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WEAKNESS OF A THIRD PARTY REVOLT

THE strategy of the rebellious anti-Administration leaders in the South is gradually becoming clear. They will seek to nominate an "acceptable" candidate, perhaps Senator Dick Russell of Georgia, and they will urge the adoption of a platform that is pegged to their conception of state rights.

The objective will be the same: to prevent either major party nominee from getting a majority of the electoral vote and thus throw the election into the U. S. House of Representatives where each state casts one vote for one of the three top contenders.

This neat little scheme didn't work in 1948 because Mr. Truman had a majority without the four states carried by Strom Thurmond. There is no reason to believe it will work any better in 1952. But even if it did work, it would have many shortcomings.

For one thing, the carefully laid plans might very well go awry in the House of Representatives. There is no real assurance that the Southern Democrats would be able to dictate the terms of the bargain.

Furthermore, the jockeying for such an precarious prize as the Presidency would produce the wildest exhibition of vote-swapping.

HERE IS A MAN WHO MERITS SUPPORT

JUDGE WILLIAM H. BOBBITT'S announcement that he would seek the nomination for Supreme Court associate justiceship now held by Illinois T. Valentine was phrased with characteristic modesty and candor.

Noting that he would be unable to do any campaigning because of his heavy Superior Court schedule, Judge Bobbitt said: "My fitness for the place, whatever it may be, has been determined by my record up to now; and nothing I say now can do anything to my qualifications..."

But Judge Bobbitt's friends, and we count ourselves in that large company, are not so restrained in their estimates of his record and his ability. The resolutions already adopted by the Mecklenburg, Gaston, McDowell and Buncombe bar associations and the many individual expressions of support

THE NATION'S MOST VALUABLE POSSESSION

DETERMINED that the gloomy GIs pessimists and disaster critics will not be the field entirely to the latest Gaston, Mecklenburg and Buncombe bar associations and the many individual expressions of support

single. This brought the total child population to an all-time high of 41 million. It was the first time in the history of the nation that the child population increased at a substantially higher rate than did the population as a whole. The number of youngsters grew by 24.7 per cent, the whole population by 14.5 per cent.

This was reversed a trend that had disturbed population experts. The child population had decreased so rapidly during the 1930's that by 1940 the number of children was actually smaller than it was in 1920.

HEALTHY OUTLOOK

FOR nine years Herbert Phillips was a member of the Communist Party. During this time he was continuously in contact with the FBI. His dramatic entrance during the trial of the eleven Communist leaders confounded them for they thought he was a trusted member of their organization.

Mr. Phillips' Party history is different from that of Louis Budenz, Whitaker Chambers and other ex-Communists. Unlike them, he never accepted the Communist doctrine. He had seen an opportunity to gain admittance to the inner circle and was gripped because of his intimate association with communism with an outlook vastly different from that of the professional ex-Communists who periodically appear before congressional committees. Mr. Phillips reports that the Communist elite "just love" Sen. Joe McCarthy's mass tactics, because they confuse the people, make the Party seem stronger than it is, and also hurt the non-Communist liberals, for whom the Communists have great contempt.

It's good to see a man withdraw from long Communist association and still retain his sense of values. Most members of the "ex-Communist" school have painted themselves into an ideological corner almost as restrictive as their earlier Communism.

DICTIONARY TROUBLE

THOSE persons who believe everything they read in the papers and who also are aided by decisions of the dictionary, have been in a dilemma. According to Webster's Unabridged, "journalistic" means: "Characteristic of journalism or journalism; hence, of style, characterized by criticism, haste, superficiality of thought, inaccuracies of detail, colloquialisms, and sensationalism; journalistic."

That's it. No alternative definition is given. So Sigma Delta Chi, professional journalistic fraternity, got up in arms and protested this "lander upon the thousands

and indulging in the history of the House of Representatives, the cost of which would be borne by the taxpayers for years.

