

# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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## —IKE'S FUTURE: THE 'IFS' AND 'BUTS'—

# The President Looks Well, But The Statistics Are Grim

BY THE ALSOP'S

THE first general press conference since the President's heart attack was a decidedly reassuring occasion.

Despite Eisenhower's looking well, his color was good. His grin was as infectious as ever. He was treated lightly by his questioners, yet he handled the questions with the sure mastery that he has gradually developed since the early days when press conferences were so obviously grave ordeals for the President.

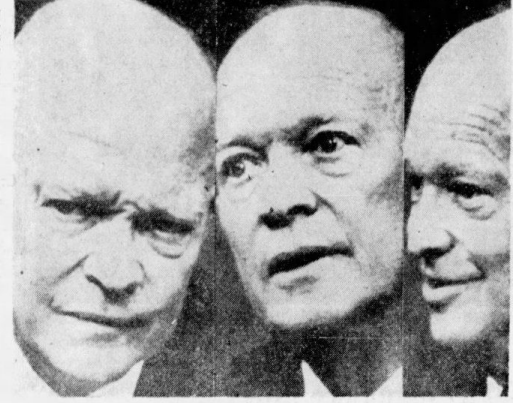
To be sure, the President seemed to lack a little of his old bounce and fast-firing energy when he entered the crowded chamber. The pouches under his eyes were noticeably heavier. The eyes themselves, who did not laugh or smile, seemed restless and even a little troubled. Yet the total impression conveyed was one of vigor and assurance.

With a difficult year ahead, in which governmental paralysis could be appallingly dangerous, it was deeply encouraging to see the President with his hand again firmly on the helm.

But it is quite another question whether the impression should also reassure the Republican leaders and all the millions of voters who so strongly hope that the President will decide to run again.

The distinction between Eisenhower's present state and his future great decision was underlined, as it were, by his telegrams permitting his analysis to be entered in the New Hampshire primary. Careful study should be given to the language that he said about his own condition, which is as follows:

**STRONGER TONES**  
 "It would be idle to pretend that my health can be wholly restored to the excellent state in



PRESIDENT AT PRESS CONFERENCE  
 His Vigor And Eyes Nod

which the doctors believed it to be in mid-September (just before the attack) . . . My future life must be carefully regulated to avoid excessive fatigue. My reason for obedience to the medical authorities are not solely personal. I must obey them out of respect for the responsibilities I carry."

Here, once again, and in even stronger tones, was the same note the President had struck in the special conference on his health that he granted the small group of reporters at Key West.

The President is asking himself, and what he asks his doctors when they complete their final check-up. He will ask, not whether he is out of the immediate woods, but whether a man in his condition is likely to survive the heavy pressures of the Presidency for another full term.

**GRIM QUESTION**  
 Q-I is a grim question, not easy or pleasant to discuss. The most authoritative study, based on case histories of 300 cardiac patients, seems to have been made by Doctors David R. Cole, Evelyn B.

Stigman and Louis N. Katz of the Medical Research Institute of Chicago's Michael Reese Hospital. "The U. S. News and World Report" has recently recurred the Cole-Stigman-Katz statistics to tabular form.

The table shows that a man of the President's age, who has a successfully passed the first months of acute danger immediately after his heart attack, then has five chances in eleven of living more than five years—which means five chances in eleven of seeing out a full second term in the President's case. The chances must be somewhat further weighted against the President, curiously enough, because he did not attack while resting. But his excellent state of general health and his fine recovery constitute even higher items on the favorable side of the balance.

**BEST ANSWER**  
 Old statistical terms, this is the best available answer to the President's big question. It seems likely that the Cole-Stigman-Katz statistics are not fully accepted, or at least are differently interpreted by the President's civilian heart specialist, Dr. Paul Dudley White.

But it can be stated on positive authority that the eminent Army heart specialist, Dr. Thomas E. Mattingly, does not make so light of the permanent impairment caused by a heart attack as published statistics would permit. Dr. White has recently done in public what Whitey has done in private.

**NEW TWIST**  
 These facts, in turn, give a somewhat new twist to the repeated news that Dr. Stigman of the President's chief political advisers, that he will certainly run again "if his health permits." For he certainly is always carefully conditional; and it is very clear from the statistics cited that his "if" is considerably bigger than most people have come to suppose.

