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THURSDAY, MAY 25, 1950

EMISSARY TO WASHINGTON

THE FACT that should be kept in mind, first and last, in Saturday's voting on Graham and Smith is that a United States Senator, and not a North Carolina official, is to be named. If this were not so, if North Carolina were simply deciding whether it should elevate Frank Graham or Willis Smith to a place of honor, we would not presume to differentiate between the two candidates. Both are worthy, personally, of further distinction.

The Truman Administration is made up not alone of the President and his executive assistants, but of the Congress as well. It is only with the consent of Congress that the President can manage to enact his program into law. And by the same token, it is only when Congress asserts its high authority and legislates according to the predominant judgment of its members that the will of the people may be more nearly followed. It is for this reason that members of the House of Representatives are elected every two years and that a third of the Senators come up for election every two years.

This method of composing the Congress was meant as a check upon the Executive. Otherwise, it would have been arranged so that the whole kit and kaboodle were elected together every four years.

And in that light, the choice North Carolina has to make on Saturday is whether to ratify the Truman Administration to date and to approve the further unfolding of it as diagrammed, or to say, Hold, enough!

We have stated, and we repeat, that basically Frank Graham is for the same things Truman is for. He may differ in his judgment of the better method, but his aims are substantially the same. They are wholly in keeping with his character, and not discreditable to him.

He is, tacitly, at least, an advocate of large spending. Oh, do not misconstrue the statement. Frank Graham would not throw $20 bills from a balloon. He is no wastrel. It is only that he wants so many things for the benefit of people of all kinds, and wants them so earnestly, that he can argue himself into the conviction that his current yearning is supportable at any cost, and hang the deficit and taxes and all those dreary matters. Frank Graham is a Welfare State man.

He is a hearty advocate of organized labor and out of sympathy with the limited controls that have been placed upon it in the Taft-Hartley Act. For confirmation of this judgment one has only to inquire of the CIO Political Action Committee which candidate it is supporting. The Committee knows what North Carolinians appear largely ignorant of: that if you have in the White House a man who would do large favors for you, you've got to give him an obedient, or at least a sympathetic, Congress to transform the favors into law.

Willis Smith, on the other hand, is basically opposed to the recommendations that Truman would enact into law. We have been chided for supporting Smith primarily on the grounds that we don't approve of Graham. We continue to believe that nothing could be more logical. We are against Truman's leadership. We deride the Welfare State. We deplore the drift toward state socialism. What then would our defamers have us do—put out the fire with gasoline?

We grant, cheerfully and immediately, the right of any person to his conviction that Frank Graham is the more distinguished and the more altruistic of the two men. It happens, however, and fortunately, that Willis Smith is a highly creditable individual in himself who, may be engaged, creditably, to express North Carolina's sentiment in the United States Senate. And we beg to make it plain one more time that, in our view, everyone who votes for Frank Graham means to underwrite the Truman Administration. If that is not their purpose, they had better re-examine their reasoning at once and see if they should not vote for Smith instead.

THE GENERAL MOTORS CONTRACT

ANY WAY you look at it, the new contract between the General Motors Corporation and the United Auto Workers is important.

The most unusual feature is the length of the contract—five years. Such a long agreement does several things:

1. It guarantees to the workers and their families that their earnings will be stabilized over a long period without strikes or other loss of earning. Hence, they will be able to plan their family budgets more wisely.

2. It assures the company, its dealers, suppliers, and stockholders that production will continue without interruption. Thus the company's long range plans can be made more intelligently.

3. It promises the nation a new degree of stability in its economy.

4. The five-year contract has this drawback: It is somewhat of a gamble for both management and labor, since future business conditions can't be predicted with complete accuracy. Both sides apparently figured it is better to take a chance than to knock each other out in costly disputes every year or two.

There are other interesting angles to the contract.

It continues the "escalator clause" which ties General Motors workers' pay to the cost of living index. There is no ceiling to wage increases provided by this clause, but there is a floor. Workers know their wages will remain at a certain level no matter how much prices drop.

It contains also a "standard of living" annual pay increase of four cents—one cent more than at present. Under this clause, the benefits of technology will be passed along to the workers.

