THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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A SORRY BUT REVEALING DISPLAY

THURSDAY NIGHT tens of millions of Americans, wearily awaiting the completion of nominations and beginning of balloting, watched the Democrats mill around almost three hours, taking a roll call vote on seating Virginia. What with vote changes and mistakes, at one time all three official tally clerks had different totals.

What the nation-wide audience saw was a technique analogous to that used hundreds of times each year in the House of Representatives which, unlike more efficient and time-conscious state legislatures, refuses to use electric voting equipment. We are certainly not suggesting that any electric voting machine be subjected to the torture of following the vote switches and confusion in any hassle like that Virginia case. But, by using very little imagination, persons who watched that fiasco can readily picture the laborious mess which almost daily delays the deliberations of the House.

There, fortunately for the tellers, each man has one (1) vote—none of this fractional business. But Congressmen find other ways to waste time. After the call of the roll and making of excuses for absent members a clerk drones through the 435 names, getting the responses of Congressmen in the chamber—then he solicitously calls out the names of those who did not respond but might have since drifted in. And Congressmen, like delegates, sometimes "get the word" and switch votes during a roll call. All in all, Congressmen spend about one-tenth of their time voting.

Several enlightened state legislatures zip through a vote—an accurate one—in about 30 seconds. Perhaps last night's sorry display will encourage citizens throughout the country to hep up the Congress on some of the advantages of electricity.

AN ANOMALY AND HOW IT GREW

IN A special dispatch the other day, Drew Pearson pointed up an anomaly that wants further comment. It is this: General Eisenhower won the GOP nomination mainly by staying in Europe until the last minute, while Senator Taft was breaking all records stumping the country; and Adlai Stevenson became the top Democrat without ever asking a single delegate to vote for him, whereas Senator Kefauver had traveled thousands of miles and won in every primary he entered but two.

The quick inference to be drawn from that strange outcome is that the expression of popular opinion in state primaries is meaningless, and hence the whole institution of primaries is worthless.

It is not quite that simple. It is not the institution of primaries that is at fault; rather the fault lies in the way the primaries are conducted. There are several drawbacks to the present system:

1. Not all candidates are entered in all primaries.

2. Primaries are held over a long period of time, and public opinion can develop decided shifts.

3. Not all states hold Presidential primaries.

4. Each state has its own laws for primaries, and the rules differ so widely that the results are not conclusive.

Until all primaries are held in all states on the same day and under the same rules with all candidates entered, the primary system will have flaws as great, perhaps, as the defects of the older convention method.

Furthermore, there are other reasons why Eisenhower and Stevenson surged to the front, even though they had not originally been nominated. Some of them:

1. Both men have been apart from the somewhat shabby Washington environment, and thereby are untainted by the bitterness and acrimony of the capital squabbles.

2. Both men are new to national politics at a time when voters are looking for new faces.

3. Both men are stanchly opposed to any revival of isolationism.

4. Both men are positive and progressive thinkers, more interested in finding an answer for the future than in concentrating on the errors of the past.

5. Both men have strong and pleasing personalities.

6. There is a certain appeal in the office seeking the man rather than the man seeking the office.

All of these, and other factors go to explain why Senator Taft fell by the wayside, and Senator Kefauver began slipping, despite their long, hard campaigning. Thus the anomaly of the upsurge of two non-seekers may well be more apparent than real.

HOW IT STARTED

THE POLITICAL conventions have again raised the quadrennial question, "Why do the Republicans always meet first?" Some persons say it would seem more sporting if the "outs" met last, so they could have a chance to nominate a man, and write a platform, sort of in answer to the "ins".

Well, it used to be that way. Fair play, give the underdog a break—that was the guiding philosophy.

But in 1916 the Republicans got overeager. They just couldn't wait to get at that man Wilson and his Democrats, so they met first.

They continued to meet first in subsequent election years but by 1940 some of the Republicans, seeing their strategic error, said to the Democrats and that well, maybe it was about time to change places for a while.

But the Democrats wouldn't bite. No sir, they knew who their nominee would be, regardless of Republican action. They could afford to wait—the Republicans couldn't.

And there we have it, up to 1952. And the Democrats once again have showed how those who get the last word get in some good licks at the opponents' platform, and can nominate a candidate tailored to counter the opposition.

