staunch supporters, a MR. GESTAPO LESLIE L. BIFFLE, convention sergeant-at-arms, has announced that 80 policemen and a unlimited amount of plainclothi strong-arm men will be in the voters-pack galleries to see to it that the people of this country don't let their representatives, the delegates, know how they feel as to who they want at the head of their country if it be other than Mr. Truman.

Mr. Editor, is that the right spirit for the head of our Government to have if this country is to remain free and use the good name democracy? Do you think that Mr. Truman understands the meaning of this word if he is to use such tactics???? "Surely not."

Now, Mr. Editor, is your big chance to tell the voters of this part of the country your opinion of democracy in this state as well as the whole country.

Democracy was proven to be bigger than any one man in this state last month, and will be proven again this November that no man is bigger than his own country.

What do you say, Mr. Editor? Are you for the little peoples, the readers? You have a free press, you know.

Yours for better editorials.

—B. W. JENNINGS.

(NOTE: And yours for better letters. —Eds, THE NEWS.)

Daniels-Roosevelt 'Ticket'

EFLAND

Editors, THE NEWS:

WE HAVE asked Hon. L. P. McLendon of Greensboro to place the following in nomination during the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia which opens July 12, 1948:

Hon. Jonathan Daniels for President.
Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Vice-President.

Mr. Daniels is the only candidate on the good advice of his father "Uncle Joe" Daniels who was Secretary of the Navy during the Wilson Administration and was Ambassador during Roosevelt's Administration. Mrs. Roosevelt is widow of a President and a cousin of "Teddy" Roosevelt.

Jonathan Daniels knows the South and he knows the needs of the United States and of the world and he is qualified to make us the best President that our nation has ever known.

Mrs. Roosevelt is the widow of a fine qualified man and we give her the credit for most of the good things that President Roosevelt ever did.

Mr. Daniels and Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt will poll more votes than any other two Americans and we believe will try and serve us with Peace and Plenty.

The Republicans have a New York man and a California man heading their national ticket and we believe that the Democratic ticket should have a Southern man and a New York woman to head their ticket if they have any chance of winning.

We have a fine Democrat for Governor, Mr. Kerr Scott, and also have a fine Republican as Candidate for Governor, George M. Pinchard and if we can get out two good Democrats for President and Vice-President, there will be warm times in our state and nation between now and November 2.

We cannot consider Wallace and his running mate for they did not show the wisdom of good old Joseph when he advised the Egyptians and the Jews to save during the seven fat years for the seven lean years to follow. Wallace and Roosevelt had our wheat and potatoes and other foods destroyed and later our people had to beg "fat back meat and lard." They should have saved these and furnished our people food later.

I tried to file as an Independent Democrat many years ago and my filing fee was returned. Then two years ago I paid my filing fee as an Independent Republican and it was returned.

So I went to work and now we have over 25,000 Golden Rule Party members and women in every state in the union and we have solicitors in each and every county in our state.

"Yours for a better state, nation and world.

—WILLIAM HENRY JORDAN, Editor-Mgr.
The Golden Rule Press and
Organizer of The Golden Rule Party.

The People's Platform is available to any reader who cares to mount it. Communications should be less than 300 words, typewritten if possible, and on only one side of the paper. Libel and obscenity will be deleted—otherwise anything goes. Each letter must be signed although, in exceptional cases and upon request, we will withhold the writer's name.—Editors, THE NEWS.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Ike Knew His Own Mind At An Early Age

(ED. NOTE—Drew Pearson today writes the first of two columns dissecting Dwight D. Eisenhower, the man who doesn't want to be President.)

WASHINGTON

MOST spotlighted man in America today is Dwight D. Eisenhower. This column and the one that follows is an attempt to answer a deluge of questions received in this office asking what Eisenhower is really like, whether he's a brass hat at heart, and what might be his qualities as a civilian leader.

