

Stubborn Adlai

By DORIS FLEESON

TIMBERLINE LODGE, Ore. Adlai Stevenson finally got out of the civil rights controversy for a while, but he had to fall down a 35-foot crevice on the slopes of Mount Hood to achieve his aim.

In the hour-long struggle back to the road and then to this snow-banked lodge, Stevenson and his companions had time neither for thought nor conversation. Fortunately, none was hurt when the "snow cat" in which they were riding turned over three times and plunged downward.

This being so, the Stevenson aides welcomed his physical re-

will make just solutions possible.

"The reason alone that will determine our continuous rate of progress," he said in a carefully thought-out statement over the weekend, "is any and every act by Roy Wilkins, influential Negro leader, sway him.

Stevenson temperately replied that he had never suggested gradualism as Wilkins seemed to think, his face red, and his eyes rights do not necessarily secure them. That is our problem."

Stevenson also believes he is playing the role of statesman and will in the end gain by it. Anyway, they know they are not going to change him. They are aware that his opposition will portray his move as mere politics designed not to alienate southern support at the national convention.

It comes as a blow to Stevenson that passion seems to be rising so rapidly. A few weeks ago he was convinced that the moderates on both sides were in control, that the moderate Negro leaders nor discredited Dixiecrats would be able to see the headlines.

He is particularly distressed that Virginia should have joined "interposition" forces and lent her prestige to that movement. He is sure that some Negro leaders whose trust he thought he enjoyed should now be distrust-

Stevenson is not so detached personally as his calm utterances indicate. He is angry about some press accounts, he is disgusted at the timidity of some politicians he vigorously battles in private against what he thinks of as expediency on the question: Can Stevenson be induced to give assurances of federal intervention in the South which Negro leaders appear to want?

The candidate has refused to budge from his steadfast position of moderation. To do otherwise, he thinks, is to encourage the emotionalism on both sides which



People's Platform

Emotion Is The Root Of Prejudice

Editor, The News: Charlotte

Reading letters from Mr. Hester when they appear in the Platform, I like to see his ideas clearly and vigorously with great style. It seems obvious, particularly in the South, that the Negro, also Negroes, are inferior and not fit for anything except servile status in our society—more abject emotional reaction.

DISEASE

Mr. Hester tells us that the University of Alabama riots are deplorable but that the reports they (including any commentary I might make, a usual) will make worse "any ugly situation." He seems to say that those of us who most deplore racial animosity "generally know nothing about the disease," and that our concern for "the fellows' problem"—actually, the concern is for the rights of every American citizen—is, as he says, "a response to an impulse of general eusedness." He thinks there is trouble in store for the South—it has been in store for a long time and is our own creation—because "busbodies from outside" are trying "to take over our social and civil liberties."

MOROCRACY

The riots on the campus of the University of Alabama certainly are deplorable. In fact, they present an intolerable situation, rule by morocracy, that must not be allowed to stand unchallenged. Now, would you laissez faire attitude of Mr. Hester bring about quiet on this campus so that any qualified citizen could study there in peace and in full enjoyment of his civil rights? Hardly. What, then, is the answer? Do we do—succumb to the intimidations of a little band of dihard crackpots and try to forget that which threatens the freedom of Everyman? In word, as in deed, we will constantly press the fight for the rights and freedoms of every citizen of this nation, and we will have truth and facts on our side to embarrass and to harass our opponents. We kindly advise every citizen of this nation to read the Platform and we will have truth and facts on our side to embarrass and to harass our opponents. We kindly advise every citizen of this nation to read the Platform and we will have truth and facts on our side to embarrass and to harass our opponents.

EXAMPLES

Race prejudice, nothing more than emotional reaction, is found among intelligent people. I regret to say. Sometimes a very intelligent person may recognize the prejudice and admit to it—but this is rare, indeed. Ordinarily, one does not seek and one does not find it in the aftermath of some highly personal, stormy emotional episode. I have intended that all canines were vicious and had no redeeming traits but that along came some mongrel long to risk its life while saving mine. This might show the attitude toward dogs derived from emotional reaction (perhaps by the thric-bit-

then) then the possibility in crisis to see the pure light of reason. It is implied that an emotional reaction has occurred! The Supreme Court acted within its function and authority when it first passed judgment on this doctrine (and found it constitutional); certainly, it still acts within its function and authority when it again judges the doctrine to decide upon its constitutionality. Also, slavery was an indefensible affront to humanity—just as segregation and discrimination affirm the principle of Americanism—even if the national conscience were aroused against it by inferior motivation rather than by true indignation at the enormity of its horror.

