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Try Again, Friend - You Almost Won That Time

Democrats Reduced To Cry Of 'Me Too, But More So'

By JOSEPH & STEWART ALSOP

Sen. Scott And The Timber Cutters

THE GOP, it appears, has seriously underestimated the hard-headedness of Sen. Kerr Scott. His debut this week as congressional investigator was met by a fusillade of brickbats hurled by Republican colleagues on a joint Senate-House committee Scott is directing in an investigation of an alleged Interior Department giveaway of public lands timber in Oregon to a private mining firm.

We expect and hope these taunts will spur the Tar Heel's determination to get to the bottom of what appears to be some very tricky business in the Interior Department. The known circumstances justify an investigation and, if anything, the GOP reaction makes these circumstances all the more suspicious.

At Sarena mines of Mobile, Ala., was awarded a mining claim two years ago in Oregon National Forest on the basis of an assay report giving a \$2.06 per-ton value in silver and gold to the land, after having a claim to the same land denied in 1949 because an assay report from the same firm showed the land's mineral value was only 87 cents a ton, a value insufficient to justify awarding the claim.

The question then is whether a phony assay report was turned in so the mining company could be awarded the claim which entitles it to cut timber.



Looking Ahead Will The GOP Ditch Nixon?

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON - The two Presidents' theory will first of all overcome Ike's own objections to running again and, second, overcome any public doubts about a candidate for the presidency who has suffered a heart attack.

WARREN FRAISE - Republican National Chairman Leonard Hall has said that if President Eisenhower runs again, Nixon would gain by his running mate. The President has several times gone out of his way to bestow warm praise on his vice president.



MR. NIXON In Doublet

SMILING CONFIDENCE - If a growing precedent means anything, he could well be around Washington at twice his present age. Sen. Theodore F. Green (D-R.I.) who was re-elected last fall, is 88.

DEWEY'S ENEMIES - But Dewey is not close to President Eisenhower, the relationship being on an official basis. For the two presidents to work in real harmony, mutual trust and friendship between them would be important.

A Senator Concerned With Courage

THE most exclusive club in the world, it is a sobriquet full of pride and honor for members of the club, the U. S. Senate. Yet there is contention, historically rooted and still flourishing, that the nickname is negative, meaning the Senate is a place where political courage, resolution and ideals are barred; where the way to get along is to go along, even if it means going all ways at once in seasons of mixed and fierce political winds.

One of the countless drawbacks of being in Congress is that I am compelled to receive important letters from a jackass like you in which you say someplace you have the Sierra Madre mountains reforested and I have been in Congress two months and haven't done a thing.

His examples are those of men who refused to rise above their principles, as one Colorado senator once advised another, to catch the plaudits of voters swept by some popular frenzy that had alienated them temporarily from their own principles.

This Wonderful World Of Science

A FEW notes on this imperfect world of science: The Mexican bean beetle is beginning to make meat out of rotenone, the poison it's fed by farmers. It likewise appears the cabbage worm is getting used to DDT.

BARTERED BRIDES

IN MANY parts of the world, so we hear, the rising price of brides is turning young men's fancy into financial nightmares. In eastern Nigeria, the National Geographic reports, buying a bride has become so expensive that a government committee is considering a program of rationing and price control. Fifty five years ago a tall comely bride might cost her husband about \$50, an ugly maid would be available for three ducats.

Drew Pearson's Merry-G-Round Moonshiners Today's Big Business

Editors' Note-Drew Pearson recently participated in a federal raid on a moonshiner's still in southwest Virginia. Yesterday he told about the organization of the raid. Today he continues with the story of the raid itself.

IT'S surprising how still it is back in the Virginia mountains. No automobiles, no factory whistles, no radios, not even dog barking. All you could hear was a very faint 'put-put' of a motor down below, which Walter Elmore, chief revenue agent for southwest Virginia, explained was operating the moonshiner's pump, inside in the old apple-packing barn.

Eerie Stillness - Not a soul was stirring around the barn or anywhere in the valley, and in that eerie stillness Elmore and I descended the mountain ridge.

Quick Capture - Suddenly there was a shout. The advance revenue agents had gone into the barn five minutes early and the moonshiners made a break out through the rear. They ran right into the arms of Cecil Kline and Donald McLean, who had skinned the ridge and come down in June.

Too Long - "How long does it take to build a still like that?" I asked. "Too long," he said, gazing ruefully at his 600-gallon baby.