It breaks through the $100-a-month limit on private pension plans. If Social Security benefits are increased by Congress, a General Motors worker 65 years old and with 25 years' experience can draw as much as $117.50 a month.

Finally, it offers an attractive health insurance program for the workers which will protect them from heavy medical expenses.

Cyrus S. Ching, director of the Federal Mediation Service, did not overstate the case when he said:

"When both sides accept their full responsibility as was done in this case and settle their differences between them, it is a very encouraging thing in the field of labor relations and a milestone in the progress of collective bargaining."

Apparently everyone is happy about the new agreement. GM President G. E. Wilson said that "all concerned can face the future with added confidence." UAW President Walter Reuther called it "an historic agreement." CIO President Philip Murray described it as "an amazing and very wholesome development". Secretary of Labor Maurice Tobin said "it means there is confidence in the future prosperity of this industry."

And on Wall Street, GM common stock surged ahead $2.25 a share to $89.75, the highest price paid since 1929, before dropping back slightly under later profit taking.

No one knows what the final impact of the GM-UAW contract will be. Certainly efforts will be made to extend the terms to the rest of the automobile industry, and probably to other big industries. At this early stage, however, it appears to be a new high in responsible labor-management negotiations. If it did nothing else, it would show that labor and management can get together on terms which both believe to be in their interests without the necessity of costly strikes.

A PRECEDENT IS SET

THE CITY COUNCIL set what we believe to be a sound precedent when it approved the annexation of a new 88-acre residential section Wednesday.

The action was taken under a new law which permits cities to grow gradually by absorbing adjacent areas as they are built up.

Traditionally, North Carolina cities have grown by jumps. Expansion of city limits has not been easy. First, authorization by the Legislature had to be obtained. Then an election had to be held. The net result was to discourage cities from expanding their natural boundaries at frequent intervals. Instead, there was a tendency to wait a long time, and then bite off a big slice of new territory.

Sometimes the bites were almost too big. Last January, for instance, Charlotte gobbled up almost eleven square miles of new territory. To date the City has not been able to furnish all its new residents with all the public services they are due. That is why there was some reluctance to take in Mr. Crosland's new residential area.

If Charlotte should wait too long to begin using the new annexation law, however, we would be faced with a new problem just like that we are facing today.

It may require more strenuous efforts to fill the existing public service gaps at the same time we are annexing new areas. After the gaps are closed, however, the gradual absorption of new fringe areas can be handled in a more orderly fashion. Hence, we applaud the Council's precedent-making decision.

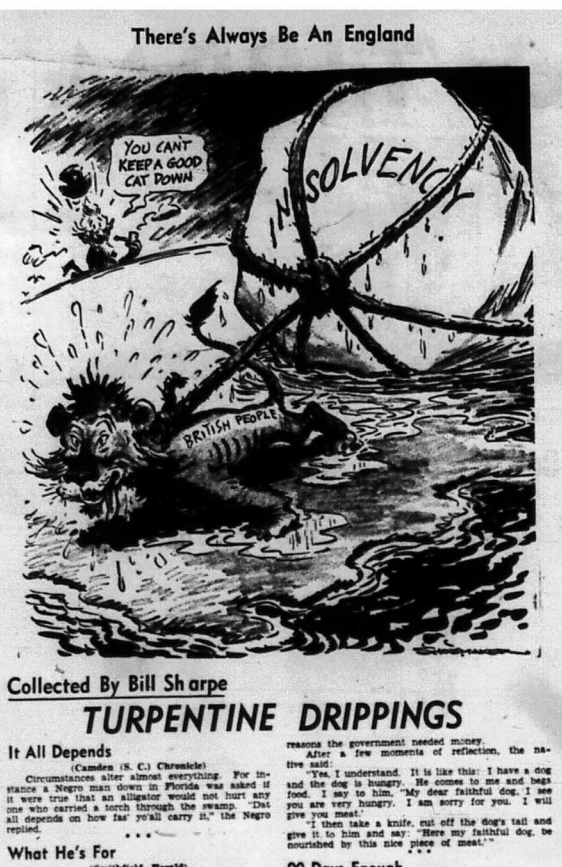
Attorney General McGrath proposes a bill to outlaw interstate transmission of gambling information. If that applies to the give-away programs we're for it.—*Fort Myers (Fla.) News-Press.*

