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GOP Drumbeats Wake Labor From Political Catnap

By DORIS FLEESON

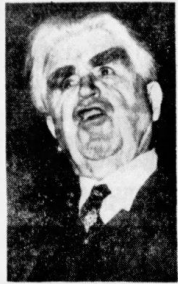
UP TO two months ago, labor by and large was politically sleepy and apathetic. The labor force was luxuriating in full employment and down payments on the golden flood of comforts and conveniences... was helping to produce.

ALLERGIC The labor press and labor leaders continued to warn that the Eisenhower administration and its big business allies did not really like labor. But the rank and file was proving much less than responsive and was decidedly allergic to the charges.

Since then, Republican politicians and business men have mounted a steadily rising offensive against labor leaders and their unions. It was kicked off of course by the merger of the AFL and CIO, but it has spread none; steady and stable George Meany, the conciliatory senior statesman of the AFL, has been belabored as hard as the creative intellectual, Walter Reuther.

CREATING GEAR What the attackers may well be doing is helping to create the thing they fear, and what they fear is that union leaders can and do dominate their members politically in favor of the Democrats.

For a favorite legend of the Republicans says that these "leaders" enjoy union treasuries for democratic candidates and then drive their members to the polls to vote as directed.



JOHN L. LEWIS



GEORGE MEANY



JAMES P. MITCHELL



DWIGHT EISENHOWER

Behind The Shouting, Disproof And Conciliation.

As if the Republicans are "dropped" a few million dollars in our coffers and presented us with some of their TV time," one declared. "If we had said that this was how most Republicans felt about labor, it would have landed back with the corn cures. It's been a wonderful week."

NOT ACADEMIC A labor brainstrainer also felt relaxed. "Here I've been struggling to put the issues of the campaign in form so that our people would understand what we've been up against in this administration, and I was getting no-

where. We can forget the explanations. If someone is beating you over the head with a meat ax, the thing ceases to be academic. You know he doesn't like you and you aren't going to respond with any love or affection either."

ON SLAUGHTERS The Eisenhower secretary of labor, James P. Mitchell, has opposed from the start the violent GOP onslaught and the inclusive nature of such statements as that of Sen. Goldwater, chairman of the Republican Senate Campaign Committee. Goldwater accused labor leaders of plotting "a

conspiracy of national proportions." Mitchell continues to be conciliatory; his influence produced a cordial greeting to the New York merger meeting from President Eisenhower. But he has not been able to compete with the flood of GOP eloquence in the other direction.

A PUZZLE When it is considered that the party in power is in serious trouble in the farm areas, its apparent willingness to take on a bruising fight with another large segment of the voting population becomes even more puzzling.

Wake Forest's Honor Comes First

ONE element in the angry controversy over President Harold W. Tibbels' administration at Wake Forest College is apparently being hitherto ignored by the warring factions. That, if you will, is the essential dignity of a great institution of higher learning.

Surely it is of some value and importance in this dispute. To listen to the charges and countercharges tossed so recklessly about, few would guess it.

Yet the college's honor, its reputation as a place for the imaginative search for truth, is the one thing which must emerge from this unhappy dispute intact. It is more valuable by far than any of the personalities involved.

It can be argued that this is solely a Baptist matter and that no comment from outsiders is needed or desired.

Perhaps so. But Wake Forest has rendered such significant public service in the past and has dedicated itself so completely to the public good that it quite naturally becomes a subject of legitimate public concern. No institution of higher learning can divorce itself completely from the public conscience.

The real danger at Wake Forest lies in the unbridled bitterness among certain

alumni, trustees and "friends" of the college. It would be indeed tragic, if that bitterness were allowed to so disrupt the institution's operations that it could not successfully perform its proper mission.

The true basis of the present dispute has not been formally acknowledged. It is only guessed at. Actually, a combination of factors is to blame—football and religion among them.

The sore spots need to be healed promptly and with as little fuss and interference as possible. We mean interference from pressure groups of all kinds—politicians, alumni, benefactors, town-folk, people who want winning football teams, et al.

It must not be forgotten that the college student leans to make his commitments to freedom, democracy and liberal ideals by living in their presence.

Furthermore, the business of the college in modern society is to teach its students to develop a critical intelligence. This is an enterprise in which all kinds—connected with the college should be engaged—the trustees, the president, the administration, the faculty, the students.