I contend that the American Negro and every other citizen should and must have first class citizenship in this country; otherwise, our nation is headed for ruin. "Ask not for whom the bell tolls, it tolls for thee." We cannot place a group of citizens in an inferior status and hold it there without holding ourselves down, too, and any public-sanctioned infamy committed against any individual or any group is a blow struck at your liberty and at mine. Can you doubt it? I say that Southerners must not be complacent about their attitude toward the Negro.

SHOES

We can clear our minds of some prejudice if we develop our power of imagination and our capacity for compassion. Imagine yourself in the Negro's shoes—how do you feel? How does the Golden Rule look from those shoes—worn out from too much walking on the white people's Look upon your fellow citizens who, by chance of birth, have black skins and who, by our design, are denied first class citizenship in this land. Then, avoid maudlin sympathy but seek to develop true compassion. Keep your rights but do not "stamp" all over other people and deny them their rights. Exercise as free Public life do as you want to and as you can. But leave me free, and leave everyone else free. Public life must not be one big private club with a set of highly privileged members, their servants to attend them, and the rest of the world kicked out as non-members. We trust God that we are equal in His regard, and we must have equality of citizenship in America.

—CARL VAN RENNEN

Civic Progress: Delay Can Be Costly

WHEN impatient citizens grumble about City Council procrastination, old political thugs around government square merely shrug their shoulders and philosophically quote Jimmy Durante: "Dem's da conditions dat prevail."

Da conditions seem to prevail more and more rather than less and less. Delay has become an expected and predictable complication wherever new policies are concerned.

The most glaring recent example involves seemingly endless postponements in the adoption of the subdivision control ordinance.

Enabling legislation was passed in early 1955. Municipal officials have been toiling over the details of the local ordinance for longer than they possibly like to remember—particularly the City-County Planning Commission. Public hearings have been advertised for a month or more. Details of the ordinance have been widely reported in the press and analyzed editorially. The Home Builders Association of Charlotte has cooperated publicly in ironing out the final wrinkles.

After putting off any action Feb. 8, the Council was finally ready to vote Feb. 15. But, tardily, bar association

representatives objected. A committee of attorneys—not appointed until Monday—requested four additional weeks to study the proposed ordinance because of certain "irregularities" which it may contain. Councilmen complained briefly but agreed to delay the matter until Feb. 29.

Meanwhile, it is open season in the wide area which the ordinance was designed to protect. The city has been advised, as Councilman Herbert H. Baxter phrased it, "that certain projects are moving to beat its effectiveness."

The ordinance is sound in principle. Granted, certain adjustments may be necessary. But these could have been handled in amendments. The bar association frankly admitted this. But the Council chose to file the whole issue for the future. This was done even after it was noted that adequate time had been allotted for objections.

If the ordinance had been passed the public's interest would be secure today. Furthermore important progress would have been made toward providing for the orderly expansion of Charlotte. Unfortunately, da conditions dat prevail can often become roadblocks to civic progress.

Richard Nixon: From Reds To Race

POLITICIANS and friends who want to give Richard M. Nixon a leg up on the GOP presidential nomination, barring an Eisenhower candidacy, have a reassuring line. The point of it is to convince independent voters that Mr. Nixon has matured in his role as vice president.

He has learned to avoid, they say, the partisan excesses and the stirring of hysteria he promoted in the '52 and '54 campaigns. He has absorbed some of the dignity and stature of Eisenhower and is qualified to replace him.

Isn't so. Examining Mr. Nixon's Lincoln Day speech in New York in which he thrust the race issue even deeper into the political campaign, the vice president's apologists either will have to desert him or revise their apologies.

The heart of the Nixon speech was an unmasked characterization of the Supreme Court's school decision as an instrument of Republican Party policy and, thus, an attempt to use that sensitive issue as bait for the pivotal Negro vote in urban areas.

It may be shrewd politics. Mr. Nixon's

will honed capacity in that area is undisputed. He recognizes the opportunity to widen the North-South split on the issue in the Democratic Party.