In the third place, a President bought and sold on the House market would start out under a tremendous handicap. He would owe a huge obligation to the Congressional master-minds who elected him. It would seriously limit his freedom of operation as President of all the people. And it would be difficult, if not impossible, for him to gain and hold majority support.

Finally, we just don't like the idea of surrendering our free ballots to the whim and fancy of our Southern Representatives. We don't want to elect them. We do not elect them to elect Presidents. And the Southern member who willingly grants his state's Representatives full power of attorney for his vote scarcely deserves the right to vote in the first place.

There is a better way, and one that will not only preserve the two-party system but strengthen it. Let the Southerners do all they can to nominate their representatives and write their own platform at the Chicago convention. If they're still unhappy when the shouting's over, let them return home and throw their influence behind the Republican nominee. Many of them have been content with the Republican nominee, and it'll do no harm to make the marriage legal.

These brief statistics give an idea of how potent the change of a single judge can be in the attitude of the court, and how it can happen that a "conservative" constitutionally in one decade can be reversed in the next.

Election Might Considerably Influence The Supreme Court

By RICHARD L. STROUT

(In The Christian Science Monitor) WASHINGTON: IMPLICIT in every Presidential election is a "constitutional" issue. It comes up again in 1952. It could be the most important consequence of it, though probably it'll attract least attention.

The nine Supreme Court justices are appointed by Presidents with the advice and consent of the Senate. There are no vacancies on the Supreme Court now but under the law an average (which ends the august court each year) a vacancy occurs about every two years. Supreme Court interprets the Constitution and as such can be enormously powerful in refashioning constitutional concepts to modern trends. This is particularly true in cases involving civil rights and also in economic matters.

"The Supreme Court issues" simply means these presidential candidates would pick the best members of the high tribunal, if and when vacancies occurred. MANY 5-4 DECISIONS. The Supreme Court justices in the past black robes have been elected and re-elected; and it is hard to remember how sharp their internal differences can be. The late Chief Justice Holmes, once lightly commented that when the Justices were alone they sometimes agreed more by the cat's testimony before a House Judiciary subcommittee in 1940, H. A. Tolmie, Jr., an attorney, offered the following candid opinions: during the last three years, he said, there had been 80 or more 5-4 decisions. During the last twelve years, he testified, the high court in 30 cases had overruled its own decisions, and in 15 the reversals were on constitutional ground.

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Rearmament, European Debts Again Strain French Economy

By JOSEPH S. STEWART ALSOP

WASHINGTON: THE FRENCH are quietly going broke. Not one of the soft spots of which that France is only a sample, and the Congress is honing its knife to cut this one throat.

There are, in fact, two dangers to our security. One is the danger of Communist military aggression, and the other is the danger of economic-political collapse at some key point in the world. This danger of economic-political collapse at some key point in the world. This danger of economic-political collapse at some key point in the world.

This means, of course, that the whole NATO program, which is squarely based on the French defense effort, is in serious danger. SOMETHING IS WRONG.

The fact is that this sort of inflation, which three or four years ago would have had this city in an uproar—is now treated as a matter of course. This means, of course, that the whole NATO program, which is squarely based on the French defense effort, is in serious danger.

Drew Pearson's Armageddon Merry-Go-Round

THE U. S. Government is now in the red to the tune of \$260 billion, with the debt increasing at a rate which will put it beyond the ceiling set by law—\$275 billion by June 30, 1953.

The newly proposed budget will plunge us at least \$14.6 billion further into debt, thereby boosting our total debt to \$279.6 billion. In the next fiscal year, a year just to pay the interest on the Federal debt.

Irony is that that is compounded by interest payments on the war. A strong Army, Navy and Air Force are absolutely essential, but they can't eat the nation's budget.

Marines Better Buyers

DUPLEX buying machines by a combat boot for \$16.60. The Army buys exactly the same combat



A Reply To Chambers Of Commerce What Is Economy?

