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Lights, Action, Camera

Stage Set For Symington

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON
By one of those coincidences which the cynic will concede is merely show timing, Stuart Symington of Missouri is about to start an investigation into the Air Force and the charges that this country is lagging behind the Soviet Union in air power.

It comes at a time, as the cynic will be inclined to point out, when Symington is being more and more frequently mentioned as a compromise candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination.

HAZARDOUS PATH
As chairman of the Senate investigating committee, Symington will be walking a narrow and hazardous path. He will be dealing with a matter involving, in the most direct and immediate way, America's security.

Both Symington and Sen. Henry M. Jackson, Democrat of Washington, who will serve with him on the subcommittee, have charged that this country rapidly is falling behind Soviet Russia in the development of guided missiles.

Air Force officers, while not having spoken with complete

freedom, has suggested that the Strategic Air Command, the retaliatory striking force that is considered America's first line of defense, has been weakened by the budget-balancing economies of the Eisenhower administration.

Any investigation into such grave charges, that have the look of politics in a presidential election year, will plainly backfire. But at the same time, the committee must do a thorough job, regardless of the political implications.

BROAD KNOWLEDGE

As first secretary for air under-unionification of the services beginning in 1947, Symington gained a broad knowledge of air power. He fought some of the early battles for the Strategic Air Command and, privately at least, opposed spending of hundreds of millions on giant aircraft carriers.

In Fowler Hamilton, the subcommittee has chosen an able counsel. During World War II, he was chief of the operations analysis section of the Air Force. Hearings will start at about the time that Trevor Gardner will



SEN. STUART SYMINGTON OF MISSOURI
Funny Coincidence Or Shrewd Timing?

lose a new blast at administration policy which, he says, is resulting in a "second best" Air Force for the United States. Gardner resigned as special assistant secretary for air in charge of research and development after publicly arguing the need for much larger appropriations for both research and missile development.

He has written two articles for a national magazine, telling in detail why he believes present policies are bound to result in a "second best" Air Force and why he felt he could not stay on as assistant secretary and accept the consequences.

Both articles have been reviewed for security and cleared by the Department of Defense, although they are said to pull no punches.

ERINA A MEMBER
The Symington committee is a strong one on both the Republican and the Democratic sides. Besides the chairman and Jackson, it includes Sen. Sam J. Ervin Jr., Democrat of North Carolina, and two Republicans, Sen. Everett Ruessell of Massachusetts, ranking minority member of the Armed Services

Committee, and Sen. James H. Duff of Pennsylvania.

The hearings are expected to last from about the middle of this month to the middle of June. This means that the final report of the committee should come around the middle of July — on the eve of the Democratic convention in August.

In fact, the stage is set And a forceful performance by Chairman Symington, with resulting headlines and television coverage, could very well make him the man of the hour.

Preservation Of The Public Schools: North Carolina's 'Desperate Gamble'

SEEDS of hope and despair have been sown by the Governor's Advisory Committee on Education. North Carolina must nurture the hope and weed out the despair. The public school system and the public peace depend on it.

A harvest of chaos and hate is the only alternative.

The committee, in its historic report to the people, has grasped the total social situation in the state today. It has analyzed fairly and frankly the dangers and the challenges. It has rejected defiant anger as a political instrument. It has recognized that there are no simple or sure solutions. At the same time, it has offered a moderate plan for the fitting of North Carolina's education needs to the stark, elementary realities of local conditions.

PRESENTING its recommendations the advisory committee has reflected, as accurately as possible, the temper of the state. Any large, complex society, with its multiplicity of social backgrounds and individual experiences, contains varying moods and attitudes within itself. There is, nevertheless, a "majority view." We believe that the committee has captured it.

Having accomplished this, it has offered a plan of action which is flexible enough to fit the needs of every community in North Carolina.

There would be no legal barrier to the admission of white and Negro children to the same school in communities where conditions permit and the people are so inclined. But where conditions do not permit, it is proposed that public funds be made available for the education of any child in a private, nonsectarian school. Appropriate legislative machinery would of course have to be provided by the General Assembly. Changes in the state constitution would also be necessary.

DEVELOPING its proposals, the committee recognized a number of simple truths.

It noted with commendable honesty that the decision of the United States Supreme Court, however much we dislike it, is the declared law and is binding upon us. Said the group: "We must live and act under the decision of that court. We should not delude ourselves about that. Defiance of the court would be foolhardy."