He would better have left that task to the eager attention of Averell Harriman, however.

President Eisenhower has spurned talk of coercion and force as methods of implementing the Supreme Court decision, and has asserted the need to keep the court removed in all aspects from politics. Adlai Stevenson has said the same thing in specific detail.

Theirs are the voices of reason and of recognition of the great potential of the race issue in national divisiveness and hysteria.

Mr. Nixon is widely recognized as the President's political spokesman. If that is so, the President should repudiate the Lincoln Day speech. He has had to reverse the vice president before, notably during the threatening crisis in Indonesia.

Mr. Nixon hasn't changed. He has merely jumped from the Red issue to the race issue.

A Few Arresting Officers, Please

"NO arrests were made." The line has been appearing with monotonous regularity in news accounts of Donnybrooks at scholastic athletic events—both in Charlotte and elsewhere.

A gang fight on Independence Square would evoke no such leniency on the part of law enforcement officers. No doubt about it—all of the participants would be hauled in to face criminal charges.

The subtle difference between preserving the peace in midtown and preserving the peace in a school gymnasium somehow escapes us.

Both are a threat to the public safety. The arrest and conviction of young hoodlums who insist on carrying inter-school rivalries to violent extremes might discourage the practice.

Tolerance, while laudable, also can be carried to extremes.

Down With The Do-Nothing Cross-Arms

ITS request for installation of lighted safety gates at the W. 5th St. railroad crossing must have been one of the easiest decisions City Council has made in some time.

To the Council's knowledge that six auto-train collisions, three involving injuries, had occurred there in the last five years was added results of a survey showing a traffic volume of almost 4,000 vehicles daily, and increasing.

There was only one thing to do—pro- duce Southern Railway toward putting up ade-

quate warning signals.

Now what about the 16th St. crossing, gentlemen? The accident records on that will show one death, at least. And what about wooden cross-arms in general? Aren't they all a little old hat in a modern city?

As we've said before, cross arms don't do anything. They don't blink. They don't sound. They don't even reflect headlights. They just stand there with their arms crossed, complacently.

Is Leap Year A New Deal Plot?

AMBROSE BIERCE was right. Our luxuries are always masquerading as necessities. And it appears that, currently, the nation's most lavish luxury is leap year.

The Tax Foundation Inc., expert worriers about such things as Uncle Sam's "Money-Go-Round," has now publicly viewed leap year with alarm. Its latest Tax Outlook took painful note of the fact that several government departments and agencies were careful to specify that their (1956) appropriations demands in-

cluded "one extra day's pay required in Leap Year."

In one case, it seems, this extra day's pay was calculated at \$12,566; in another, \$1,800; in another, \$1,500. Even the Capitol's Botanic Gardens requested \$770 under "personal service increases."

Obviously, the administration has shirked its duty by not demanding that the New Deal-Fair Deal calendar be replaced by a rock-ribbed conservative calendar with no boondoggling nonsense like extra paydays every four years.

Crazy For Cole

A Crooner's Happy Hereafter

By ROBERT C. RUARK

SYDNEY, Australia I suppose the world is getting around to the entertainment business called Nat Cole. He is the happy hereafter for the right people who want to make a quick buck with their tenails or other talents.

PACKS TEM IN But it is hard to believe unless you see it, and I have seen it with a singer called Nat Cole who is bigger here than the memory of Phar Lap. Cole, who sings soothingly and plays engagingly, is out here right now and it packs them in 15,000 strong for two shows a day at tickets ranging from three bucks a throw and no seats available on the weekend. He hauls 45,000 worshippers into his ken with an extra show.

NOT SINCE FRANKIE I haven't seen anything like the Cole reception since the kids went mad over Frank Sinatra. The moans and ohs and gushes and squeals sound like a jungle full of tree frogs. It needs cops to get him in and cart him out and his record sales caper as crazily as a dicky heart chart.

You can't turn on a radio without hearing Cole's dulcet tone. It was the same with Johnny Ray who wept and wailed his way to riches when he was here and many a other semi-indistinguishable American recording artist.

I would say that the Aussie either loves you madly or ignores you entirely. But if he loves you, he'll knock down the door to get to you.