Follow that old idea about early to bed and early to rise and you are apt to get far behind with your canasta and miss most of the better television shows.—*Memphis Commercial-Appeal.*

An Oregon man was fined for kissing a census taker. She probably asked so many questions about his income he thought she was his wife.—*Fort Myers (Fla.) News-Press.*

A contented man is one who enjoys the scenery along a detour.—*Starville (Miss.) News.*

There's Always Be An England



Collected By Bill Sharpe

TURPENTINE DRIPPINGS

It All Depends

(Camden (S. C.) Chronicle)

Circumstances alter almost everything. For instance a Negro man down in Florida was asked if it were true that an alligator would not hurt any one who carried a torch through the swamp. "Dat all depends on how fas' yo'all carry it," the Negro replied.

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What He's For

(Smithfield Herald)

A group of Smithfield men were standing in front of a Market Street store talking politics.

They had just noticed a placard in the store's display window asking people to vote for Alex D. Holman, candidate for the House of Representatives.

The placard, quoting the Holman platform, read: "I am against any income taxes, any more bond issues, waste of taxpayers' money, Socialism and Communism."

As the political conversation gained momentum, Candidate Holman appeared in person and stopped to have a part in the chatter.

"We see here, Alex, what you are against," said one member of the group, with a twinkle in his eye. "What we want to know is what you are for."

The candidate replied firmly without a second's hesitation.

"I am FOR the House of Representatives."

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There Was A Time

(Laurinburg Exchange)

There was a time when Russia would not have dared shoot down an unarmed American plane and make the look ridiculous in the eyes of the world. There was a time when Russia, or any other nation, would not have taken such a risk. But in this instance the risk was deliberate and calculated, and Russia will get away with it just as she believed she could. Our State Department will write some sharp notes and go through the motions of protest, but there will be no heart in it and no iron in it.

And what do you think the peoples of western Europe will think when they see Russia deliberately creating such incidents and heaping insult upon us? Will they believe that in the event of real trouble the United States could take care of them or save them? Will they believe that we are gaining prestige or losing it? Would you start a war over such an incident, somebody will ask? No, but had we conducted our affairs in proper manner there wouldn't be such incidents and Russia would not deliberately offer us insults.

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It's Just Like This

(Rocky Mount Evening Telegram)

Lawmakers who afflict us with new taxes seem utterly unable to understand why taxpayers are complaining so bitterly nowadays, opines the Jackson, Miss. Daily News as it proceeds to relate an interesting story. It brings to mind, says The News, the story about a tax collector in South Africa who was trying to mollify an angry native who was being taken for more taxes than he was able to pay. The tax collector explained that the government, like a father, protected the native from enemies, cared for him when he was sick, fed him when he was hungry, gave him an education and for these reasons the government needed money.

After a few moments of reflection, the native said:

"Yes, I understand. It is like this: I have a dog and the dog is hungry. He comes to me and begs food. I say to him, 'My dear faithful dog, I see you are very hungry. I am sorry for you. I will give you meat.'

"I then take a knife, cut off the dog's tail and give it to him and say: 'Here my faithful dog, be nourished by this nice piece of meat.'"

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90 Days Enough

(Florence Morning News)

Ninety calendar days should be ample time for the General Assembly to complete its work, although the present session has gone far beyond this figure and many past sessions have exceeded it. Relegation of local matters to counties, coupled with the use of all four days each week for state matters to counties, would, more than likely, automatically check the length of the sessions.

North Carolina and other states attend to state business in legislative sessions that meet only once every two years, and in much less time than the South Carolina General Assembly stays in session every year.

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Keep Calm With Peanuts

(Twin City Sentinel)

Since peanuts are a leading Southern crop, especially important in North Carolina, it seems to me it's about time we put on a campaign opposing slurs against peanuts.

Now and then we hear derogatory statements—not about the peanut itself, but using the word peanut as a figure of speech to indicate something of little consequence.

"He's working for peanuts" someone will say of a very low salary.

"Peanut politics" means small-time political skullduggery, rather than big-time skullduggery of the more usual variety.

You may think of other similar terms—using peanut as a word of opprobium.

The peanut has overcome these obstacles.

It is reported to be the sixth agricultural crop of the nation.