## The Big Stall: A Political Disgrace

TAR HEELS who still nurse a certain threadbare faith in representative government welcome the Raleigh report that wheels are moving again on the matter of reapportionment in the state's General Assembly. Dean Carroll W. Weathers of the Wake Forest Law School, chairman of the Commission on Legislative Reapportionment, has announced that he will be asked to receive public testimony March 15 on how reapportionment can best be accomplished.

The dean's invitation is just and proper. But the formula for redistributing House seats and redistricting the state for Senate seats is spelled out in great detail in the state constitution (Article II, Sections 3-6). Application of the formula will require more than a little toil. But unfortunately the major problem is how to convince state legislators that they should obey the constitutional mandate. It is a duty these gentlemen have ignored for more years than we like to remember.

The constitution provides in crystal-clear language (i.e., "each senate district shall contain as near as may be an equal number of inhabitants") for equitable distribution of legislative seats after each federal census. The rural bloc in control of the General Assembly has not been willing to risk reapportionment for it would surely mean that it would lose its powerful grip on legislation.

Yet present circumstances violate the fundamental concept on which constitu-

tional government is founded—that of majority rule.

Furthermore, present circumstances allow the 197,052 persons in the 29th Senatorial District (Mecklenburg) only one state senator while the 105,177 people of the Second Senatorial District have two.

The creation of the Weathers commission was part of a legislative stall. During the last session, there was a valiant effort on the part of Sen. F. J. Blythe of Mecklenburg to have a commission of legislators to draw up a redistricting plan. A legislative commission was indeed appointed but it was packed with members from the rural counties. Only one, Sen. Claude Currie of Durham, came from a district containing a populous metropolitan area. After several months of deep thought, the group shrugged off its responsibility by recommending that another study commission be appointed to report to the 1957 General Assembly. Sen. Currie filed a lone dissent.

Legislators stalled in 1951, after 1950 census figures were in. They stalled in 1953. They stalled again in 1955. In 1954, the people defeated decisively a constitutional amendment limiting every Tar heel county to one senator. But the legislature was unimpressed.

It is a shameful record. It is to be hoped that Dear Weathers and his commission will help to make the nature of the shame unbarably obvious to one and all.

## Farm Problem: Remember The Ratliffs

THE Mississippi farm boy who won national attention last week for growing a corn crop summed up the plight of the small farmer better than could a bushel of statistics on parity, surplus, acreage allotments, and cost-price ratios.

"I think I'd like to be a doctor," said Lamar Ratliff. "There's no money in farming."

He meant there's no money in farming a 170-acre hill farm like his father's, walking between plowshares behind a mule named Dolly. There's no money for that kind of farming, not even for a boy who had the energy and interest to raise the yield on a patch of sandy loan from 30 bushels to 304.38 bushels in a space of six years. The small farmer, of course, has never made any real money, but with the government spending billions on agriculture he should be sharing in the general prosperity the country is enjoying.

The fact that he isn't so sharing has created a standing-room-only situation at the political walling wall. It also is decreasing the number of small farm families. Some exceptional youngsters like Lamar Ratliff will become doctors. The majority must be integrated into some form of industry.

If the trend toward absorbing the 50-acre to 200-acre farm into mechanized agricultural factories continues, making

small farm families into urban job-seekers, a record of disaster has been ripped out of the fabric of America. That something will be a point of view, a certain theory of self-reliance, a method of raising children, a way of life that produces Lamar Ratliffs. The change may be too late to reverse.

But until necessity or inevitability is determined, the vast federal agricultural programs ought to be better adjusted to the pressing needs of the small farmer. Soil banks are fine for farmers who have enough acres to put some in the bank. Price supports keep the larger production-type farms solvent. But all the systems so far devised put a premium on largeness. As Congressman Jonas pointed out in his Report From Washington last week, one giant farm operation in Mississippi received \$1,346,000 in cotton price-support loans, as compared with the \$400 received by the average farmer there. The big farms get most of the price support money. They also pile the surplus higher and higher, which is the root problem of the whole farm dilemma.

It has now become a political and economic necessity to try to rescue the farmer by a little more money. The squeeze. The busy congressional tinkers should not forget people like the Ratliff family in Mississippi. There are a lot of them—all over.