A GREAT ORATION BY A GREAT AMERICAN

THE FAME of Bryan and Webster is probably still secure, but the old masters, had they been in the Chicago amphitheater Wednesday night, would probably have been first to the rostrum to embrace and congratulate the Vice-President after his moving oration. Certainly Mr. Barkley's address, delivered without trappings of the modern politician such as teleprompter or script, was far and away the most stirring speech which the nation has watched and listened to at either of this year's conventions.

In keeping with his character, Mr. Barkley had forgotten or at least suppressed the bitterness which showed itself in his statement two nights previous in which he withdrew from the Presidential race. The commentators who Wednesday afternoon forecast a Barkley attack on the left wing of the party could not have been more wrong. He did tellingly, and not too indirectly, castigate Senator Kefauver for his appearance on the convention floor, in violation of the custom of major candidates. But the heart of his speech was a ringing declaration of faith in his party, its principles and leadership. His criticism of racial intolerance in this country was effectively accomplished by his account of an experience with a Negro soldier in Korea.

Whether or not one accepts the entire Barkley philosophy, none can say the revered old statesman did not speak with a conviction and ability rarely equalled. It was altogether fitting that the Veep's retirement from elective office be climaxed by this great address before the eyes of party colleagues and the American people whom he has served so well.

From The Greensboro News

LOVELIEST THINGS

MISS BEATRICE COBB stated it in *The Morganton News Herald* the other day, citing a list of "loveliest things" as she has noted them and asking for others to come through with lists. Then Henry Belk took it up over in *The Goldsboro News-Argus*, and so the list keeps a-growing.

While we don't know that "loveliest" is the adjective we'd choose nor whether we are disposed to go in the superlatives, we'd nevertheless like to throw a few questions into the cumulative compilation:

Have you ever stood down at the headwaters of Albemarle Sound, just off the point where the Roanoke and Chowan Rivers converge, and gazed upon the masses of wild crab apple blooms when they were at their height?

Have you ever looked across the Elk River Valley from Banner Elk across to the rugged top of Grandfather Mountain just as the rising sun pushed its rim across the ridge's peak?

Have you ever been out on the serenity of Orton Pond, well up toward the upper edge, on a late afternoon when the bream started popping lily pads and the fading sun cast its pattern through the moss-decorated trees and fantastic shapes danced upon the waters?

Have you ever strolled on the strand at Nags Head in a full moon and watched the moonbeams play through the mists of the waves that beat everlastingly in upon a pummeled shore?

Have you ever stood on the deck of a cabin cruiser tied up in the quietness of Second Creek, and breathed in deeply the aroma of brewing coffee and sizzling bacon as it drifted up from the galley below?

Have you ever trudged along bare-foot through a damp and newly-plowed field in Cleveland County's clay country, with the soft cool clods disintegrating under your liberated toes and the smell of the good earth filling your nostrils?

Have you ever lay prone and lapped up water from a spring that gurgled out from a fern-swept, mossy nook, or thrown yourself down, dog-tired, on a lush, grassy plot beneath a thick shade and closed your eyes in a relaxation that is complete?

If you haven't, then, whatever your "loveliest" list may be, you still have something to live for.

'Gee—Ain't He Terrific?'

People's Platform

Letters should be brief. The writer's name and address must be given, but may be withheld from publication in the discretion of the Editors. The News reserves the right to condense.

Wonders About UCS

CHARLOTTE

A NEW trend is under way now in our community, that of combining all health, welfare and recreation agencies under one great name—United Community Service. This organization proposes to conduct one annual fund-raising drive which will fulfill the financial needs of all.

United Community Services' greatest argument is that the citizens of our community have demanded this action. A poll has even been taken of some 7,000 employees of various business and industrial plants, in which the movement is favored.

But is this poll a true evaluation of what the people in Charlotte and Mecklenburg want? The Chamber of Commerce lists the population of Mecklenburg County officially as 192,052. This leaves the opinion by which this issue was determined representative of a very small number of its citizens.