It further admitted that there is little or no chance that a constitutional amendment will be adopted to change the court's desegregation decision.

It recognized that the white race is to go forward the Negro must go forward too. "The advancement of our economy and the preservation of our democracy depend in large part upon the education, the understanding and the morality of the Negro as well as the white."

And, most important of all, it made note of what the Supreme Court did and did not say in its desegregation decision.

THE Supreme Court did not order compulsory integration of the races. It did not demand that the states mix persons of different races against their wills in the schools or anywhere else. It simply ruled that no state can deny any person "solely on the basis of race" the right to attend any school the state maintains.

The court ordered desegregation. It did not order integration. Integration in its broadest sense would compel both races to attend the same schools even if they preferred otherwise. Desegregation merely removes race as a basis for discrimination. The court

forbids discrimination. There is good reason to believe that most Negroes do not wish to attend white schools. The case of Baltimore, Md., is an example.

When desegregation was ordered in Baltimore, racial mixing was, to a large extent, voluntary. In the case of Baltimore, Md., is an example.

Baltimore pupils were told that they could enter any school they chose, provided the school was not officially declared overcrowded — in which case attendance was limited to those children living within a specified distance.

When enrollment figures were scrutinized at the end of the first month they showed that only 1,576 Negro pupils had entered formerly all-white schools. To put it another way, 53,488 Negro pupils entered or remained in Negro schools. On a percentage basis, integration was limited to 3 per cent of the Negro school population.

Actually, enrollment figures bore out the predictions of school officials that there would be no great shifts in school population. Since most residential areas were all-white or all-Negro, the schools serving those areas generally remained all-white or all-Negro.

THE Advisory Committee appealed for wise and sincere leaders to guide the state through an unsettled era ahead. The need must be met, and the problem kept out of the alleys of hate and anger. Judges has measured up while some other southern governors have failed. The legislature must do the same in the special session. For its part, the committee has done all that it could do. Thrust between contrary desires of nation and state, it has attempted through a blend of conscience and common sense to serve the ends of both.

In all its sincerity and wisdom the committee has but sketched a trail through a wilderness. It does not say that its plan will work. Indeed, in fact, it knows there is no certainty that can be offered. What it has done is to engage North Carolina in a desperate gamble in which the stakes are sky high and the odds are not good.

THE gamble is an effort to preserve the public schools and, at the same time, North Carolina's identity with constitutional government. Anything less would insult the state's proud heritage of democratic ideals.

The stakes are the public school system, and all that it implies in training and opportunity for Tar Heel youth; the heritage of the rule of law over the rule of men, and all that that implies in allegiance to both nation and state; and, finally, continued amity between the races, and all that that means in tranquility and economic and social progress for all.

THE committee has sketched the trail. Ultimately the Supreme Court and the people of North Carolina together will determine whether they can get through the wilderness together.

If the court orders admission of a Negro to a white school and that school is abandoned, a temporary stalemate will ensue. If one order comes and one school goes, more orders may come and all schools may go. If the schools go, past decades of sacrifice and toil and future generations of hope and opportunity go with them. There is no satisfactory substitute for public schools in a democracy, nor will there ever be.

With mutual caution and understanding the people and the court can learn to live together. They must live together if either is to thrive. The decision is in the future. Meantime, the gamble is on.

Ike Might Have To Hustle After All

POLITICS has two kinds of polls. There are public opinion polls like Gallup's which can be wrong — 1948 being a case in point. There are polls called elections and primaries and they, in a sense, are never wrong.

GOP comment after the Wisconsin preference primary this week indicated Ike backers were reading Gallup when the returns came in. The returns meant nothing, they said, although the Democratic vote was the highest in several years and the Republican vote was be-

low what the GOP had in both the delegate primary and the presidential election of 1952.

On the other hand, GOP strategists have been saying that Gallup reports mean a great deal — specifically that Ike can win in a walk or sitting before the TV camera.

Certainly the Wisconsin vote indicated Ike will again carry that state, and the returns meant nothing new in that sense. But the lower GOP and high Democratic totals also suggest that if he is to win he might have to run a little to do it.

From The Sanford Herald

A MATTER OF VIEWPOINT

THEY were having the usual, these three boys at the drug store fountain — bucket-size pepsi.

"What church you go to?" one asked another.

"Discopal," he answered, sucking through a straw.