Anything more—including the president's attitude toward the football and other trifes—is secondary.

Charlotte & Fluoridation: Gratification

CHARLOTTE, after weathering a mild flurry of opposition to fluoridation, can find deep satisfaction today in the results of the famous Newburgh-Kingston study.

Health leaders said flatly that this study, that 10-year human tests show that the addition of sodium fluoride to drinking water is a "safe and effective" way of sharply reducing tooth decay in children.

Furthermore, Dr. Herman E. Hilleboe, New York State health commissioner, announced that the study "has demonstrated beyond question of a doubt the effectiveness and safety of water fluoridation as a public health procedure."

It is a clear victory for men of science who have worked so long and diligently—often against rather shrill extremist hostility—to prove the value of health measures which will permit millions of youngsters to enjoy lifetime benefits.

The study that vindicated fluoridation so neatly was conducted in Newburgh and Kingston, N. Y. The town of Newburgh began adding a little sodium fluoride to its water 10 years ago while Kingston, a nearby town of equal size, did not. Doctors reported a 60 per cent reduction of decay and tooth loss in Newburgh without any harm to children.

Organized protests have resulted in fluoridation being voted out in some cities—including Greensboro in North Carolina. As Vic Reineimer, former associate editor of The News, wrote in The Reporter recently, opponents of the process charged that it was everything from rat poison to a Marxist plot.

Similarly absurd statements were made by fluoridation opponents in Charlotte. But public officials, bolstered by the firm support of local dental and medical leaders and civic organizations, held their ground admirably. Charlotte still has fluoridation and it can be glad it does.

Actually, the anti-fluoridation battle has not been very different from other scientific skirmishes in the nation's past. Every new scientific proposal must win public acceptance in a battle of ideas.

That was true with vaccination against smallpox, immunization against diphtheria, chlorination of water for safety, fortification of milk with vitamin D and enrichment of flour for bakery items.

But they do not exclude it. And what is now going on in Berlin looks suspiciously like the preliminary stage-setting for a blockade.

Months ago, former Ambassador to Moscow George Kennan predicted that just this sort of thing would happen, as the Soviet response to the silence of West Germany to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The Soviets would confer a phony sovereignty on East Germany, Kennan predicted. Then the East Germans would put pressure on West Berlin for two purposes.

First, the Western allies would be forced to protest to the Soviets, and these protests would be rejected on the grounds that East Germany was a sovereign state. The West would thus be humiliated, and the East Germans would be demonstrated for all Germans to see.

Second, the East Germans would use West Berlin as a hostage, to force West Germany to negotiate directly with the Communist protest regime. Thus the state would be set for what Europeans call "the dialogue Bonn-Pankow"—the direct negotiations on unification between the two Germans, on an equal basis, which the Soviets have long been making vain for.

Kennan began to look like a better than average prophet, the State Department experts also, if not too late risk a second blockade. But they do not exclude it. And what is now going on in Berlin looks suspiciously like the preliminary stage-setting for a blockade.

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Reds' German Puppet Casts Shadows Of New Blockade

By JOSEPH & STEWART ALSOP

WASHINGTON IT IS ENTIRELY possible that President Eisenhower may be faced, early in the coming election year, with the kind of decision which only a President can make. If the worst comes to the worst, he may have to decide between adopting the course which President Truman once seriously considered—ordering an armistice envoy to Berlin, with instructions to shoot if necessary.

Most of the experts in the State Department should be said, hopefully believe that the Soviets course, foresee that the Soviets might react in some such way. The question now is how far the East German puppets and their Soviet masters are prepared to go.

Most State Department experts believe that the Communists will adopt a policy of "maximum harassment." They will subject West Berlin to a series of pin-pricks, or even needle-pricks, holding up traffic, demanding excessive tolls, and so on. But they will not plunge in the dagger—they will not stop all traffic into Berlin, and thus impose a total blockade.

If the East Germans get too tough, it is pointed out, the West Germans can also get tough. East Germany is still heavily dependent on West German coal and steel. Last spring the East Germans threatened punitive tolls on traffic to West Berlin. The Bonn government ostentatiously reduced shipments of coal and steel to East Germany. And suddenly the East Germans began sending a far milder tune.