Now for a few facts. There are among the organizations which have been asked to join the UCS several which have in the past, and will so far as can be determined, continue to conduct "membership" drives or other money raising events throughout the year. Examples are YMCA, YWCA, Girl Scouts, Salvation Army and the Association of the Blind. Are routes by which the events take place not considered "drives" in the minds of the people who contribute? It leaves the opinion by which this issue was determined representative of a very small number of its citizens.

Why then does UCS say that the number of drives will be less?

It is noteworthy to mention that the agencies which have issued formal statements to the effect that they will join UCS are at present members of the Community Chest; therefore, they do not conduct separate fund raising drives. It is seriously doubted that they could conduct their own campaigns separately.

It seems to me that all that has happened so far is that the name of Community Chest will be changed for a new one—United Community Services, and during the change-over, Chest officials are seeking to force four health agencies into something which has not proved it can better an existing situation. These agencies are the Heart Association, Mecklenburg Tuberculosis and Health Association, and local chapters of the American Cancer Society and the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis.

Why have Community Chest officials pushed this issue?

I know that a study was made by a committee appointed by our mayor upon recommendation of the Chamber of Commerce. But would this committee have become so active had it not had a little prompting by paid personnel of our local Chest? I understand that a new member of this staff is very well trained in the setting up of UCS and had ample experience in such matters before becoming a staff member of the local Community Chest.

Will regimentation of all these agencies give the public the same excellent programs of the past or will the small paid personnel of each be so busy with reports, meetings, budget sessions, surveys and studies for United Community Services that time will not permit them to carry on their usual programs?

Have you thought from where the thousands of dollars will come to support UCS?

Community Chest leaders have said their support comes from large gifts and industry. This means—since Community Chest officials are in the driver's seat—that you in industry will foot the bill. Residential areas will be ignored. It takes too much manpower, they say. Yet 4,000 mothers in Charlotte and Mecklenburg marched on polio night in January and raised $40,000.

Pay roll deductions will be the method whereby UCS works. In addition to deductions for income tax, Federal old age benefit, hospitalization, insurance, pensions, you'll have another weekly deduction—UCS.

The old Community Chest way of collecting money will be put into use and stronger than ever. It has never been the policy of the health agencies to raise their contributions any way except by voluntary giving.

MRS. HOWARD BELUE.

Terrible Times

MAIDEN

Editors, THE NEWS:

WHY in the name of high heaven will people go along and continue to vote a bunch of the worst and lowest type of treacherous humanity into office? Three Democratic Presidents in the 20th century, and three of the worst wars the world has ever seen.

We did not owe one red cent when they started with us in 1913. Now in 39 short years we owe more than the whole world owes or has ever owed in the world's history, and of course we have people who actually are dumb enough to fall for that type of hog wash.

Look at your public debt compared to a few short years ago. Look at your draft laws compared to any Republican administration in U. S. history. And look at your tax burden compared to any country in the entire history of the world. Look at the 24 years of Republican rule in the 20th century, with no war, no draft law, no burdensome debts, and no unjust taxation, and not an enemy in the world.

No wonder Senator Douglas of Illinois stood before the television cameras and tried to make excuses for the Democratic Administration, and tried to besmirch the name of that great and illustrious soldier, Gen. Douglas MacArthur. As long as we have character assassins in the U. S. Senate of his caliber just so long will we be led by the bureaucrats.

Mr. Voter, do you care nothing for your sons and loved ones who are being slaughtered this very moment, or are you so blinded by the few paltry dollars you receive that you care nothing for relatives, friends, home and freedom? Better think twice before Nov. 4. This could be your last chance.

DR. H. ABERNETHY.

The Moderate Middle Takes Control Of Democratic Meet

By MARQUIS CHILDS

CHICAGO

THE more I see of this awful mess,
The more I want to be President less.

The author of that bit of doggerel is Adlai Stevenson of Illinois. He tossed it off on one of the countless occasions when he was being urged by the press to say whether or not he would be willing to run for President if he were nominated.

Although it was intended humorously, it applies with terrible force to this moment. During the hullabaloo of the past month while we all watched the political circus, the mess has been getting worse rather than better.

The fact that the steel strike went on for seven weeks before a settlement could finally be reached is a tragic commentary on the divisions in the country. The loss of up to 15,000,000 tons of steel is serious enough in itself. But far more serious is the fact that during the strike the procession of ore boats across the lakes to the steel mills was stopped.

CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

That has meant the loss of 12,000,000 tons of ore, which can be replaced in small part if at all. In late November or early December all lake shipments are shut down. This loss can critically handicap the drive for rearmament. It will contribute to inflation because of scarcities in consumer goods that are almost certain to result. The strike had cut so deeply into armament production that the largest 105-millimeter shell plant, in St. Louis, had been shut down. Before the shutdown the assembly line had been slowed. Ten days to two weeks will be required to get vital steel flowing in the national pipe line again.

Both the union and the companies must take the blame for this tragic loss. But it is also true that the steel strike was in the middle of the politics of an intensely bitter Presidential year. President Truman was determined not to use the Taft-Hartley Act. The Republicans, or most of them, were bound that the White House should resort to a Taft-Hartley injunction and thereby demonstrate the necessity for the law.

If he had done that, the appeal of the Democrats to organized labor in a campaign year would have been partly nullified. The plank in the Democratic platform calling for repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act would have looked a little foolish if the President had, in a dire emergency, been compelled to use that act.

The division in the Democratic Party evident during this convention is related to the steel dispute and the broader issue of the powers of big industry, big labor and big government, and the effort to allocate authority within a framework of law. A potent minority from the northern industrial centers has been determined to go all the way with labor and the groups closely related to the union movement.

Another and far less potent minority from the South has sought to repudiate the whole Truman program and Truman himself. This can hardly be described as a minority, since its reason for being is in no small degree the personal bitterness of a few individuals. Chief among this is Governor James F. Byrnes of South Carolina. Byrnes has had just about every honor in the power of his party and his country to give. And yet his personal frustration is so great that nothing the convention could have done would have satisfied him.

Between these two minorities are the great bulk of the delegates. In this moderate middle is a large proportion of the South—the new South which is rapidly being industrialized. This moderate middle is fearful of extremes and hopeful that they may be reconciled before the country is pushed into some extreme step from which no retreat is possible.

THE MODERATE MIDDLE

The same moderate middle is, in my opinion, the explanation for what has happened in both the Republican and the Democratic conventions. If Averell Harriman had not had other handicaps, his all-out embrace of everything in the New Deal and Fair Deal would have been too much to carry. Senator Robert A. Taft had a disadvantage in pushing an extremist position to what appeared to many to be an ultimate and disastrous extreme.

Democrats, Like GOP In '48, Are Confident Of Victory

By JOSEPH & STEWART ALSOP

CHICAGO

AS THESE WORDS are written, the ritual clamor of the nominating speeches fills the convention hall. Perhaps this is a good time, before the final outcome, to note an extremely significant fact. The Democrats think they will win this election.

In a queer way, the Democratic atmosphere this time is reminiscent of the Republican atmosphere in 1948. There is the same assurance, the same bland disregard of the common mischance and misfortunes of politics. There is also the same tendency, one must add, to under-rate the opposition.

In 1948, the Republicans thought any Chinaman could kick Truman, and the great argument was about which Chinaman would receive the assignment. In the same fashion among the Democrats here in Chicago in 1952, only a very few wise and seasoned operators seem to be able to bear in mind the strength of potent personality of Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower.

IKE'S MAGIC

The rest of these Democrats remember only that they over-estimated the General's campaigning magic in the days before Abilene. They now appear to count on him to spend the entire election campaign with his foot in his mouth, talking, so to speak, through his toes. In the humble opinion of these reporters, this is a mood and these are expectations dangerous to any party.

None the less, the Democratic confidence of victory has greatly helped so far. It is the real explanation of the rather successful compromise of the civil rights issue which has been arranged here.

Before the convention opened, there was far more bitterness and far more belligerency, both in North and South, than there was four years ago. The northern civil rights advocates were all but ready to expel the South from the party, because of the record of the Southerners in the conservative coalition in Congress. By the same token, the Southerners, filled with hatred of President Truman, were all but prepared to take a walk.

When they all got together here, however, they found that they were bound together by unexpectedly strong ties of common interest. If they had thought the election was going to go against them, both sides would have kept at each other's throats. The temptation to indulge their real feelings would have been too strong. Instead, with all the fruits of victory piled up, as it were upon the table in the platform committee-room, both sides restrained their emotions lest the hoped for feast be snatched away from them.