"S-a-y," said the first. "I've seen them going into church. Marching, flags and all."

"Uh-huh," was the reply.

"And they had on dresses. Some of them red. Like Catholics."

powerfully "I can't understand the Baptists and Methodists."

"No moral here. No comment, really. Just seemed a little different from the way you'd expect to hear it."

Perhaps a pound of popcorn contains as much food energy as a steak, as asserted, but what kind of gravy does it make? LAUREL (Miss.) LEADER-CALL.

Shopping habits of the human female still have retailers baffled and puzzled, reports a market research firm. Is there anything else about the human females the retailers don't understand? —New Orleans STATES.

It's All Very Significant And I'll Explain It To You In November



Estes Speaks For The 'New South'

By DORIS FLEESON

WASHINGTON
SEN. Estes Kefauver has cast his lot with "the New South."

The Tennessee's challenge to his native region to adopt a liberal attitude toward the anti-segregation policy of the Supreme Court is both farsighted and shrewd. He is little to lose, since southern conservatives oppose him anyway, and he has immeasurably strengthened himself in the North and among the private states.

He has taken the play away from Adlai Stevens, who takes the same view of the court's decision but has attempted to act the part of conciliator. Kefauver achieved drama because he is himself a southerner, because he made his "New South" appeal at his takeoff in the Florida primary and because he took the offensive in plain language.

TALKING SENSE

One admirer said here: "He has talked sense to the South," a paraphrase of Stevenson's own "It is sense to the American people" which electrified the 1952 Democratic convention.

The strictly southern angle of

the story is that Kefauver's hopes for votes there rest with people favorably affected by integration. The South and the diversification of its agriculture, with business and labor and the increasing number of voting Negroes in southern cities.

These people have been shaken in their stability and prospects for a more abundant life by the violence of the pro-segregation campaign. They have been slow to raise their voices and no national figure of stature has come along — until Kefauver — to rally them.

But what has been happening to them is no secret. Business has tried to minimize its troubles, but the financial papers have told the story of boycotts by both sides against small firms and such large ones as Ford, Falstaff beer and Philip Morris cigarettes.

It has been reported, too, and not denied, that manufacturers who had intended southern expansion had hesitated, lest they be caught both North and South in the middle of the segregation battle. The result is described as a decline in tax revenues in some southern states. This has given even conservative politicians pause.

That goes for Sen. Stuart Symington of Missouri, the currently-favored dark horse who, incidentally, has an outstanding civil rights record in practice as a businessman and government official.

Sen. Kefauver has not made himself any more popular with his colleagues. But he has taken positions which the Democratic governors outside the South will be bound to respect and support for their own sakes.

People's Platform Helping Hands

Charlotte

Editors: The News

I WAS early morning. The bus loaded with workers stopped in the heart of the large southern city to unload its passengers. A crippled Negro man, who could hardly walk with the assistance of a cane, was clutched in his hand, arose from his seat and started for the rear door of the bus. He had his hand outstretched to the crowd to shove ahead. At the end of his mass of rushing humanity were two white women. They easily hopped off the bus as they shoved aside the mechanical doors that slam shut when they are not held open by human hands.

Behind them was the Negro man stumbling down the first step in the direction of the slamming doors. In a split second a simultaneous decision was made by these two women who were strangers to each other. Each grabbed the door on her side and held it open for the Negro man. Silent they stood and waited as he dragged a through. "Thank you," he said. "Thank you."

There was no cringing servility in his voice and no condescension in the attitude of the two women. Just human beings acting with dignity what God intended for them to do, "help each other." A simple incident, yes, but one with profound meaning.

After the office seekers have made their lengthy speeches to provoke pity, after the selfish and biased have aired their emotions, the air will clear. There is a skirmish line that will stand clear and undisturbed for a time. It will be the mutual regard and concern of man for man.

HERB LOCK

Carolina and Mississippi with one loud sweep of their sweet sails, as mere "hot air from un-reconstructed rebels."

In our midst it has been a mark of ignorance — to these more enlightened souls — for us, or anyone else, to resist the mongrelization of the white and black races in the South. Now, these "liberals" will find it extremely difficult to dispose of 18 senators and 82 representatives in the "world's greatest deliberative body."

One passing thought for those that have been "brainwashed" who say, "But the Supreme Court is the supreme law of the land." How wrong can they get? The supreme law of the United States is the Constitution, as written, and not as nine men would prefer it to be. —LEWIS B. ALDRIDGE SR.