(The following letter to the Council of State Chambers of Commerce from Sen. William B. Benton, U. S. Senator from Connecticut, is reprinted by permission of the Editors, The News.)

WHEN I returned from Europe I found your deal with U.S. Nov. 20 covering the voting record of the 82nd Congress on economy versus spending issues.

Repeatedly I have urged business groups to make just such analyses, applied to Senators and Congressmen of both parties. I have urged them to recognize that these questions are seldom party questions, or partisan questions — at least not merely as much as generally believed. Indeed, I hasten to congratulate you on this effort and on taking this kind of leadership which is so greatly to be commended.

On the other hand, you completely ignore bills that are being introduced in the Congress, for a far greater extent than most of those you list. Take the sugar-subsidy bill, for example, a bill that has cost the taxpayers almost a billion dollars since 1935 and a bill which largely benefits a few big beet-sugar producers, and only 85,000 producers in all.

Or take the shipping bill which calls for a long-range expansion in granting construction subsidies without regard to whether or not the ship will be used on essential trade routes — this after the

Maritime Commission under the Ship Sales Act of 1948 had sold 1,358 supposedly surplus ships causing the Government, according to Senator Williams, to sustain from these sales a loss of almost \$3 billion. The shipping bill in fact transfers more an economy bill, in my judgment, than many of those which you list. Although this bill passed on a voice vote, and this itself is significant because it indicates that many who wanted it passed did not want a recorded vote, there was an earlier vote on the construction-subsidy section, on which I and others voted for economy. I need not remind you of the many other not-so-hidden subsidies to American shipping, such as the law under which 50 per cent of all Marshall plan shipments must be carried in American bottoms, than many of those which you list. I think it is important to indicate that many who wanted it passed did not want a recorded vote, there was an earlier vote on the

Or take Senator Williams' amendment to the Defense Production Act, calling for an end to farm price supports — an amendment supported by only four Senators, of whom I am proud to be one. Here again, with the inclusion of this bill, the percentages on many favored Senators would have changed.

You will see that, though I congratulate you on your basic aim, I point out to you that your yardstick, if you are to support the Hoover reorganization, your measurement very easily can become inaccurate and misrepresents what is actually a great and important issue. BOOBY PROPOSALS.

I may suggest that another way to calculate economy versus spending is the way Senators have supported or failed to support the Hoover reorganization. I commend this study to you. I think it will show you how casual and superficial is an approach based on appropriation bills alone. In the last session, only Senator Foran and I endorsed all of the reorganization proposals of the Hoover Commission, and as you doubtless know the record of passage was pathetically and tragically meagre.

You will see that I feel you should throw open your procedures to most interested reviewers and re-examination. But you should not veer from your basic objective of factual analysis of the records of the entire Congress, the members of the entire Congress, all judged by the same standards.

In conclusion, I should add that one very important yardstick, which is missing from your own analysis, is the question of whether the taxpayer gets something for his money or whether he doesn't. There is fabulous waste in many Government departments which leaders in both parties refuse to move in and clean up, and often greater waste, in contrast to the expenditure of money for which the taxpayers manifestly get some value, and often great value, added to the cost. as they do on any of the measures which you list in your voting analysis.

This is a favorite subject of mine, and I would be most pleased if you would send copies to members of your board of trustees.

Palace Guard Loves Lushness

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Army Engineers versus requisitions show they overstated their needs 25 to 42 per cent.

Redesigning the Army's one and one-half single-spaced typewritten pages to describe the kind of ping-pong balls it wanted to buy... There was so much red tape surrounding World War veterans' benefits, that the Army Engineers are building homes on military bases for 115,500 families unit, whereas FHA indicates the same can be done for only \$20 million in less than 100 days.

A few dollars here and there may not seem like much, but what some of the military don't realize is that when you lump them together, they run into millions. This is probably the greatest danger in the current jockeying for position inside the Democratic Party — namely the President who gets money easily and about from the cuff, may decide to run not because of any considered thinking, but because he has his hands up.