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Pick Your Party And Pay The Fiddler

The politician was almost ready to get down from the resin platform. The voice he had punished for a hour dropped to a husky whisper: "Vote for me, friends, and send me your pennies and dimes."

His last request was the smartest thing he said. This particular politician didn't need pennies and dimes, and few in his audience had any to spare. But his plea for small change identified him with his listeners. He was, they thought, a "poor man" among poor people, needing their help, and if they didn't have any money to send, at least they could get out and vote for him.

Actually backed by big money, this candidate went on winning for years, using his influence for the potent interests behind him and getting his votes and some extra money from the penny and dime people.

The picture invites cynicism, but there was something of value in it. The people genuinely believed the candidate was their friend and the relationship provided emotional, if few political, benefits. They thought that through him they had a big voice in the operation of the democracy, and they bitterly resented all exposures of the candidate's practiced hypocrisy.

The growing sophistication of the U. S. electorate is changing all this, but not entirely for the better. Voters do tend more and more to look at the record of candidates. And most do not send in any pennies and dimes. They are too smart to be taken. They know a thing or two themselves. They know that "politics is crooked" controlled by "people with money"; so they do not give their money, lend their affections, or have anything at all to do with politics, other than to vote their prejudices and beliefs.

Sophistication is fine, but based entirely on cynicism it is very little publicity. The latter does permit an active interest in politics and the possibility of education.

The point the antipolitical voter overlooks is that a political candidate must have money. And with very little available from average voters or public sources, he must get it from the private few who have it to give in large measure—attached, of course, to strings of

some sort, whether implicit or explicit. This is the unhappy condition that prevails today in U. S. politics. The politician's dependence on private contributions of wealth helps neither the politician to an independence of judgment or the voter to a better estimation of political morality, and the necessity of his participation in politics.

The U. S., as UNC Professor Alexander Heard points out, has made repeated but unsuccessful efforts to prevent big money from unfairly influencing politics. Laws to limit expenditures and the size of contributions and prohibitions against corporate and labor union contributions have been sidestepped and evaded.

Consequently, Professor Heard found in a lengthy study of money and politics, a "desperate apathy and cynicism toward the whole problem of money in elections resulted, one of the most serious consequences of the failure to solve the problem. It has weakened the faith of citizens in their government and thereby enfeebled government itself. And it has enforced mightily the reticence of citizens to join in supplying the costs of running their electoral system."

For future efforts to improve the situation, Professor Heard suggests some guiding principles. He would start by recognizing that campaign expenditures are necessary, and that in the U. S. they can easily be met. The government should assume some of the costs, through tax reductions or credits, or by guaranteeing minimum radio and TV time to contestants at public expense. Extension of tax deductions to neutral campaign funds raised from public sources might help. More restrictive laws for simple and accurate reporting of campaign receipts and expenditures would certainly help, in a negative way.

The only quick and sure cure, however, rests in the pockets of millions of individual voters.

By supporting the candidates of their choice with dollars as well as with votes they can free him from the financial strings of special interests. Moreover, they can feel—and rightly—that they have a big voice in the operation of the democracy.

Even pennies and dimes would help.

Public Needs Deserve Swift Attention

MUNICIPAL officials have muffed at least a half dozen golden opportunities to decide on a site for the new Health Center. Today's City Council meeting simply represented the latest of many gropings for a solution.

One is reminded of the Red Smith classic about Eddie Arcaro in a race of 2 1/2 miles at Pimlico. Passing the finish post for the second time with a long lead, Arcaro thought he had won until the field swept past and he realized there was still a full lap to go.

"Next time," Eddie said, "I'll put three beans in my mouth and spit one out each time under the wire."

It's a device the Council might have employed. There would be enough beans for a stew.

And Never The Twain Shall Meet

WE HAVE now reached the point of no return—or Brandy Murphy milestone—in the current presidential campaign. From here on in anything, no matter how trivial or nonsensical, can become a Burning Issue.

This week: Mark Twain. It seems that Adlai Stevenson told a Democratic rally that he was happy to "belong to the party of Mark Twain and not the party of Mark Hanna."