I first knew Eisenhower when he was an inconspicuous Major holding down a desk in the outer office of Assistant Secretary of War Frederick H. Payne. That was in the Hoover Administration, and Ike was working in co-operation with Bernard Baruch on taking the profit out of war.

I suspect that Secretary Eisenhower got his idea of business taking the lead in giving up all profits for a year in order to stop inflation—the idea which so astounded GOP bigwigs at the Curtis Club dinner last Winter that they dropped Ike like a hot potato.

Eisenhower got to know MacArthur at that time, and ghostwrote MacArthur's farewell message as Chief of Staff—one of the most masterly statements ever issued by an American soldier to the Army.

MacArthur Fired Ike

LATER MacArthur took Ike to Manila, along with several other bright boys, to help organize the Philippine Army. There they rowed, and Ike was sent home—probably the luckiest break he ever had. For he got back to the USA just as the clouds of World War II were rolling up and just in time to come to the attention of Franklin D. Roosevelt. If he had stayed in the Philippines he would have been just another commander under MacArthur, probably taken prisoner on Bataan.

Back in Washington, Eisenhower, then only a Lieutenant Colonel, jumped into the feverish job of building up an army which in all too short a time might have to cope with Hitler. During the Louisiana maneuvers two months before Pearl Harbor, Bob Allen made this prophetic diagnosis of the man who later was to command the greatest military adventure in history:

"Chief among these younger aces (referring to General Kreuger's aides) is Col. Dwight Eisenhower, Chief of Staff, who conceived and directed the strategy that routed the Second Army. Eisenhower has a steel-trap mind, plus unusual physical vigor. To him the military profession is a science and he began watching and studying the German Army five years ago."

Ike's First Speech

HOWEVER, for real insight into any man's character, you must examine his boyhood. For such examination I am indebted to J. W. Howe of Abilene, Kans., then publisher of the Abilene, Kans., News, a member of the School Board, and probably a closer friend of young Eisenhower's than almost anyone else in his own family.

The Abilene News was headquarters for a group of high school boys who came there to read the papers, make some pocket money helping Howe and to discuss sports, politics and their problems.

"Young Dwight," says Howe, "liked to read the exchange papers from out of town. He never complained about working, seeming to take that for granted. In school discussions, he was always for the underdog and contended we needed a somewhat better distribution of wealth."

At that time William Jennings Bryan had made several speeches in Abilene, was popular with young people, and had made some inroads among the Republicans. Young Eisenhower was a Bryan admirer. That perhaps, plus the fact that his family were Democrats, explains why Ike's first venture into politics occurred at the annual Democratic banquet in Abilene in November, 1909. The chief speaker was George H. Hodges, later Governor of Kansas, but young Dwight, then 19 and waiting to get into West Point, was picked to speak with him.

Ike's First Speech

TWO THEMES ran through the speech of the 19-year-old future commander of the Allied Armies in Europe—preparedness and helping the underdog. He also made an appeal to Republicans to come over to the Democrats.

"There is an old proverb," the young orator told his audience of Democrats, "that says 'as the twig is inclined, so the tree is bent.' A man after voting the straight ticket for several elections seldom changes from one side to the other.

"This fact is proved conclusively by the controversy now going on in the Republican Party. One branch is called the square-dealers, insurgents, and reformers. Although these men are loud in their denunciation of Cannon, Aldrich, and a few others who are hide-bound partymen, yet they refuse to join any other party and at election vote the Republican ticket.

"There is an inborn desire in all normal and healthy boys to help the smaller contestants in an even fight," Eisenhower continued. "A young man, in speaking of the political situation the other day, said: 'My father is a Republican and so was his father before him. I am going to vote for the Democrats at the next election because I think they need me and the Republicans do not'."

Boosts Democratic Principles

BUT notwithstanding such reasoning as an admiration of fair play, the parental vote and the like, a man's first vote generally is cast correctly. He has arrived at an age of self-assertiveness and self-reliance and of self-importance, for he figures that he will be about 1/15 of a millionth part of the vote of the United States.