But that is not the only reason for the delicate situation in the State Department. Too much toughness could unite all West Germany, which the Soviets have been at pains to woo, firmly behind the policies of Chancellor Konrad Adenauer. It could revive the faltering fortunes of NATO. Finally, a total blockade of Berlin involves a clear risk of war.

Despite the recent hardening of the Soviet line, the American experts remain convinced that the Kremlin does not want to risk war. The risk of war would be greater in 1948. After the first blockade of the Western Allies pledged their national honor to the defense of Berlin. Even the instinctive appeasers in Paris, London and Washington for the matter—are fully aware that to abandon Berlin would be Munich a thousand times over.

ALL GREAT religions, in order to escape absurdity, have to admit a dilution of sanctities. It is only the savage, whether of the African bush or of the American gopher tent, who pretends to know the will and intent of God exactly and completely. "For who hath known the mind of the Lord, asked Paul of the Romans? Who hath comprehended his judgments, and His ways past finding out?" It is the glory of God," said Solomon, "to conceal a thing." "Clouds and darkness," said David, "are around Him." "No man," said the preacher, "can find out the work of God." The difference between religions is a difference in their relative content of agnosticism. The most satisfying and estate faith is almost purely agnostic. It trusts absolutely without professing to know at all.

FROM "THE VINTAGE MENCKENS," EDITED BY ALINTAR CODE.

WASHINGTON LATEST medical report on the President's health has deepened the conviction among the old-time wing of the Republican Party, now led by Sen. Knowland, that it would be extremely difficult to replace Eisenhower at the age of 61. It has also deepened their suspicion that Dewey, after the House are stalling for time, may not want to run for again but to groom their own candidate.

Little Strain Newsmen who have covered the President both at Denver and Gettysburg know that he has been subjected to very little strain. And he shouldn't have been worried. He was positively inactivated. It now develops that he was inactivated of few problems. And that Cabinet members who want to see him do not discuss such matters as the walk-out of the French from the United Na-

tion's or the basic problems of the Geneva foreign ministers conference. While there have been two Cabinet and Security Council meetings since the President came East, the schedule aside from this had been light to the point that one old friend who was a house guest at Gettysburg found life restless and a bit irritable.

All this is natural. In fact it's natural that a man who suffers an "acute" heart attack at the age of 61 must go through a long period of convalescence, and that Dr. Snyder when he reported "fatigue" obviously was telling the truth.

Suspicion The people who may not have been telling the truth, however, suggest some of the Knowland leaders are those who have been making it appear that he is

hunting, fooling around with tractors driving ponies and has almost rendered the active routine of the terrific job of being president of the United States. It's this Madison Avenue all-normal propaganda by the palace guard that really irks GOP quarters plus the fact that Chairman Len Hall had a much more important conference with Tom Dewey as to whether Ike was going to run again than he did with himself.

Left Hand The job of being President of the United States can't be done with the left hand, points out one thoughtful wing of the GOP, and those Republicans who criticized the Democrats for letting the nation drift downhill during the illness of Woodrow Wilson should be the first to recognize it.

Fire & Fuel: Always Dangerous

COLD weather's dangerous companions, carelessness and fire, are taking a frightening toll in Charlotte. Within the last five days one person has died, one has been hospitalized, and three others, including an expectant mother and a three-year-old child, had to jump from a second story window of a burning home to save their lives. One dwelling has been destroyed, two damaged and others endangered. One fire was caused by pouring kerosene on hot coals, another by spilling kerosene on a floor near a heater, a third by a defective flue and an overheated stove.

The Fire Department has a long list of rules covering the filling, placement and adjustment of heaters and furnaces. The list boils down to a catalogue of common sense. Although these winter holocausts often are caused by and victimize persons too young, too old or too infirm to exercise precautions, carelessness is not limited to this group. Indeed it is traceable to their guardians.

A destructive fire can break out in any home. It is most likely to occur where people assume it won't and do not treat heating mechanisms and fuel with the respect and caution these items demand—the penalty of terrible retaliation.

FROM THE GREENSBORO DAILY NEWS

The Pine Is A Part Of Christmas

WE are glad to see some pines in the Christmas tree around town. The eye that sized up the decorations did not reckon their strength for raffers or joists. They were cut only because they were beautiful, and all they had to hold up is tinsel and tiny lights.