Stokely's Segregation Plan 'Fair, Workable'

Charlotte

Editors: The News

I THINK Harry P. Stokely's tri-school plan should have been featured on your first rather than your last page for unlike Gov. Hodges, Stokely has advanced both a fair and a workable plan for solving the school segregation problem.

Who can quarrel with a plan which gives the individual pupil the choice of attending either a white, a colored or an integrated school. —MRS. EDGAR MOORE

Postal Employees Get Drink Machines

Charlotte

Editors: The News

I WISH to inform the employees of the Charlotte Post Office have been awarded soft drink machines, so that when they are thirsty they do not have to go elsewhere to get the fresh cold soda pop.

Who has been blocked by the postmaster from the beginning of his term in office. The request for this vending machine has been on the battle line for many years. The writer went to battle by letter from outside indicating "My letter was rejected by the postmaster, saying that same had been forwarded to Atlanta, Ga. for action, then on to Washington, D. C., and back to Charlotte with orders as to what to do."

This service is in elsewhere, without all this round-trip of the employees of Charlotte Post Office had to go through with. I wish to call the public attention to the grounds around the Post Office and further that employees are on more jobs than they can take care of.

Just try or take a look at the parcel post window and observe its running. The idea is to keep everyone in high gear from the opening in the a.m. until the closing in the p.m., two, three or more jobs to wrestle with while the public stands around for a clearance. —S. C. VAUGHN

Supreme Law Is Constitution

Graham

Editors: The News

IN THE opinion of many, the Supreme Court is the firmest, most statesmanlike and positively the most powerful assault yet made on the madness of the nine men on the United States Supreme Court.

The "middle-of-the-roads," the outright integrationists and the neo-Soviet Christians who were converted on May 17, 1954, have found it easy to sweep such people as we under the nearest carpet and say, "Just another reactionary ignoramus." They have dismissed the General Assemblies of Virginia, Georgia, South

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round America's Hate-Mongers Ride Again

YOU won't read about them in the headlines, but some of the hate groups so active in 1952 campaigns are already maneuvering to snipe at Eisenhower, Kefauver and Stevenson.

The reason you won't read about them is because they have adopted the technique of latching on to some of the splinter party groups who want to get away from the American two-party system and veer over to the French system of myriad parties and myriad confusion.

Retired Brass

For some reason or other, retired admirals generally seem to be the easiest prey for these splinter movements. Perhaps it's because they don't understand politics. Some of them are also naively putting themselves in the position of opposing their own ex-military man in the White House.

led by Clarence Minton, ex-dean of the Notre Dame Law School, whom Ike fired as chairman of the Commission on Inter-Governmental Relations and who has now organized "A for America" Movement. He is not a lot of haters are clinging to his castrals.

Allied with Minton is Gen. Robert Wood of Sears, Roebuck, former head of "America First."

Strategy

Manion, Wood, et al, are trying to lead enough independent states of presidential electors picked to break the weight of the two major parties and throw the final election into the House of Representatives. There they hope anti-Eisenhower Republicans and Dixiecrats could swing the balance of power.

part of this movement, Adm. John Cromelin, who was eased out of the Navy during its E-36 row with the Air Force, is another malcontent. He is trying to run against veteran Sen. Lester Hill of Alabama.

'Cross-Currents'

Meanwhile, a new book, "Cross-Currents," by Ben Egan and Arnold Forster, gives a penetrating insight into the hate hangers-on who have attached themselves to the splinter groups.

The rabid Eugene Epstein and Forster, "are welded to one another by the anti-Semitism they all exploit."

latter-day know-nothing who in their fear of Communism oppose civil liberties as a weakness in our ramparts; extreme political reactionaries who are unable or unwilling to recognize the big picture among those joining their movement."

As part of the stop-keep movement, the

haters have started smearing his brother Milton as a dangerous New Dealer.

Referenes are creeping out regarding the alleged "Eisenhower Red record."

Open End Underground

A secret meeting held in Chicago Conrad Hilton Hotel on Jan. 27 to discuss ways of stopping Ike included such notorious pamphleteers as Merwin K. Hart of New York, Myron Fagan of Los Angeles, and West Hooker Lanchmont, N. Y. They agreed on various tactics, both open and underground, aimed at the candidates of the two major parties.