

A Campaign of Deceit And Distortion

THIS is a month of speechmaking. It is a time when politicians extol their party immortals and, in election years, lay the groundwork for the campaign.

The Republican Party is laying the groundwork for its campaign on the dangerous quicksands of deceit and distortion. It is doing this by sponsoring tours of its most deceitful distorter, Sen. Joe McCarthy, and then telling the world that his and other irresponsible Republicans' flagrant charges are facts, when they are not.

The Republican National Committee arranged eight major appearances, this week and last, for Sen. McCarthy. The senator started in West Virginia, where he went four years ago this month to make his original charges of communism in Government. This time he told his audience:

"The hard fact is that those who wear the label—Democrat—wear with it the stain of an historic betrayal. (It is) a political label stitched with the idiosyncrasy of a Truman, rotted by the deceit of an Acheson, corrupted by the red smile of a White."

McCarthy carried on in like vein, and Sen. William Jenner took up the cry. The New and Fair Deals had "permitted traitors to bring us close to military defeat," he said, and the GOP had found, when it took over, "heaps of evidence" of its predecessors' "treason."

Other Republicans, men who had not previously indulged in the demagoguery characteristic of the GOP primitives, spoke out in similar vein. Gov. Tom Dewey, Attorney General Herbert Brownell, Postmaster General Arthur Summerfield, Presidential Counsel Bernard M. Shanley, Republican Finance Committee Chairman Carlton Ketchum—all of them implied that all or most of the "security risks" fired by the Eisenhower Administration were subversive. The truth, insofar as persistent newsmen have been able to determine, is that all or most of the "security risks" fired were not subversive.

On top of all this, the President's assistant, Sherman Adams, brazenly declared that "political sadists" (he meant the Democrats) were trying to foist a "Fear Deal" on the country.

And the President's press secretary, Jim Hagerly, blandly denied yesterday that his fellow Republicans were distorting the issues.

"They are just," he said, "giving the people the facts."

The Republicans' ill-conceived strategy

Progress On Another Segregation Front

THE PROCESSES of reason and logic have been gradually slipping away at segregation in many areas of public service in the South, but nowhere more dramatically than in the use of library facilities.

In the current issue of New South, a publication of the Southern Regional Council, Anna Heiden reports on progress in sharing library facilities between the two races.

In 1941, only four southern cities permitted Negroes unrestricted use of main libraries, and 12 gave limited service.

Today, Negroes have free use of the main public library in 59 southern cities and limited service in 24 other communities. In eleven southern cities, one or more branches serve both races. In three—Louisville, Ky., Roanoke, Va., and Winston-Salem, N. C.—Negroes are represented on library boards.

In North Carolina, main libraries have been opened to Negroes in Avery County, Burlington, Wake County and Vance County. Charlotte, Fayetteville, Gastonia and Greensboro give limited service to Negroes at their main libraries.

This is significant progress in a 12-year period. But according to L. D. Redick, writing in the same publication, two-thirds of southern Negroes still have "no library service whatsoever, even though over a million of these southerners live in communities where library service is provided for white readers."

Surely this is one public service in

which not suit their own purposes. Their best hope of continuing in control of Congress is to establish a record of accomplishment. To establish this record they must have substantial Democratic support. Democratic leaders like House Minority Leader Sam Rayburn and Senate Minority Leader Lyndon Johnson—men who have led a minority more responsible than the GOP was when it was out of office—have raised the storm signals. They have warned that continuation of the mess and distasteful attacks will endanger bipartisan cooperation and legislative accomplishment.

Political campaigns in this country are seldom waged on the high plane thoughtful citizens would prefer. But never, in our recollection, have so many leaders of a party stopped so low, so early in a campaign, as have those Republicans mentioned.

If the level of political debate continues to degenerate, as it usually does as a campaign progresses, a new low in political debasement will be reached by next fall. The prestige and following of the Republican Party will decline accordingly.

Well Done

THE PLAQUES awarded to three members of the Charlotte Housing Authority by the National Association of Housing Officials state the case well. Each plaque bore this inscription:

"His long service without remuneration signifies his full measure of devotion and loyalty as a public spirited citizen. His unselfish contribution of time and effort to the advancement of better housing for the people of his city reflects credit upon the entire housing program and upon his fellow citizens throughout the country. The men and women who are the foundation of that housing program."