GOSPEL WOUND SELL You would reckon that any country which would care financially for Johnny Ray would go for a hot-gospel, devil-grappling preacher. But a big faith healer named Oral Roberts, who has made a fortune in America, was literally crucified by the press and public out here. He left the other day, reported about 30,000 bucks down for the trip, after being hoodled in both Melbourne and Sydney. And this is a big, handsome guy salvaged an application and healing in his hand. He said nobody would buy it.

What can explain what the Australian likes and doesn't like. Sinatra is singing better here before but they were cool to him here while gushes and squeals mad over Cole, Fats Waller

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON THE Superior Oil Co. which Sen. Case made famous wailed no time in trying to reap windfall profits following passage of the Harris-Fulbright Natural Gas Act by the Senate on Feb. 6.

Pipeline A scant two days after Senate action, a new firm backed by Texas oil millionaire Clint Murchison and called the Coastal Pipeline filed an application with the Federal Power Commission, asking permission to build a pipeline from the Gulf Coast to Texas to the Mississippi River in Louisiana. Murchison's heavy campaign contributor to various senators who voted for the gas bill.

Price Up What makes the application especially interesting is that the Murchison firm plans to pay Superior Oil and other pro-

Gas Prices Rise After Senate Action

ducers a price of 16 to 18 cents per thousand cubic feet for natural gas. This is about 20 per cent higher than the price for in other contracts recently signed in the Gulf Coast area, and such increase ordinarily would be blocked by the Federal Power Commission as unfair to consumers. However, the Harris-Fulbright Act removed producers' prices from FPC jurisdiction and allowed producers to charge whatever the traffic would bear.

Gainers Potential gainers from the 20 per cent hike are the Shell Oil Co., Gulf Oil Corp., Richardson & Bass, the Atlantic Refining Co., the Bay-Porter Oil Corp., and finally, the Superior Oil Co., whose president, Howard Keck, sent \$2,500 to the campaign of Sen. Francis Case (R-Sd.) via lobbyist John Neff.

plans to buy from these producers at a 20 per cent mark-up will be delivered in Louisiana to the new Houston Gas & Oil Corp., and from there it will be piped to Florida for sale to consumers.

Florida Interest This may be of some interest to Florida's two Democratic senators, George A. Smathers and Spessard L. Holland, both of whom voted for the gas bill. It could be of much greater interest to their constituents who will end up paying higher gas rates.

Other senators could be embarrassed too. For, under the escalator clauses found in almost all natural gas contracts, price increases in the Gulf Coast gas fields is eventually spread across the board and changes all existing price arrangements between pipelines and producers in the same area. Pipelines which now have contracts

with Texas Gulf Coast producers include Transcontinental Pipe Line Corp., which sells gas in the Carolinas, District of Columbia, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and New York.

Escape Strangely enough, Sen. Thurmond (D-Sc), Johnston (D-Sc), Scott (D-Nc), and Martin (R-Pa) all voted for the natural gas bill. Sen. H. Alexander Smith (R-Nc) was happy to remain in Brazil during the Senate vote and escaped going on record.

Tennessee Gas Transmission Co., and the Texas Eastern Transmission Corp. also buy their gas from the Texas Gulf Coast. They release gas in the backyards of Senator Bricker (R-Ohio), Martin (R-Pa), Butler (R-Md), Beall (R-Md), Payne (R-Me), Flinders (R-Vt), Cotton (R-NH), Bridges (R-Nd) and Saltzman (R-Mass).

MR. BELL'S BELL

IT is a good omen that the Bell Laboratories are thinking about bringing out a new telephone bell with a mellow tone resembling that of a clarinet. There is a certain choice to be had already among telephone bells, but even the mid-east sound, well, peremptory. They break the silence with something of a shock, as though there is to be no nonsense about answering promptly. They continue ringing with such an authoritative, not to say official, tone that most people can't ignore the call even when they'd like to. "I'd never quit wondering who it was,"

What is wanted, if the Bell Laboratories are open to a suggestion when they are already this far along, is a bell with a tentative air to it. We don't particularly care whether it sounds like a clarinet or a vibraphone, though if a clarinet we would prefer a Benny Goodman type rather than a Johnny Dodds type, which is a little shrill for our taste even when not connected with a telephone.

What is most important is that the bell shall ring, not like an angry neighbor determined to get in demanding, but like a thoughtful friend who will tip toe quietly away if he's not wanted. There will be a bell among bells, and we do mean Alexander Graham.