More than 300 food, industrial and medicinal products have been manufactured from the peanut.

And here is an idea I have just thought of that may be worth millions of dollars and may spur the production of peanuts and consumption of them on a gigantic scale.

Do peanuts calm the nerves?

Can one overcome excitement, or put a harness on runaway emotions by the simple procedure of eating peanuts?

At baseball games, at football games—other sports too—the spectators are sold peanuts. They eat the peanuts while watching the progress of the game.

No one knows why peanuts are such a big attraction at sports contests.

It just happens that they are. People unconsciously feel a need for peanuts and someone has been smart enough to fulfill that need.

Perhaps this is a great psychological discovery—like Einstein and Isaac Newton.

Can't you see the advertisements: "Don't get Excited—Eat Peanuts." "Want to Keep Your Wife From Flying Off the Handle? Take home a Bag of Peanuts Tonight."

Cold War Oracle Must Answer The Unanswerable Questions

By STEWART ALSOP

WASHINGTON

HOW MANY atom bombs do the Russians have? How many will they have in 1952? In 1954? What will happen when Stalin dies — and incidentally what is the real state of Stalin's health? How much resistance will there be in the satellite countries if war comes, and can resistance be promoted in time of peace? How strong is the Communist fifth column in France? In Norway? In Indonesia? Are the Soviets ready to risk war over Berlin?

Such questions are for the most part unanswerable. Yet American policy must be based on a shrewd guess at the answers. The chief guesser, the oracle whom the makers of policy must consult, is the director of the Central Intelligence Agency. That is why the directorship of the CIA is one of the most crucial, and the most agonizingly difficult, of cold war jobs.

The present oracle is Adm. Roscoe Hillenkoetter, who has done a good job under exceedingly difficult circumstances. His worst troubles have arisen from the fact that he is a mere rear admiral, a lower order of animal in the forest of Washington brass. At any rate, Hillenkoetter was loaned to the CIA by the Navy, and his three-year tour of duty has come to an end. He is therefore preparing to hand on the poisoned chalice to someone else, and thankfully abandon the Washington bear-pit for the tranquillity of ocean service.

SMITH OR FOSTER?

At present, the most likely receiver of the poisoned chalice seems to be either Gen. Bedell Smith, the able former Ambassador to Moscow, or the equally able deputy director of ECA, William Foster. Whoever accepts the assignment will find it a hideously difficult one.

Intelligence estimates deeply affect every aspect of foreign and defense policy. Intelligence is thus a potent weapon in the hands of any official intent on promoting his favorite policy. This is why an intelligence agency inevitably becomes the center of bitter, shivsticking, no-holds-barred warfare within the Government.

This is also why, in the tension brought on by Defense Secretary Louis Johnson's empire-building proclivities, the State Dept. is determined that the new CIA chief shall not be a creature of the Pentagon. Indeed, any secret intelligence head must be wholly independent of everyone but the President. It is absolutely essential that he have the personal stature, rank, and ability to defy when necessary the wrath of any and every official in Washington, up to and including Cabinet rank.

Both Smith and Foster are considered to have this quality of independence, which is one reason their names stand high on the lists of possible CIA chiefs, which are now being passed around. Other names have of course been discussed. Former Under Secretary of State Robert A. Lovett, it is generally agreed, would make an ideal appointment, but Lovett has let it be known that nothing on earth would persuade him to take the job.

William Jackson, a New York lawyer, with intelligence and experience, has been tentatively considered. So has the able Ambassador to France, David Bruce, and one or two others. But Bruce is badly needed in his present post, and most of the others are probably disqualified. So the finger points, for the present, at either Foster or Smith.

The final decision on whether to offer the assignment to Smith, Foster, or another, will of course rest with Truman. In the nature of things, a secret intelligence chief must be very much the President's man. Moreover, Truman himself is deeply interested in secret intelligence matters. He regularly studies the special reports prepared for him by the CIA as the day's first order of business, and he frequently orders a special briefing by the intelligence chief. Thus it is essential that the CIA head be a man in whom the President has personal confidence.

The appointment is obviously of immense importance at this stage in the cold war.