Three prominent Charlotteans who were honored have given a total of 40 years of service to the local housing authority. Chairman Edwin L. Jones and Vice-Chairman Earl Gluck have held their posts for 15 years—from the day the authority was organized. George W. Dowdy has served as a member for 10 years.

This is unselfish public service in the very highest tradition. The fact that the community has such men who are willing to devote their valuable time to this important work is a cause for the deepest sort of satisfaction.

Good News

NORTH CAROLINA'S drive for greater highway safety is still producing results.

At the end of 1953, the tabulation of deaths showed a small drop from 1,115 in 1952 to 1,103 in 1953.

But since the turn of the new year, the rate of fatal accidents is dropping faster. At 10 a.m. on Feb. 9, the Motor Vehicles Dept. reported that 68 persons had been killed this year, compared to 111 on the same date in 1953. That is a decrease of 25 deaths—almost one-fourth of the 1953 total.

And at the latest tabulation (Dec. 1, 1953), the injury toll stood at 18,949, down 282 from the same date in 1952.

Last year was the first year since World War II that the soaring highway death rate was reversed. That was good news. But it is even better news that the pace of the downward trend has been stepped up.

apologize by saying that street level was 18 inches higher than they expected.

Bowlers will have a ready-made excuse whenever their scores do not come up to par. The alley, of course, was tilted by the tide.

And best of all, we need no longer fret about the various figures given as the height of Mount Everest. The 29,002-foot figure is low tide, and 29,141 is high tide.

With the hunting season over in many areas, the birds and animals are probably lounging among the trees counting up how many sharpshooters they demoted.

—GREENWOOD (Miss.) COMMONWEALTH.



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 Editor. The News reserves the right to condense.

Church Or Movies?

Up To Individual

Editors, The News: Charlotte

SEEMS TO ME there are certain groups of people who are trying to take certain matters into their own hands, matters such as closing theaters during church services.

Living in a free and democratic country, a person should have the privilege of choosing whether he wants to go to church or to the movies.

—PAUL H. MANGUM

Halve Butter Price;

Remove The Subsidy

Editors, The News: Fayetteville

I WAS very much surprised at your publishing the editorial "You're Not Confused, Mr. Fleming" by which, with sale of butter and edible oils to Communist countries.

I feel that the writer of this editorial either gave very little thought to a proper solution, or wrote the article as a space filler.

This country should continue the government policy of prohibiting the sale of butter and edible oils to Communist countries, and stop all practice of "selling us short" in foreign countries and at home.

The average American does not like to give a forced hand-out in any form, which includes the present subsidy on butter. If you would make a house-to-house check on homes of all classes in Charlotte, I am sure you would find the majority of them do not buy any butter, and would say "the country is flooded with butter; the government is responsible for the high price, and until the price comes down in proportion to other foods I will not buy it. My family does not use it, my friends don't use it, and we can well see where we may someday be using it for fuels."

Why should we care whether Russia or any other country buys it (and of course never pays for it) when we can use it right here in our own homes, and continue to use more of it if the price is lowered?

Cut the price of butter 50 per cent.

Time To Speak Out

Against Blue Law

Editors, The News: Charlotte

IT IS EVIDENT that the ministerial commission, currently seeking suppression of Sunday movies, is laboring under the misapprehension that such "blue law" restrictions will help fill many now empty church pews. It is equally evident that these clergymen would deprive the citizens of this community of their constitutional right of religious freedom, which not only guarantees the right of free exercise of religion, but also the freedom from religion.

In fine it is an attempt to slow down the rapid decline of religion and temporarily forestall its eventual collapse. But by so doing they are aiding in the destruction of the very institution they so zealously pretend to defend. Moreover, their action virtually amounts to an admission that they are incapable of discharging sufficiently interesting to maintain the interest of the people, and therefore must resort to use of the secular arm, as in the dark ages, as an instrument of force and compel church attendance.

To prevent encroachments upon human liberty such as this, the people must be vigilant. This particular clerical minority has chosen to challenge the rights and privileges of a free people, and the time has come for a showdown. The time has come for those who would preserve the rights of privilege and human dignity for themselves and their loved ones to assert themselves in protest. It is time that the defenders of right and justice let their voices be heard. For he who stands in silence now and receives the shades of this restraint, invites additional and more burdensome restraints in the future.

—A. W. BLACK

N.C. GOP Should Start

Electing Republicans

Editors, The News: Chapel Hill

SOMETIME next month North Carolina Republicans will gather for their state convention. This time they should make no nominee for statewide offices.