The true atmosphere was typified by an incident early in the haggling, when Gov. Allan Shivers of Texas leaned across the table to Sen. Herbert Lehman of New York, and said, "You fellows have got to help us." To this Lehman replied, "Well, you fellows have got to help us too." This spirit, plus the intervention of President Truman to prevent an open break over the loyalty rule, produced the eventual rather peaceful result.

The prospect of relative Democratic unity unquestionably improves the Democratic chance of victory. To this, any honest observer who has attended both the great conventions must add one further point. Although the Democratic party has grown pretty old and pretty ragged in 20 years of office, it has still managed to look more vigorous, at least on the surface, than the Republican Party.

Altogether with Gen. Eisenhower both leading and symbolizing a revivified Republican party, and with the Democrats in this vigorous and combative mood, the election ahead should be one of the most stirring this country has seen.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Politics Cruel To Barkley And Harriman

CHICAGO

POLITICS can be cruel business. The cruelest blows dealt in the current race for the Democratic Presidential nomination were to Vice President Alben Barkley and Averell Harriman. Undoubtedly, they were not meant to be cruel, for in Barkley's case they came from those who love him most — his wife, Leslie Biffle, and the President. However, it will probably embitter him for the remainder of his life.

The stage was set for Barkley to enter the Vice-Presidential race on July 5, the last day Congress was supposed to meet, at a luncheon given by Senate Secretary Biffle, the Veep's close personal and political friend. Since Congress was supposed to close that day, President Truman returned to his old stamping ground, attended the luncheon, had a couple of bourbons and was pulled to one side for a conference with Biffle.

Biffle is the man who put Barkley across as Vice President at the Philadelphia convention in 1948; also the man who, posing as a chicken salesman toured the country taking political soundings that Summer and predicted Truman could win. He has long wanted the Veep to become President; likewise the new Mrs. Barkley.

So, at this luncheon, Biffle urged Truman to switch his support from Harriman, then his No. 1 choice, to the much-loved, elderly Veep.

Truman agreed.

The very next day Barkley, buoyed up by hope and spurred on by his wife, made a formal announcement that he would actively push his campaign. That was why, on arriving in Chicago, he walked from the railroad station to the hotel. That was also why the party bosses passed out word that it's "Barkley the White House wants."

However, the days when the President can hand down orders on his successor and get them obeyed are past. When George Harrison, head of the AFL railroad clerks, heard this from Bill Boyle, former chairman of the Democratic National Committee, he phoned the White House, insisted on talking to the President direct, and the following conversation took place:

"Mr. President, Bill Boyle tells me you have selected Barkley."

"That's right," replied the President.

"Well, that puts me on an awfully long limb because I have been pushing Harriman as you indicated ten days ago," responded Harrison.

"Well, stay out on the limb for a little while longer," was Truman's cryptic reply.

Whether the President meant by this that he was merely using Barkley as a stalking horse to stop Kefauver is not known. However, the much-loved and now embittered Veep will never recover from that political blow.

Harriman A Future Power

THE blow at Averell Harriman was not quite so brutal, chiefly because he is a younger man.

What happened was that Paul Fitzpatrick, top Democratic leader of New York, wanted a "holding candidate"—a man who could hold New York's big block of delegates together plus permitting Fitzpatrick to trade at the convention and throw the New York delegates at the right time.

First Fitzpatrick approached New York's Sen. Herbert Lehman. Lehman, past 70, ridiculed the idea. He said he had no chance to become President and didn't want the New York delegates pledged to him.

Next Fitzpatrick went to Harriman, urged him to run for President. Harriman took him seriously, jumped in with all his energy, plus considerable money, and proceeded to put on a bang-up campaign. In fact, he put on such a good campaign that even his best friends were surprised.

Fitzpatrick has stuck with him, but doesn't look happy about it. He wears a little Harriman button, sits back, goes through the motions of steering the Harriman campaign, but there is no passion in his drive, no optimism in his voice. He is merely paying lip service to a commitment he made.

For novice Harriman, however, this has been an experience. He has found himself able to make better speeches than the old-timers, he has snapped out of his habitual shyness, and he will be a politician to be reckoned with in future administrations.