Could Be Somebody's Been Over-Sparing With The Rod

By ROBERT C. RUARK

NEW YORK

I LEARNED to shoot crap in Sunday School, which is neither a commentary on my lack of morality nor the efficiency of the Sunday school system. I got mad at the other kids and fought in the schoolyard and did most of the things kids do, generally against the teachings of me, pa and God.

But so help me, I never ran around with a loaded gun in my pocket, lurking in dark corners to screw a play name for fun. You see the sullen punks loafing on the corners and pushing strangers off the sidewalks, and you read about the callous murders committed by the young against the young, and it makes no sense.

I have been young, and poor, and confused, but at no time did an unbearable yen to run amok with a gat ever steal into the consideration. I have also been old, and poor, and confused, too, but shooting folks for fun never entered into the age, the poverty or the confusion.

CASUAL KILLING

My home town has roughly resembled a Warner Bros. approximation of Capone's Chicago lately, except the villains have been well-dressed handsome kids of teenage, killing each other casually for no real material or spiritual reason, unless you could say that they are bored with not killing each other.

A highly handsome kid named James Fortunato recently got killed, for fun by sixteen - year - old Tony Scarpati, police say, in a gang-battle that involved 20-odd members of two teen - aged gangs and evidently shamed Tarawa for naked violence. One gathers the strife was committed over a femme fatale who was easily fifteen years old.

We have had the school riots, and not so far back a couple guys shot a couple other guys in Brooklyn for no reason, except that it was spring and the smell of gunpowder was in the air.

Don't gimmie that sociology con about the underprivileged and heredity and environment and the slums and stuff. I got a degree in sociology and it never made me a bust. I have also stolen, lied, lived in squalor, fought over girls, drunk whisky, hungered, thirsted and slept in parks. But I never packed no gat to shoot people for kicks. For entertainment.

DON'T TELL ME

Billy Rose was born in a slum of the poorest kind of people and makes a million dollars writing songs, committing shorthand, working for Bernard M. Baruch, staging shows and doing a column. Shot nobody. Al Smith was born in a slum and did fine. All kinds of people get born in slums and do not feel that it is necessary to stroll about gunning up the neighborhood like Dillinger. Dillinger ran around with hoodlums all his early life and has murdered nobody, to date, except pitchers. Keep the sociology.

You cannot say today that an economic urge can turn a guy killer, because the lineup on the young hoodlums shows them to be well-dressed. Jobs are easy come by, and if you can't get the job you can swindle the relief, which will pay a personable fee to a guy who cut a knife or a gun and deplete his frustration on a neighborhood, but 30 young kids carving and shooting each other for maybe makes no sense. They could not, statistically, all be psychoneurotic beyond the pale of average juvenile delinquency.

I got just one small bunch that too much rod has been spared, lately, and too many children spoiled. I am speculating that somewhere a example of Hitlerian ideology named of Klaus Schmidt, locale North Africa, by stroking his cheek with the dark side of a Colt .44, Sergeant Schmidt was as tame as cream in a day, with the Nazi indoctrination all gone.

I am wondering, now, if the application of a little more birch to backside, during the formative years wouldn't have kept the number of rapes and killings tomorrow. Poverty is no crime; being born of foreign parents is a big city is no actual drawback, and baseball is still a better game than murder.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Chicago Fund Has Democrats Unhappy

WASHINGTON

TOP-DRAWER Democrats were not happy when they got to Chicago and discovered the manner in which a quarter of a million dollars had been raised to welcome President Truman to Chicago.

First, a ruling was obtained from the Internal Revenue Bureau that donations to the host committee were a charity gift and tax deductible. Chicago, it was argued, was playing host to the President regardless of politics.

Having secured this, local Democrats mailed a copy of the Internal Revenue ruling to prospective donors with an appeal for funds. And the same letter, believe it or not, they inserted the schedule of Democratic political activities.

When George* Killion, ex-treasurer of the Democratic National Committee, arrived in Chicago, he showed the non-political aspect of the tax-deductible funds with the Democratic events schedule to Chairman Bill Boyle.

"That fool Nate Lichtblau," growled Killion.

"It's the first I knew about it," remarked the worried Boyle.

Later, he reported the whole matter to President Truman.

