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Editorial Book Review

The Moderates: History In A Hurry

IT'S A pity that such a delectable dish as history cannot invariably be served cold.
Crick-necked historians, looking over their shoulders to find something to write about, say it has to be. With hindsight as an irrefragable tool they view the past from the present to find events sufficiently settled to support reasoned judgments on their shape and meaning.

de cla political demanding an end to all forms of political extremism.
Lubell won't allow Democratic victory in the '54 congressional elections to upset his theory that conservatism is in the saddle. The lesson of '54 was that "in a vote dominated by pocketbook considerations, the Republicans had come close to running the Democrats a dead heat." Thus, after profiting on the fear of the Democrats as a war party in '52, the GOP in '54 was happily losing its identity as a depression party.

Although the moderates' revolt, drawing strength from both left and right, defeated both extremes, Lubell says the solidity of this middle-of-the-road power is still subject to the erosion of extremist solutions to such issues as racial and religious tolerance, foreign affairs and economic status.
Nor do the moderates know where they are going in the future. Strength of the moderates is at "almost deadweight evenness," and neither may become really dominant in this decade. For the present the people want to stand squarely in the middle and they will play one party against another to stay there.

On balance Lubell looks on the "revolt" as the beginning of a new unity in American life, a merging of goals and a lessening of tensions resulting from ethnic and economic differences.
Lubell's system of overlaying statistical study of past voting habits with current voter impressions extracted by interviews produces incisive writing and uncommonly good predictions as News readers may remember from his series in this paper before the 1952 and 1954 elections.

REVOLT OF THE MODERATES is exciting, informative history in a hurry, although the author outruns himself in spots. He has, for example, found changing social and economic patterns in the South in the past century, without being able to specify how the third party will be formed.

In REVOLT OF THE MODERATES (Harper, 308 pp., \$3.75), Lubell reverses the historians' process by going into the past to analyze the present. Searching census and voting figures back to the Civil War he has charted streams of political thought and prejudice flowing into a tide that swept Eisenhower into office in '52.

That tide, he finds, is basically one of moderation, which could have been brooked by no Democrat in '52, and probably cannot be in '56. Conceding Eisenhower's personal attractiveness, Lubell says nevertheless that an intense national "craving for tranquility and moderation" would have elected almost any GOP candidate. Taft included.

The President Lubell regards as a creature of the mood of moderation, a masterful politician capable of giving the people what they want. "He has led the people by moving in the direction toward which they were already inclined."

Lubell has no patience with the "myth of the blameless public" fallen victim to the politicians, holding instead that politicians are a mirror of the public. Thus he finds Eisenhower the pliable reflection of a dominant mid-

Hoose Plan Deserves A Fair Trial

SANITY—not Santa Claus—is responsible for the softening resistance to City Traffic Engineer Herman Hoose's proposal for a peak hour parking ban in midtown Charlotte.

Merchants who are willing to allow Mr. Hoose to make a 90-day trial of his plan are not making the city a present of a principle. They are merely recognizing hard facts of the city's traffic.

Little by little, Charlotte has been strangling in traffic congestion. Streets built for the horse and buggy era are having an increasingly difficult time moving tens of thousands of cars daily. The Big Squeeze has become a very economic vitality of midtown.

We, too, have been reluctant to have street parking banned until adequate

off-street parking was available. But Mr. Hoose does not suggest his parking ban be applied until the big 3rd St. lot is ready to open—probably in July.

The recommendation of a special committee of the Merchants Association that the organization's board of directors discard its opposition to the Hoose plan which he sent to Congress, second Knowland and Rep. Martin. Does it follow that the original program which he sent to Congress in January was adequate and satisfactory and that all would be well if only Congress had accepted it?

The Hoose plan clearly has a right to its day in court.

Musical Cog In An Economic Wheel

MUSIC is no longer a luxury in Charlotte; it is a necessity.

So too is the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra a necessity.

In 24 years this remarkable musical organization has become a vital, living part of community life.

It has enriched the city's culture quotient and given pleasure to thousands. Spoon-feeding an artistic appreciation to children has been one of its finer achievements.

But the symphony's value can also be measured in dollars and cents. The ready availability of cultural facilities is a drawing card for new industry. It is considered right along with labor conditions, transportation, utilities and schools. Incoming firms want to be sure that their employees will live happy, satisfied

lives. Naturally, they look with special favor upon a community which offers well-rounded cultural patterns.

The Charlotte Symphony, like hundreds of other struggling community orchestras across the nation, needs help. It must have money to stay alive.