# Current Political Drama First Played 16 Years Ago

By MARQUIS CHILDS

ALTHOUGH Republicans do not like to be reminded of it, the strategy presently being employed by the political managers around President Eisenhower holds the door open for a second term should he decide to run or to insure the selection of a hand-picked candidate if he does not.

It would be surprising if the strategy that led up to Franklin Roosevelt's third term.

**A PREOCCUPATION**  
 The atmosphere in Washington today is reminiscent of 16 years ago when the quiet preoccupation was on how to win the election. Then, as now, there were those in the party in power who felt a strong desire to avoid a second term. The atmosphere in Washington today is reminiscent of 16 years ago when the quiet preoccupation was on how to win the election. Then, as now, there were those in the party in power who felt a strong desire to avoid a second term.

mean to make himself a dictator. FARLEY ROLE. But there are close parallels, too. Senator William Knowland of California is today playing something like the role of James A. Farley in 1940. Farley sought in various ways to get a declaration of intention from the President.

Knowland first wanted President Eisenhower to make his decision by the end of this month. Then he compromised on Feb. 15. But it now appears that D-day—decision day—is not likely before the end of March.

**BOMB-SHELL**  
 The Roosevelt strategy to produce a third-term "draft" continued with no public statement from the President right up to the party conventions. The Republicans met first, and three days before they assembled in Phila-

delphia FDR dropped a bomb shell. He brought two prominent Republicans into his cabinet—Frank Knox, who had been the GOP vice presidential candidate in 1936, to be Secretary of Navy, and Henry L. Stimson, who had been Herbert Hoover's Secretary of State, to be Secretary of War.

The justification was the growing threat of Nazi conquest with all of Europe fallen before Hitler's legions. But for embittered Republicans this was no excuse and they emitted cries of rage and frustration arising from coast to coast.

**A DEMO VP**  
 Following the same strategy the Republicans might enlist a prominent Democrat to run as vice President with Mr. Eisenhower. Such a possibility is not being overlooked by those around the President who believe that the Republican will be persuaded to seek a second term. There would not be the excuse of a threatening war. But the continuing struggle with communism and the need for national unity would provide a sufficient backdrop for such a move.

"ish" to run, but it was perfectly evident that he was ready for the "draft" which had been successfully engineered by the GOP vice presidential candidate. But his silence, or, rather, by his skill in evading any definite answer, has played his part. As most commentators noted at the time, if he had not accepted he would have thrown the party into chaos. In short, the gaining action made the third-term nomination inevitable.

There is no reason to believe that the strategists around President Eisenhower have taken a leaf out of the Roosevelt book. They are in a hurry to make his renomination of Roosevelt a foregone conclusion before the delegates ever assembled. If President Eisenhower is persuaded from running again by his doctor's orders it will be more difficult to substitute the personal choice of the White House. But the strategists of '56 are working shrewdly and resourcefully toward that goal.

## Boodle-Talk Vs. A Quest For Certainty

AMERICANS with tender sensibilities may as well head for the storm cellar now. The high winds of extravagant earthly political verbiage have already commenced—and will last six months before the season was scheduled to open.

All last week, Democrats and Republicans volleyed and bumpered at each other with reckless abandon. This week dawned on the same crude note.

So far, Stevenson has been called "cowardly," Truman a "demagogue," Dulles a "desperate gambler," Kefauver a "city slicker in buckskin clothing," and Eisenhower has been described as the man who would turn the White House into a "home for retired old soldiers."

In fact, the level of name-calling has already reached the depths of political phrase-making sometimes described as "boodle-talk" by its slinkier practitioners. These later day Titus Oateses operate on the theory that the voters always believe the worst. The idea is to dazzle the voters with words they don't understand, particularly words that have a faintly evil ring.

"Boodle-talk" was fashioned into high art by the supporters of Florida's Sen. Smathers when he was campaigning against Claude Pepper in the cracker belt. A brief setting-up exercise in the morning for a Smathers man, describing Mr. Pepper, sounded like this: "You know what are you aware that he is known all over Washington as a shameless extrovert? Not only that, but this man is reliably reported to have practiced nepotism with his sister-in-law and he has a sister who was once a companion in New York. He matrimoniated with co-eds at the university, and it is an established fact that before his marriage he habitually practiced celibacy."

ermment, individual liberty, tax reduction, the flag, democratic ideals (and in the South) Anglo-Saxon culture.