NOTE—The Chicago Daily News and ex-Congressman Everett Dirksen, GOP candidate for the Senate, made the most of Democratic red faces and of the huge amounts of money contributed by the liquor interests to the Truman reception.

Rough-And-Tumble Veep

YOU can't beat Alben Barkley when it comes to rough-and-tumble debate at after-dinner speeches.

The other day in Chicago, Barkley pulled a near-miracle. The occasion was the big Democratic rally honoring Thomas Jefferson just before President Truman arrived from the West. The dinner was poorly handled. The toastmaster fought to introduce Postmaster General Donaldson and Secretary of the Navy Matthews. Jack Arvey staged a show of dancing girls from Chez Paris, while in contrast mothers' Congressman Mary Norton of New Jersey droned out a 30-minute speech.

By this time it was nearly midnight, the honor-guest table was almost empty, and the audience was ready to go home. But Barkley was still to be heard from.

Most speakers would have been too discouraged to start, But the Vice-President got to the point of what other speakers had ignored—the real story of Thomas Jefferson. He described the details of his life, his influence on the nation, and did it in such a way that the tired and milling audience actually listened.

Absent Congressman

THIS column leaning backward to Congressman Thurmond Chatham of North Carolina, recently explained his prolonged absence record from Congress by the fact that his wife had passed away ten months ago and he had not been able to concentrate on his work.

That explanation may have been overly generous. Since then, it has been learned that Congressman Chatham's absence has been partly due to house parties at his Currituck Sound cottage.

Two weeks ago, furthermore, he brought Mrs. John T. Barnes Jr., wife of a Reynolds tobacco official, to the Baptist Hospital at Winston-Salem at 2:30 A. M., May 8, with a severe gash at the base of her skull. Mrs. Barnes, 35 years old and a prominent socialite, was suffering from loss of blood. Mr. Barnes arrived at the hospital at 5 A. M.

Hospital authorities, nurses and interns flatly refused to discuss the incident, but Congressman Chatham, when queried, said that Mrs. Barnes had been dining, with others, on his terrace, had caught her dress in a chair and fallen, hitting her head against a marble wall.

We are delighted to accept the Congressman's story, but it should also be noted that his prolonged absences from Congress apparently are not entirely due to the loss of his wife.

Merry-Go-Round

SECRETARY of State Acheson is so tired following his London conferences that he cabled the State Dept. that he is not to be disturbed on the voyage home—No matter how many speeches Sen. McCarthy makes about him. . . .

Francis Pickens Miller, the Byrd machine's sworn foe in Virginia, tossed a real hot potato at Sen. Harry Byrd. He proposed that Virginia state "committee on reduction of non-essential expenses." Sen. Byrd uses his chairmanship of a similar committee in Congress to fire shots at the administration, but no such probing into the payrolls of Byrd-controlled Virginia has ever been dared before. . . Another hot fight between right and left wings of the GOP is on in North Dakota. Frank Vogel, a campaign manager for "Old Bob" La Follette's presidential campaign, is running for governor. . . Professor Harold Urey, famed atomic scientist from the University of Chicago, is slated to be director of the new science foundation. . . Landlords have been getting tough about paid high rents in the Norfolk, Va., real estate board appointed a 22-man committee to keep rents down. Instead of curbing rents, however, some of the committee members have boosted their rents from 27 to 100 per cent. The nine men who were supposed to hold rents down but increased their own rents are Ludwell Baldwin, Walter Bott, Clifton Councill, Ralph Drewery, M. Enterprise, Robert Koolage, William Kutz, Lawrence Pape and C. V. W. Trice.

'Driver Of The Year'

LOYD REISNER, 21-year-old truck driver of Indianapolis, was as cool and collected as you would expect the "driver of the year" to be when he was congratulated by President Truman for his highway safety feats.

Truman himself seemed to get a bigger thrill than the truck driver as Reisner told of saving a little girl's life on a highway near Centerville, Ky.

"Our highways are becoming safer every year," remarked Truman, "and we have men like you to thank for it."

Before departing, Reisner gave a prized Presidential autograph for a nine-year-old Indianapolis neighbor, John Truman Harmon—no relation to the President.

"You're making a lifelong Democrat out of this boy," grinned Reisner as Truman inscribed a personal card for the youngster.

"With a second name like that, he ought to be," quipped the President.