Provision of the financial support needed is nothing less than a community responsibility. Charity must not be deprived of the cultural nourishment the symphony has offered over the years. A thriving musical life—growing in quality, intensity and ambition—is too much a privilege of the metropolitan personality.

The campaign for 1956-57 funds opening Monday, deserves the earnest attention of all citizens devoted to the Queen City's welfare. A contribution to the symphony is an investment in community betterment.

From The Montgomery Advertiser

SIGN OF THE TIMES

IN BROOKLYN the other day, a man who had quaffed several beers was picked up and questioned after he had said, "I'm going to walk to Texas." This moved THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS to observe: "Things have come to a ridiculous pass when a man can't walk to Texas without being arrested on suspicion—even after a few beers." The Texas paper noted with satisfaction that the ambitious Brooklynite was released on promise of good behavior. We don't know whether or not he was required to specifically promise not to walk to Texas.

lice scrutiny, but it is a safe guess that this is only a question of time, as registration proceeds again.

After all, walking to Texas and walking in from the suburbs differ only in degree. The episode is disturbing evidence of how majority-minded we have become—how the streets of the times are making us increasingly suspicious of nonconformity and intolerant of the right to be different even in quite innocuous affairs.

POME IN WHICH A FEW WORDS ARE WRITTEN IN THE INTEREST OF GOOD HUMOR: By keeping cheerful You'll rarely be fearful.—ATLANTA JOURNAL.

On an Oklahoma road to the north of Dallas: "OUR CIDER MADE FROM HOME-GROWN APPLES." Hmmmm, let's sample that hard cider again, please.—DALLAS MORNING NEWS.

Irresistible: The temptation of a three-year-old to yell and listen to his voice reverberate when he gets inside the Post Office.—TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT.

Nasser Of Egypt: Fiery Passion With A Poker Face

By JOSEPH ALSOP

THE new ruler of Egypt, the embodied symbol and acknowledged leader of the new surge of Arab nationalism. Gamal Abdel Nasser, is not an easy man to read.

Certain of Nasser's qualities are obvious enough. He has the warm, natural charm that often goes with inexhaustible vitality. With all the charm he also has iron nerves, great boldness and solid strength of character. Furthermore, he is a dedicated patriot, a strict Mohammedan, and a man immune to all the ordinary temptations, who lives just about as simply as the virtual dictator of Egypt as he lived when he was an obscure colonel in the Egyptian army.

TURNING POINT. But although I have been lucky enough to see Col. Nasser twice since I have been in Cairo, and although he has talked at length and with apparent freedom on both occasions. I cannot even dimly guess what his intentions really are. The best guess I can hazard is that Col. Nasser himself is at a crucial turning point, considering different alternatives with all their fateful implications, and waiting to decide which course he will follow.

One alternative he has already reportedly rejected. He will not enter any exclusive alliance with the West, such as he would

have been forced to enter if he had accepted the invitation to join the Baghdad Pact. The defense of the Arab lands, he said to me as he has said so many times before, should be "independently organized by the Arab peoples themselves."

IRREDEMICABLE FEARS. That means, of course, that the defense of the Arab lands should be organized under Egyptian leadership. Although Col. Nasser stoutly denies any ambition to be the pan-Arab leader, it is hard to believe that he would reject the role. Yet I do not think that this is the real cause of his passionate opposition to the Baghdad Pact.

The real cause, I believe, is the conviction of Col. Nasser and almost every other Egyptian that an exclusive alliance with the West would once more reduce Egypt to a semi-colonial status of a new kind. On this point, his suspicion is constant, his fears are ineradicable. "Britain," he says, "is always going out the door and then coming in the window."

AMBIGUOUS. There is a curious ambivalence in Col. Nasser's attitude toward the British, who are being sharply distinguished from the Americans in the present phase in Cairo. On the one hand, he is obviously alarmed as well as angered by the attacks on him and his regime

that have recently been heard in London.

On the other hand, Col. Nasser is clearly voicing his honest conviction when he predicts the "power of Arab nationalism." Today there is only one important Arab government supported by the British, the government of Iraq. Already in Jordan, Arab nationalism has proved stronger than Britain. It could happen too, not today, but tomorrow. They say we Egyptians conspire to make the nationalists succeed, but I tell you Egyptian Arab nationalism succeeds it is strong in itself.