This season brings a kind of justice to the pine, we think. At Christmas to be green is enough for a tree to be. The pine is green in spring, but the willow's green is pale spring green, the oak's glossy, and roseleaf green is touched with red. The pine is green in summer, too, but not the broad, enveloping green that blots out places for people to sit and

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following delicacies which are not to be matched by those of any state, district or nation on earth: Hams, bacon, chitterlings, turkey, hens, fryers, capons, guineas, ducks, geese, shad, herring, assorted roes, scallops, oysters, shrimp, flounder, trout (Brook, Brown and Rainbow), venison, rabbit, bear and opossum.

You will not hear a clamor about North Carolina Ham and North Carolina Flounder and the like in the marts. While we do enjoy raising and consuming the best of foods, it is not in the Tar Heel nature to prate and preen—and we know well that to start a stampee might deprive us of vittles, some of these.

We make some concessions. Maryland has us whipped for crabs, South Carolina for rice and oysters, and Virginia for good, dependable fatback. Otherwise, we claim supremacy in all.

FROM THE GREENSBORO DAILY NEWS

WE'RE THE BEST

JUST when we felt that we'd bust at one further bit of arrogance from Virginians, South Carolinians, and other less pretentious neighbors along came succor.

In far and non-partisan Cleveland, O., the other day a national frozen food packer outfit put out a country ham contest. Of the ten first prizes, nine were won by Tar Heel hams.

Scarce had the echoes died away when we heard of the American Pheasant Society presenting its Master Breeder Award to a Winston-Salem couple.

Thus bolstered, we could smirk at a claim by an Atlanta newspaper that the Georgia turkey is by all odds the world's finest. We can even stomach the disdainful grocery advertisements in behalf of the double-breasted turkey developed in Maryland.

North Carolina, we say, produces the

People's Platform

Christmas Cheer Hangs In The Attic

Editors, The News: Charlotte

WHAT would you do if you had a million dollars? A popular TV show reveals what certain fictitious persons do with a million unexpected dollars. A number of friends have told me of all the good they would do if they had a million dollars.

IN AND OUT Many will say they'd get much out of Christmas. Honest self-examination will reveal that they don't put much into it. Those who get the most out of the season are not those who give the most of money; they are those who give the most of themselves.

Each of us can give something that someone else needs. How unfortunate it is that there are many thousands cold at Christmas time while there hangs useless in thousands of attics enough cast off clothes to keep them warm. We all plan to put these clothes to good use some day. But unless something comes up to decide to give them,

will be of no use to anything except molds. Surely, the spirit of Christmas ought to move us to let nothing lie in the attic through Christmas when there is someone in need of it. If you know of no other agency that can use such clothing, the Salvation Army would gladly receive it.

THE FAILURE We fail to give ourselves because those who need it are the poor, the invalids, the blind, are not likely to live next door to those who would be able to help them. We need to seek out such persons through such agencies and institutions who are concerned about them.

What a wonderful time this is Christmas season when most of those in Christian lands unashamedly subscribe to the exceptional kindness, concern and goodwill that prevail.

A BLESSING How many are they who have said, "What a wonderful thing it would be if all could keep the spirit of Christmas in their hearts through all the year!" But it is a blessing that the human heart, even if for no more than a season, can be so kindly disposed toward others.

It would be a wonderful thing if each who helps some person in distress at Christmas would stand by that person throughout the year. Most of the world's heaviest burdens would be lifted if each person who is able would resolve throughout the year to stand by first one person who is in distress. This policy of One-For-One would make bearable most of human suffering.

Yes, what would you do if you had a million? And what would I do if I had a million? As for myself, I have made some resolves for this Christmas time, and hope that I may live to renew them when another Christmas comes around.

—HOWARD K. ALLEN

Quote, Unquote

Alfred E. Smith — "All the ills of democracy can be cured by more democracy." H. L. Mencken — "Conscience is the inner voice that warns us somebody may be looking."

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round Medical Report Suggests Ike Won't Run

WASHINGTON LATEST medical report on the President's health has deepened the conviction among the old-time wing of the Republican Party, now led by Sen. Knowland, that it would be extremely difficult to replace Eisenhower at the age of 61. It has also deepened their suspicion that Dewey, after the House are stalling for time, may not want to run for again but to groom their own candidate.

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