The bad words—taxes, welfare state, runaway inflation, Communists, appeasement, big government, creeping socialism, bossism, handouts, give-aways (and in the South) intermarriage.

The only happy aspect of the whole noisy business is that the people—some of them, at least—are showing signs of getting fed up. During the last presidential election, THE REPORTER magazine took an informal poll among television owners and viewers in New York and some of the reactions are worth reviewing.

Said a fat man in a candy store: "They're all a bunch of crooks, makes no difference who gets in. We're still loused up. When you have to work for a living, nothing can change anything."

Said a fat woman: "That stuff drives me mad. . . I shut the damn thing off. They can make a fool even of a man like Eisenhower!"



It's a delegation of mothers with their own list of 'favorite son' candidates!

## Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

DESPITE President Eisenhower's statement that his health never would permit him to be as vigorous as before, Republican congressional leaders continue to be optimistic that he will run again.

## Civil Rights Secrecy

Senator Douglas of Illinois has withdrawn his threat to attach an anti-lynching rider to the natural gas bill. The Senate parliamentary wars him that any civil rights amendments would be thrown out as not germane to natural gas. The little bloc of civil rights congressmen is getting more secret about its backstage battles than Ike was about Adolphe Wemel's operation inside Dixon-Valley. Those who met in Congress-

man Hugh Scott's office to discuss an anti-lynching bill recently were Jimmy Roosevelt, Charlie Diggs, Negro congressman from Detroit, John Dingell, newly elected Democrat from Detroit; and Dick Bolling, Kansas City Democrat; as the following Republicans: Tom Foley (Wash.), John Hession (Mass.), Ellis Scott. Their guarded statements afterward sounded as if they had been discussing the latest natural gas bill. Worst diehard opposing any civil rights legislation is Congressman Foster of Georgia, the key spot on the Judiciary Committee.

## People's Platform

### Santa Claus Forgot Professional Men

THE NEW Year's resolutions of the professional men of the nation are going to have to blow that town called Washington. You couldn't get a better edit for a captioned "San. Ives," surrounded by a slogan.

I will put that by saying that when the professional men of the nation and a good part of the so-called free world which has been Santa Claus' gift to some 500 million since the close of World War II.

**RIDING HIGH**  
 If I had the power of divination, might offer some substantial advice to the people of this nation. As it is, all I can say, we are riding high, wide and handsome and most likely for an awful fall. Anyway, nothing like it has ever been seen before.

Washington Santa Claus has hit us in the middle 30s. I thought it would soon abate and things would become normal. But it has grown all out of comprehension and it is still going strong. When I review the last 40 years and recall some of the things I stood up against the tide or mania. I see Albert C. Ritchie, governor of Maryland for five consecutive terms, as the last to

live. He taxed the people of his state to carry it relief loads until he found that all the other states had fallen for the Washington brand of Santa Claus, and then he gave up and retired from public life, knowing that the end of state respect and sovereignty was at hand.

Today we turn to Washington for relief from the most trivial trouble. It is utterly disgusting to one who wishes to think of his state as being an independent entity and an indestructible state, as Webster conceived the states to be in his great reply to the compact concept or theory of the Union.

The war did not destroy the states. It merely settled the irresolvable of the Union. Leadership, without virility and vision, has reduced the states to virtual impotency. This has characterized what we have had as leadership for the past 50 years, and here it is again to be gained by us. We have sinned away our day of grace.

But we like to know how it has happened that lawyers and some other professional men have been overlooked by the great when the Santa Claus gifts, distribution of gifts labeled "old-age benefits?" By age, I am qualified.

—JOHN W. HESTER

The good words—Free enterprise, the American way of life, constitutional gov-

## GOP Holds Hazy Optimism About Ike

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Rivalry between the supposedly unified Army, Navy and Air Force now has extended to the St. Paul Ice Carnival.

Naval daredevils are planning to steal the show from Air Force daredevils at the ice carnival. This is the first time that Air Force Thunders Jets, an aerial acrobatic team, to demonstrate precision flying during the carnival. Though the Air Force wants to cooperate, dignitaries in the Defense Department turned invitation down. Meanwhile, the Navy's daredevil team is ready to beg, didn't bother to ask the Defense Department for permission, but went ahead and agreed to stage aerial acrobatics for the ice carnival.