And to this he adds (again with great probable accuracy) that: "You in the West should remember that the real alternative to your nationalism in the Arab lands is almost sure to be communism. Here in Egypt, until we of the army rose and took control, the Communists were gaining strength each year because the people thought they represented the national spirit. That is the choice for you in the West, between the Arab nationalism, and communism disguised as nationalism. You must make

the choice soon."

All these themes Col. Nasser developed at great length during my first call on him. I asked to see him a second time because I wished to ask him what the Western allies would have to do in order to come to terms with a ruler who made friends with the new Arab nationalism. Part of the answer was of course obvious. The minimum requirement for the United States to persuade Britain to support the semi-colonial populations Britain still holds out here. The minimum requirement for persuading Britain is to seriously discuss with guarantee Britain, to reinstate Britain, as it were, against the losses that the British fear will result from concessions to Arab nationalism. This cannot be escaped.

VITAL QUESTIONS

But if nationalist aspirations were satisfied, would Col. Nasser guarantee the West the precious oil that the West needs for survival? Could the West be sure that the triumphant Arab nationalists would not soon launch a revenge attack upon Israel? And if the West insisted on these two vital conditions, would Col. Nasser then incline towards exclusive oil deals with the Kremlin, which might open the door to a new form of colonialism even more rapidly than an exclusive alliance with the West?

To the first question, about oil, the Egyptian leader answered that he "recognized the West's vital interest" and that "good relations were the best guarantee of the oil." Yet his press and some of his subordinates have even talked a rather different language.

WAR WITH ISRAEL

To the second question, about Israel, the Egyptian leader replied that "Egypt would never attack Israel unless Egypt were first attacked." In fact, until Egypt was attacked on Feb. 28, 1955, we were neglecting our army and spending all our money on internal development. It was only after that we began to look for arms and we bought them from the Russians. This you would surely not deny. Yet on this subject too, Col. Nasser's press and



GAMAL ABDEL NASSER

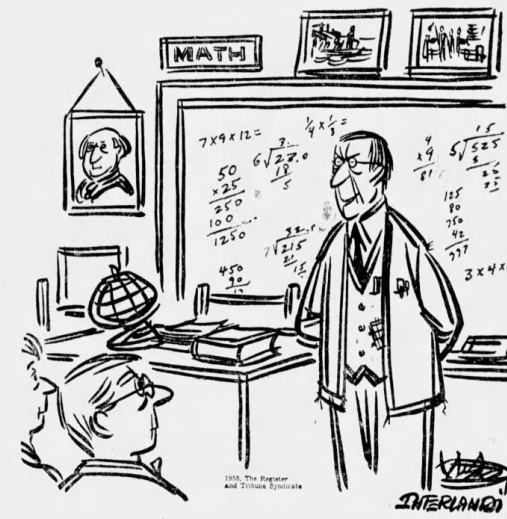
Out The Door, In The Window

Some of his subordinates often talk a very different language; and Col. Nasser himself would not seriously discuss any positive settlement with Israel.

HARD CHOICE

Finally, to the last question, accepting further aid from the Soviets, the Egyptian leader replied that the Soviets had always been "perfectly correct" with Egypt, and that "no Middle Eastern country has any experience of Soviet imperialism."

Those answers quite obviously, define the hard choice that lies ahead of Col. Nasser. Any Western ruler is a fool who does not see why Nasser and Egypt are not today in doubt about which road to take. And Western statesmanship surely says another last chance of Nasser and Egypt are not aided, by all means possible, to make the choice that best serves the long-run interests of Egypt and the West alike.



"We have just one problem for homework today... A teacher earns \$3,000 a year before taxes. With the high cost of living today his monthly expenses are \$280. How does he manage to live? ... You may enlist the aid of your parents for the solution ..."

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 editors. The News reserves the right to condense.

For Fault Finders The Roads Are Open

Editors, The News: AT THIS TIME I wish to mention a few remarks and to call some facts to the attention of a few people here in our fair and state—who are dissatisfied it seems by their remarks in the past, their actions and their attitude concerning the way our state officials, and especially our good governor, the Hon. George Bell Timmerman Jr., have granted the public the right of interstate travel.

places as citizens and abide by the customs of our city and state in which we reside, regardless of where it may be or what part of our great nation. But I regret to say that I am afraid it will be a time if we do not understand the customs and problems that confront us today as a great people and nation.

We of the South appeal to you, our people of the North and other parts, to let us solve our problems. For you don't understand them — no more than you of the South understand yours. So if you can't come and help us in our problems as friends and study them and help us come to a peaceful solution of them, it will be better if you stay out and keep hands off. There are always two sides to a matter, such as exists today in mixing our white and colored people.