There are now 300,000 more voting members of the GOP in this state, yet their candidates are still nominated by the political bosses.

When North Carolina Republicans have held primaries, they have been farces. In 1952, only 16,261 bothered to vote in the primary for the lieutenant governor nomination because the winner was already picked. The losing candidate did not even carry a single county and the vote ranged from none in Currituck and Granville to 2,459 in Avery.

We cannot expect Ray Heel to vote for our candidates until they are shown to be the choice of the people and not the officialdom of our party. We cannot expect to generate interest among the Heel Republicans until we begin to have real primaries.

There are many possible sectional year for, if the Republican attacks continue along their present line, the Democrats may not let Eisenhower stand alone from partisan bias.

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Adams in a speech Saturday night climaxed the Republicans' special ambassador to Queen Elizabeth's coronation. Shortly thereafter, a feature story, building up Vice President Nixon, appeared in Look.

Stubburn Young Man

During the GOP hearings for Channel 8 in Des Moines, young Murphy obviously made the better showing. In the middle of the hearings, he got a phone message from Milloy that his hotel asking to see him, and later Milloy took him aside for a long talk in which he offered Murphy around \$150,000 if he would withdraw his application leaving the field clear to Cowles.

Milloy held out various inducements, such as the glamour of living in New York and working for Look, plus the prospects of advancement in the Cowles organization.

"I used to live in New York and don't particularly like it," young Murphy replied. "I prefer Des Moines."

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Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

For Charlie Mayo to run against Humphrey.

Like Helps Friends

"Things have changed at the commission (the FCC) recently," boasted the Cowles vice president. "A new commissioner, Mr. Lee, is now on the commission. Larry Fly (former FCC chairman, now attorney for the rival Des Moines applicant), has an ideology that is no longer applicable. Fly thinks things are the same now as they were a few years ago, but things have changed. The old philosophy doesn't hold."

"You know that Mike Cowles is about to leave on a Point 4 trip for life in the Middle East. All this stuff about the being clear is all right, but you know that when you are in the Army, you learn politics," continued the testimony given in the FCC record.

"You don't get to go from a lieutenant to a colonel and then to President without knowing about politics. Lee won't let Cowles get hurt. He won't let them lose out on TV in Des Moines. I know how cowards turn in Washington, and you don't have a chance in ten."

News Monopolies

The man to whom lobbyist Jim Milloy gave this warning was Kingdley H. Murphy Jr., 23-year-old head of the Murphy Broadcasting Company in Des Moines. Murphy's father had once owned The Minneapolis Tribune but was forced to sell it to the Cowles brothers, who now have a monopoly of all newspapers in Minneapolis and also in Des Moines.

Let's stop the Cowles brothers and let the newspapers own a television station in Sioux City, Iowa, KTVI, and two radio stations, WNAK in Spokane, S. D., and KXNY in the CBS station in Des Moines.

At one time Gardner Cowles Sr., founder of the newspaper empire, advised his sons: "against owning radio stations. He felt that to monopolize all mediums of news in a city was unbecomingly created ill will. However, the two boys, departing from that policy, are now applying for TV Channel 8 in Des Moines, with young Murphy, whose family they bought out in Minneapolis, also applying for the same channel."

Milloy, the Cowles vice president, who acknowledged Murphy told him he didn't have a chance, is the same operator who arranged with the Eisenhower administration to appoint Fleur Cowles, wife of Mike Cowles, editor of Look, as special ambassador to Queen Elizabeth's coronation. Shortly thereafter, a feature story, building up Vice President Nixon, appeared in Look.

Cowles' Man Brags About Influence

opportunities at the top."

"We have won hard on TV," young Murphy replied, "we intend to run a good TV station in Des Moines and your proposal of \$150,000 to get out of my pay-off which I don't approve of."

"But there are terrific opportunities in Des Moines," argued Milloy. "And if you don't let Luther Hill to get a young crew to take over from the older men," Milloy went on to talk about a merger, in which the Murphy interests would own about 12 per cent or even 15 per cent of the TV station. Young Murphy replied that if there was going to be a merger, the Cowles brothers would have to take the 15 per cent.

Milloy didn't like this at all. "The Cowles," he said, "have to be made to take a minority interest, though a management contract might be worked out."

Finally, when the Cowles lobbyist was able to get nowhere he threw out his veiled threat that the Federal Communications Commission would now step in to pressure, and that he, who understood politics, would never let the Cowles brothers "lose out on television in Des Moines."