"A leader of a political party who is a clean and fearless fighter," concluded young Eisenhower, "and possesses a winning manner is undoubtedly the means of attracting a large number of votes. The young man sees that the more honest and fearless leaders have become disgusted with the actions of the leaders and the party proper. He admires these men greatly but he cannot help but think and remark that they are fighting for many of the principles which the Democratic Party advocates."

Commented the Abilene News: "To say that he handled himself nicely would be putting it mildly. His speech was well-received."

That was Dwight Eisenhower's first venture into politics. And unless the Democratic Convention stampedes his nomination next week, it will probably be his last. A few months after the Abilene speech Ike was at West Point where no one is supposed to be either a Democrat or a Republican.

Marquis Childs

No. 2 Man Problem

WASHINGTON

ONE of the tough jobs confronting those who are trying to bring about Mr. Truman's nomination with as little damage as possible to party harmony is the selection of a Vice-Presidential candidate. Under normal circumstances a sufficient number of eligible seekers are out for the office so that some kind of compromise ultimately can be worked out.

But these are not normal circumstances for the Democrats, and the office is today seeking the man. In fact, it may be a hot chase through the highways and byways of Philadelphia before the individual who is tapped can be persuaded to say yes.

LIKELY CHOICE

As of the present moment, the most likely choice is Senator Joseph C. O'Mahoney of Wyoming. There are many reasons, related both to the campaign this year and to 1952, why O'Mahoney should be selected.

To begin with, he is the ablest and the best-informed spokesman of the basic philosophy of the New Deal that has widest acceptance within the Democratic Party; that is, opposition to monopoly-cartel controls and in favor of competition and opportunity for small business.

The Senator from Wyoming conducted the impressive Temporary National Economic Committee inquiry into the way in which big business has absorbed a greater and greater share of the American economy. Moreover, he knows how to translate the facts into language the ordinary person can understand showing how, if big business takes over entirely, the next step will be complete control by the state with all the evils that means.

O'Mahoney voted against the Taft-Hartley Act and he has consistently fought for price controls. Organized labor would approve of his selection.

At the same time he would be accepted by those who look with dark suspicion on the labor-liberal wing. O'Mahoney is of the Roman Catholic faith, but it is not believed that the prejudice prevailing in some parts of the South would work against him in this connection. His religion might well be a positive political factor in northern cities where the Catholic vote, if such a vote can be said to exist, is important.

RUNNING CAMPAIGNER

But the primary consideration is that O'Mahoney would conduct a forceful and intelligent campaign, helping to lay down a direction and a goal for the party after the expected defeat in November. He would help to hold together as many of the dissident elements as possible.

While the absurdities and the follies of the stop-Truman campaign have gained the headlines, a group of political realists here in Washington never have been deceived by these noisy antics. They knew that so long as General Eisenhower was certain to refuse a draft and so long as the President was determined on renomination, it would be impossible to substitute another candidate.

These men are not necessarily pro Truman. They are not taken in by the strange and rosy clouds of optimism that the President manages to generate around his person. But they do recognize the harsh imperative of the facts, knowing that the more the party tore to pieces certainly more difficult it will be to form ranks to fight again.

They also are aware of certain realities behind the move to shunt the President onto a siding. The drive to supplant him with Justice William O. Douglas does not have the active support, in spite of rumors to the contrary, of Thomas G. Corcoran, the No. 1 New Deal spark plug.

Four years ago Corcoran was the behind-the-scenes director of the attempt to obtain the Vice-Presidential nomination for Douglas. That drive might have succeeded if it had not been for the adamant opposition of bosses, such as Frank Hague of New Jersey, who are now trying desperately to ditch Mr. Truman.

Now, however, Corcoran is said to feel that Justice Douglas should save himself for 1952 and that a substitute — short of Eisenhower—would have only a slightly greater chance of winning than the President.

