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FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 1952

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WILL THEY STILL CALL HIM 'FEARLESS BOB'?

IN ONE RESPECT, Senator Taft's entry decision to withdraw from the New Jersey primary is surprising. He complains that the "regular" Republican organization is against him, and that he would not have a fair chance. That, coming from a man whose main strength has been the attack-voice of the "regular" Republicans, is grimly ironical.

THIS WE WANT TO SEE

AT LAST we are about to have an opportunity to test in a court of law the underdog, disunion tactic that Senator Joe McCarthy has used in his one-man war against the ghosts of Communism.

GOVERNMENT BY COMPULSION

EVERWHERE on today's editorial page there is a letter to President Harry A. DeBatts of the Southern Railway and a Charlotte resident who is a stockholder in that company. It expresses the basic issue in the "recommendation" of a Presidential board that non-operating railroad workers be compelled to join a union shop.

WASHINGTON WATCHDOG

ONE of North Carolina's several able executives now in Washington, Secretary of the Army Frank Pace Jr. gave his first public address in a union shop at a luncheon dinner he suggested formation of a national citizens' committee, sort of a Washington watchdog to keep a close eye on the Federal Government.

FROM THE GREENSBORO DAILY NEWS

SOMETHING TO REMEMBER

DEMOCRATIC gubernatorial candidates, appearing on the state platform at Winston-Salem, unanimously in declaring against any new taxes in North Carolina for the next biennium.

based on two things: (1) his strength among "regular" Republicans. That he had enough of that he would be able to control the national convention, as he controlled some State conventions, through his astute followers; and (2) his angry, carping criticism of every error that has been made in the past, without any acceptable substitute program for the future.

The American people want something more than that. They have had enough of politicians who rose to the top via the rungs of party ladders. They want a leader who rises above mere partyanship, whose stock-in-trade is hope and optimism instead of bitterness and criticism, whose record is one of harmony and faith rather than vituperation and grossly exaggerated pessimism.

Taft is still a formidable contender for the Republican nomination. Those observers who have written that he has no chance in New Hampshire and Minnesota primaries are underestimating the power of his attraction for loyal, patronage-hungry Republicans. But we are convinced now, we have been convinced for some months, that in a general election the American people will finally penetrate the inner councils of the GOP hierarchy, and that victory will be turned into certain by the nomination of Dwight Eisenhower.

for our signature in order to legally waive your immunity. If you want my signature legally to attest to my statement on the floor, you have it on this letter," he wrote. Now we'll want to see what Senator McCarthy has to say about the New York Times, as we recalled, offered McCarthy \$5,000 to produce one living, bona fide Communist from among the many persons he has slandered on the floor of the Senate. Later, Tydings asked the offer to \$10,000. It hasn't, so far as we know, been accepted.

THE UNION SHOP ISSUE

Freedom To Join... And Not To Join

(NOTE: The Editors of The News, having come into contact with the author, who has obtained permission from his author, a Charlotte resident, to publish in full, it deals with a subject of considerable public interest and a principle of great importance. Editors, The News.)

THE UNION SHOP ISSUE

Dear Mr. DeBatts: For a good many years I have been a small stockholder in the Southern Railway Company. I am, therefore, taking the liberty of writing to you in regard to a development affecting the Company which I have recently read about in the newspapers.

THE UNION SHOP ISSUE

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right of a man to earn and hold a job on merit and ability. But it is utterly intolerable that the power and influence of Government should be brought to bear to force union shops upon workers who have not yet been persuaded that union membership is either necessary or desirable.



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There was a day of tyranny when no working man was free to join a union. Are we now to have a day of tyranny when no man is free to stay out of a union? Is freedom not to join any less a right in this land than freedom to join?

THE UNION SHOP ISSUE

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As I see it, it means that I am a member of a member of A. B. Association. But I would certainly resent and resist any effort to compel me to belong to it. Likewise, it means that I am a member of the Methodist Church but I think it would be nothing short of a travesty if all people were required to belong to it so long as they are within the law, the rights of minorities, of dissenters, of non-conformists and non-jobbers must be respected and their freedom of choice and decision maintained inviolate.

after being elected at the age of 63. The other President was Truman. The President Truman made available to correspondent William Hillman many of his papers in the White House book "Mr. President." He wanted the public to know more of the trials and tribulations of the office.

Comment on the book indicates he has certainly done that. Whether his intention was to cement aimed at a try for another term or a farewell to the prison of an impossible office, the commentators have been unable to decide.

But one significant piece of personal history is ignored entirely. And it may well have more bearing on his attitude than anything that is recorded. Shortly the President will complete his seventh year in the White House, longer than that, on May 8, he will observe his 69th birthday.

With his keen awareness of American history and, above all, of the history of the Presidency, he takes on particular meaning. With the exception of Truman himself, no President has ever preceded him or followed him in this crucial election year. Senator Robert A. Taft would be 64 if he were elected. General Dwight D. Eisenhower would be 62. Harold Stassen, still the baby of the class, was elected in 1938.

Governor Adlai Stevenson of Illinois is 52, Senator Estes Kefauver is 48, Governor and Senator Robert Kerr of Oklahoma will be 58 in September. The voters would be 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

Franklin D. Roosevelt was 64 when he was elected to a fourth term. Re-elected, he was given as to the condition of his health. But when one looks back at the photograph of the President in the last six months of his life, he appears to be a man gasping for breath.

Of the remaining two, one was James Buchanan, who served one term just prior to the Civil War

Ruark Decides Truman Is Average Man In Giant's Job

By ROBERT C. RUARK

FOR the past several weeks since the postman brought the bulky package, I have been circling weekly as Pandora around the photograph of the President in the last six months of his life, he appears to be a man gasping for breath.

I don't know what I expected to find after all the buildup on Bill Sullivan's book. I expected to find Harry's hopes and fears and letters and old date programs. Maybe he'd even had a few words to turn the cross into gold, but after a hasty skim-through of "Mr. President" (Farrar, Straus and Young) I feel like I have been lying flat on the asphalt.

LETTERS ARE DULL Mr. Truman writes a middling letter with his lines to the effect that "12 years in Washington is enough for any man" Mr. Truman has been around for about 12 years himself—this being a statement once attributed to him by Jonathan Daniels in a foreword to a book, "The Fair Deal."

And he did touch Congress in connection with his lines to the effect that "12 years in Washington is enough for any man" Mr. Truman has been around for about 12 years himself—this being a statement once attributed to him by Jonathan Daniels in a foreword to a book, "The Fair Deal."

But we did not come here to carp at a contented happy career. It is a handsome volume, suitable for lending to people, and it is full of pictures which we need to see if you recognize most of the Truman contacts and nephews and nieces on the street.

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Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

POLITICS wasn't mentioned during the badinage devoted to bringing General Eisenhower home, but it hung over almost every word of the discussion. Except with a handful of Senators, the real question—the security of Europe—was not right of it.

Poitics Sparked Debate On Ike's Return

NO matter what you think of Harry Truman, however, in this case involving the all-important question of foreign policy, he played the game right. Truman's main idea is to get foreign aid passed.

McMahon Pleads

SENATOR McMahon opened the closed-door debate by urging that it was Eisenhower's duty to inform the Senate how much money it should vote for the security of Europe.