Power Policy Attacked By Farm, Labor Press

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON

ON THE whole, the Eisenhower administration has had an exceptionally favorable press. The great majority of newspapers that advocated the President's election have given the first Republican administration in 20 years the benefit of every possible doubt. There are in fact those in the administration who feel that this determinedly charitable view may even be a disservice, since criticism is often a helpful corrective.

But one conspicuous exception to the rule has more or less escaped notice. Increasingly the papers published by labor and farm organizations have moved from a skeptical or critical to a more or less openly hostile tone.

That is not true of all of them, by any means. But in one field in particular—public power—the attack is being carried to the administration by a number of publications that get down to the grass roots. And this could be decisive in those districts where the margin between Republicans and Democrats is five per cent or less.

The controversy warmed up after the Department of Interior took certain steps last year that seemed to many public power advocates, including leaders of the rural electrification movement, calculated to cut down the supply available to "preference" users—farm co-ops and municipalities. The fear is that utility rates will be raised. But the dispute got hot following an administration move regarded as meant to split the biggest co-op organization in the power field, Fred G. Aandahl, former Governor of North Dakota and now Assistant Secretary of Interior in charge of water and power resources, went to Miami, Florida, to address the convention of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. More than 5,000 delegates representing about three million five hundred thousand farmers heard him accuse Clyde Ellis, executive director of the association, of crusading for a federal power monopoly.

"I am deeply disturbed," Aandahl said, "when I see those who are crusading for a federal power monopoly, try to use the rural electric cooperatives and their associates to foster federal monopoly. It is my suggestion and request that you work cooperatively with us in a more reasonable program of Federal power built around such amounts as

come logically with wise water resources development."

Since Aandahl had identified Ellis as the crusader, this seemed to the delegates an invitation to break away from their leadership. Ellis promptly sprang up to challenge Aandahl, denying he had ever advocated a federal monopoly. So did several delegates who demanded to know whether the administration's power policy would mean less power and higher rates for farm users.

In the weeks since the convention, the newspapers published by the rural electric co-ops in 25 states and Alaska have begun to take up this issue. They have a combined circulation of about 1.3 million.

Editorials in these publications hit hard at the farmer's pocket-book nerves, pointing out as Ellis did at the convention, that electric co-ops now purchase power exceeding 14 billion kilowatts a month at a cost of more than \$9 million a month. A raise in the rate of even as much as one-cent a kilowatt would mean a loss of \$40 million a year. And this is in the face of the current squeeze of high prices for the things the farmer buys and lower prices for what he sells.

This line of attack is particularly effective in the Missouri River Basin, where the Interior Department's new criteria for power rates have caused uneasiness. The West where water and power are vital to future development. Significant politically is the fact that uncertainty over power rates and rates coincides with the broader dissatisfaction over farm prices and the Eisenhower farm program. It is an additional irritant that makes farmers mad regardless of whether they are Republicans or Democrats.

The Democrats, and not merely the so-called liberals of the North, are already exploiting this discontent. One of the speakers at the co-op convention in Miami was Sen. Burnet Maybank of South Carolina. Maybank charged the administration with destroying the partnership between the federal government and the local power systems. He went on to make the accusation that while the co-ops were being handicapped, the administration is giving private utility companies tax write-offs so "federal taxpayers will pay for the cost of at least two or three private plants—plus a fat bonus."

This is politics of a specialized kind. But the power issue alone could determine the control of Congress next November.

OWEN GROWING

Democrats, Irked By Blasts, Serve Notice on Eisenhower

By JAMES MARLOW

WASHINGTON

WHILE President Eisenhower stands aloof from the day-by-day political strife, his Republicans go around knocking the Democrats' hats off. It's getting on the Democrats' nerves.

Now they're calling on Eisenhower to halt the Republican attack. If he disapproves, or say openly he endorses them, if he does. In this effort to put him on the spot, the Democrats' relationship with him has taken a sudden turn.

In his public statements dealing with Democrats Eisenhower has reached the point of "malice toward none"—laid down by Abraham Lincoln, whose birthday the Republicans are busy celebrating.

Because of this, or because they have a healthy respect for his popularity, Democrats generally have said nothing mean about him.

It's a rare relationship which seems in danger of disappearing in sectional year for, if the Republican attacks continue along their present line, the Democrats may not let Eisenhower stand alone from partisan bias.

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