Our government and court should remember the people of a democracy are the ones who rule and have the final word in any matter concerning the people's rights for their word is the law of the land — not what some text book scholars might rule by denying to abide by the Constitution of our land and interpret it as it says. We of the South are all our people and denying the states the right to abide by the laws of said state.

If our high court is to be allowed to encroach in all of our states' affairs, why have state legislatures and courts not been allowed to stand for it, the truth, know that the statements made by some are false remarks regardless of who you are. That's not the way to keep peace among our people, or probably that was the purpose of these statements—to cause strife and trouble among our people.

Remember there are many people of both races who do not approve of such tactics by anyone — and we divide our people and cause trouble in our peaceful city. But you must not forget that the more you stir the ashes, the more smoke you will have to put up with. I have always felt that if we believe in justice we will stay in our

— J. A. GRAHAM

A Social Obligation Support Farm Incomes Directly

By WALTER LIPPMANN

THE President has no choice but to veto the farm bill that Congress sent to him. Had he signed it, he would have had to repudiate not only his own public statements but the whole record of his secretary of agriculture and the actions of the two Republican leaders in Congress, second Knowland and Rep. Martin. Does it follow that the original program which he sent to Congress in January was adequate and satisfactory and that all would be well if only Congress had accepted it?

effect had not quite so high theoretically fixed supports. The issue between the President and the congressional opposition is not really one of principle: it is whether farm income shall be subsidized at the congressional rate or at the administration rate. In the long run, it may well be that the character of the President's vote marks the acceptance of the principle that in the great transition through which agriculture is passing, it is a national obligation to cushion the effects on the farmers. There is a stern theory that prices should be fixed in the market and that in this price structure the more efficient farmers should survive and the less efficient farmers be forced out of farming. But no public man could or would think of acting on this theory, no matter how many times he has made speeches about free enterprise, the hazards of farming during the technological revolution now in progress, and how it has become a social obligation, in principle, to cushion the effects on the farmers.

If it does not follow, The President's own actions when he vetoed the bill recognized that the basic complaint of the congressional opposition to his original program was about halfway justified. Where the bill would have subsidized farm prices to the tune of about \$1 billion, the President is going by administrative action to subsidize farm prices to the tune of about \$50 million. He has vetoed very high and rigid price supports. He is going to put into

social security system which deals with unemployment and old age. The day will come, let us hope, when we shall have a farm policy based candidly on this principle: social security. The enormous increase of agricultural productivity in this generation, even more than the high parity supports, is producing the great price destroying surpluses. To eliminate these surpluses, million farmers will have to go off the farms. It is to slow up, to soften, to alleviate this painful human readjustment that the social security principle will have to be applied to farming. When it is applied, then it will no longer be necessary to maintain artificially high farm prices. For the artificial prices are only an indirect and cumbersome way of subsidizing farm incomes. It will be better to support the incomes of the farmers, as we do those of the industrial population, on the principle of social security, and to let prices become genuine as determined by the markets.

Drew Pearson's Business Editor Groomed For Cabinet

ONE interesting fact about the Dewey crowd is that they never give up; they don't succeed the first time, they try, try again. Witness the backstage maneuvering of the ex-governor of New York and his close friend, Elliott V. Bell, to put the latter in the next Eisenhower Cabinet—if there is one. Fatal Error

However, Eisenhower hasn't particularly cottoned to the ex-governor who steered New York finances when Dewey was governor. So a quiet campaign has been started to maneuver Bell into a spot in the next Eisenhower Cabinet—as secretary of the Treasury. This was behind an inconspicuous press handout issued by the State Department announcing that "four promi-

nent citizens have accepted the invitation of Secretary Dulles to serve as advisers in the multi-lateral tariff conference in Geneva. Heading the list, followed by quite a biographical buildup, was the name of Elliott V. Bell. How Cabinet Is Picked

John Foster Dulles was also told to line up a foreign assignment for Bell. Result: Adviser on multilateral tariff problems in Geneva. Meanwhile, to prepare for this campaign to join the next Eisenhower Cabinet, Bell brought an "associate publisher" in to handle Business Week—Hayard E. Sawyer. A special title was even created for him. The cabinet buildup for Elliott V. Bell was fully launched.

Changes Expected

Dewey and Bell figure various Cabinet changes will take place in Ike's second term. A big catch could be that the Cabinet in the second Eisenhower administration will be even more powerful, since Ike will delegate more power than ever.