THE DEMOCRATS are being ailing to feel rather like the butt of the classic old swimming hole joke. While they have been having the dispiriting themselves in the water, shouting merrily to each other about the fine prospect of 1956, the Republican administration has stealthily made off with all their clothes.

The administration, in short, has been a downright brilliant job of aborting every major Democratic issue. Consider a typical example.

Farm Issue. This was to be, of course, the Democrats' biggest single issue for 1956. Until very recently, the Democratic dream of the future was clear. They would pass a farm bill restoring fixed 90 per cent of parity, and giving the farmers all sorts of other goodies, like special "soil banks" payments for keeping their land out of production.

HUMPHREY'S GRIP - It may work out that way. The farm issue is certainly still the most dangerous of the administration's major issues. But the administration has taken over the soil bank idea, and other ideas first advanced by Democratic farm leaders. Humphrey, principal Democratic farm policy idea man, complains loudly that "They're stealing my babies."

Moreover, the administration is playing its trump card on the farm issue - President Eisenhower. Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Benson is political poison in the farm areas. But the President himself is still immensely popular with the farmers.

FRONT AND CENTER - The administration plan now is to have the President move front and center on the farm issue, selling the administration program, and above all persuading the farmers that the Democrats' fixed parity program will pile up higher surpluses and depress prices still further. A nationwide presidential telecast devoted entirely to the farm issue is being seriously considered. And there are signs of doubtfulness already among several Democrats about the vote-getting potentialities of high fixed parity.

Taxes. The administration has the Democrats nicely boxed in on the tax issue. The President has sternly said that a balanced budget bill must be passed before any tax relief. The Democrats strongly suspect a plot. They think that, along about June, there will be a jubilant announcement from the Treasury - that due to brilliant economic management, a surplus, perhaps as high as \$4 billion, is in sight for the 1957 budget. Therefore, the voters will be pleased to hear, a balanced budget, debt reduction, and a nice dollop of tax reduction too will all be possible.

People's Platform Poor Sportsmanship

Charlotte - I HAD the misfortune of attending the basketball game Tuesday night, Jan. 10, between Harding High School and a state school. The students acted as much like heas as any animal you could bring from the jungle. He was even spat on the players. East everyday they came down the court.

-JACK W. MOCK

Job Offer Fermenting Mass

Afterward my wife asked me if I had offered them a job on my farm in Maryland. I had to confess that I had. It was obvious that someone else had put up the money for their operation. For about two tons of sugar was stacked in the barn. There were also a hundred or so five-gallon tin cans and a good many dozen one-gallon tins. No mountain can afford that set-up.

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Fermenting Mass - The still was a big wooden job with oil drums made into boiler to supply the steam. Vats full of mash were fermenting, ready to be piped in through the rear.

Too Long - "How long does it take to build a still like that?" I asked. "Too long," he said, gazing ruefully at his 600-gallon baby.

Honest Moonshiners

This may sound unusual. But I learned from Col. Tom Bailey, chief alcohol tax enforcement officer, that the moonshiner in the hills of Virginia or the South is a man of his word.

Fast As Jack Rabbits - Most of them can run like jack rabbits. They run right up the mountain, and our men have to go to catch them. Once I was chasing a moonshiner and told him to surrender.

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Courageous - You don't hear the hurrahs and banners about Dwight Davis, the Alcoholic Tax Unit that you do about J. Edgar Hoover. But he and his men do just as efficient and just as courageous a job. Many have been killed, many more wounded. They don't have enough funds to spend or enough personnel to operate, which is why the men on our raid were working about 60 hours a week. Some of them had been up all night.

SEN. HUMPHREY 'They're Stealing My Babies'

The suspicion that this is what the administration is up to amounts to a firm conviction among many shrewd Democrats. But what are they to do? If they try to beat the gun with tax reduction now, they will be accused of fiscal irresponsibility and unbalancing the budget.

Education. Here again, the Democrats thought they had a winning issue for 1956, and in the House they have secured a big education bill. But here again the administration is ready to box them in with its \$1,250,000,000 program. On this issue, moreover, the Democrats are in a particularly frustrating position - an attack on the New York, is prepared to introduce an anti-segregation amendment which would almost certainly kill the bill.

'ME TOO'

And so it goes. The road construction and social security issues have been largely aborted in the same way. It is impossible, of course, to predict what issues time and the course of events will produce. Let the Communist bloc make an aggressive move - an attack on the Chinese offshore islands, for example - and the now dormant defense and foreign policy issues will dominate this election year. But for the moment, by the simple expedient of adopting large-scale social programs, the administration has shouted, "Me too, but more so."