Joseph & Stewart Alsop

No Heresy Allowed

WASHINGTON

A FEW weeks ago, something happened secretly in France which has a parallel significance to what has happened so publicly in Yugoslavia. At a secret meeting of the top leadership of the French Communist Party, Communist Leader Maurice Thorez received the same sort of tongue-lashing from the Kremlin as Marshal Tito was enduring at about the same time. The difference is that whereas Tito has now boldly defied Moscow, Thorez knuckled under. Yet it is believed that the episode in France may have much the same meaning for Communist leaders in the non-Soviet world as the Tito revolt has had for the Soviet Union's satellite chieftains.

The tongue-lashing was administered directly by an emissary of the Kremlin, dispatched from Moscow to France for this purpose. Before the entire high command of the French Communist Party, the bluff, burly Thorez was forced to eat humble pie. He was flatly informed that the Kremlin was deeply displeased with the quality of his leadership.

CLOSE PARELLEL

The charges leveled at Thorez were precisely the same as those hurled at Tito before he decided to defy the power of Moscow. He had been pursuing a hateful, unMarxist policy, which, if not corrected, would make the French Communist party a "bourgeois" party, a tool of imperialists. Above all, he had been consistently and dangerously "nationalist"—which of course means simply that he had been too independent of the Kremlin, too much a Frenchman and too little an obedient servant of his masters in Moscow.

The Kremlin emissary then issued an ultimatum. Either Thorez must confess the error of his ways and henceforth give adequate proof of his loyalty to the Kremlin, or he would be cast into outer darkness and replaced. The Moscow man even designated his successor. Surprisingly, the inheritor of Thorez' mantle was not to be Jacques Duclos, always regarded as next in line of succession, and considered the chief Stalinist theoretician in the non-Soviet world. Instead, the choice of the Kremlin was Andre Marty, usually believed to occupy a subordinate position in the French Communist hierarchy.

THOREZ EATS CROW

Thorez obediently performed the required Communist rite of confession of sins and promised his colleagues and his Kremlin master to follow the path of true righteousness in the future. Unlike Tito, with the thirty-six divisions, Thorez had no real choice. As pointed out in a recent report in this space, the Communist parties outside the Soviet orbit are tightly controlled by Moscow's power of subsidy and by the whole party "apparatus." Grovelling submission was thus forthcoming from Thorez, and he has been allowed to continue as titular head of the French Communist Party.

As far as France is concerned, the Kremlin ultimatum to Thorez undoubtedly means that the extremist Marty is now already the real power in the French Communist Party. But the significance of the Kremlin's denunciation of Thorez certainly extends well beyond the borders of France.

According to the most likely interpretation, the building of a mass popular following for the Communists, for which Thorez has always stood, will no longer be a primary objective outside the Soviet sphere. Instead, absolute obedience to the Kremlin will be demanded. No heresies, however minor, which conflict with Soviet foreign policy, will be tolerated, whatever the local political disadvantages of such open subservience to the Kremlin.

The mission of the Communist leadership in all countries, according to this interpretation, will now be to build an absolutely loyal Communist Party, not a mass mass. This hard core must act, first, as an entirely reliable instrument of Soviet policy, and second, as an effective fifth column in case of war. If this interpretation is correct, it would seem clearly to suggest that the Kremlin is now consolidating its forces against the possibility of a final showdown with the West.

Quote, Unquote

Some of the bitterest and most persistent critics of the movies, The Winston-Salem Journal points out, are persons who say they never see a moving picture. Likewise some of the most vitriolic foes of liquor are people who have never taken a drink in their lives. —Roanoke Times.

Our Mr. Colby, who is peeved when people use superfluous words, says "Time is of the essence" has become "a very tiresome cliche." Isn't every cliche very tiresome? —Arkansas Gazette.

Never has so little purported to cover so much to the astonishment of so many as in the case of the '48 bathing suit. —Richmond Times-Dispatch.