"Foul!" shouted an outraged Republican National Committee. It pitched Sen. Gordon Allott (R-Colo.), described as "an old Mark Twain admirer and student," into the breach. He told the assembly the electorate that Twain, although he considered himself an independent, "consistently supported the Republican Party."

The great humorist, added Sen. Allott, backed the candidacy of William Howard Taft and other GOP standard bearers.

Just exactly what all this has to do with the price of pigs in Iowa is difficult to fathom. We only wish Mark

In the way it has deprived Charlotte and the county of wholly adequate health facilities for so long, the delay has been bad enough. But, to make matters worse, a number of other projects have been held up while the city has argued about a Health Center site. These include plans for a local government office building, a city-county school administration building and expansion of Memorial Hospital.

The foot-dragging, indecision, changes of mind, turnabouts and Tweedledum-Tweedledee arguments have slowed the wheels of progress significantly. They do not make for efficiency or soundness in government. The demonstrated needs of the people deserve to be met with greater effectiveness and dispatch.

Twain were still around to say something crisply devastating about the whole charade.

We do not know whether Mark Twain was a Democrat or not but we do know that he was a democrat. In fact, he was what you might call an unreconstructed democrat. In his later years, however, he was more than somewhat pessimistic about the survival of the democratic way of life. "Strip the human race absolutely naked," he wrote in his Notebook, "and it would be a real democracy. But the introduction of even a rag of tiger skin, or a cow tail, could make a bad case of distinction and be the beginning of monarchy."

He was convinced that, in time, the American republic would drift right smack into centralization and monarchy. And as for his support of William Howard Taft, it is nothing for Sen. Allott to be particularly proud of. In 1900, Mark Twain wrote: "I shall vote for the continuation of the monarchy. That is to say, I shall vote for Mr. Taft."

From The St. Louis Post-Dispatch

SPELL IT 'FLAMMABLE'

IT IS A COMMON experience to ride along the highway and see an oil or gasoline or chemical truck with the word inflammable on the sides and across the back of the tank. It is common also to see other tank trucks marked inflammable. This is because there is a difference in the combustible qualities of the contents: Is one truck, as the dictionary says, "capable of being easily ignited" and the other just the reverse?

No. Both words mean the same thing. Yet it is risky to have them mean the same thing when "in" in nine cases out of 10 means "not." The point is emphasized by such words as "inhuman," "inactive," "indiscreet," "in-

exact," "indefinite" and so on. Many oil and chemical companies are changing "inflammable" into "flammable" and they are showing good judgment in doing so. Why take the chance on having even a few people think that "in" means "not" and thus unwittingly endanger lives around tank trucks of oil, gasoline, chemicals and other combustibles on the crowded highways?

Since most of us get sore if somebody else tries to tell us how to do our job, isn't it odd how convinced we are that we can't be better teachers than the people who have that assignment at the moment?—COLUMBIA (S. C.) STATE.

President's Physician Prescribes 'Fresh Air' Campaign

By DORIS FLEESON

ST. LOUIS, Mo. PRESIDENT Eisenhower's old friend and physician, Dr. Howard Snyder, gave a significant news tip to the Des Moines (Iowa) Register after the President's return from Iowa.

The President had been surprised and exhilarated by his rousing ticker-tape reception in Des Moines which followed, friendly but unrevealing midday hours at the National Plying Contest. Back at the White House, Dr. Snyder felt he would "give the green light" to more of the motor caravan travel that evoked enthusiastic Des Moines crowds.

Dr. Snyder feels, the Register said, that "such crowd appeal trips are far less taxing on the President than the preparation and delivery of major addresses."

The major address very much on the President's mind, as Dr. Snyder was speaking of was Tuesday's farm speech at Peoria, Ill. It was difficult and fateful,

because of farm discontent and on Saturday acquired the further nuance of answering Adlai Stevenson's best campaign effort to date, which was enthusiastically greeted by the plowing contest audience.

TWO IMPLICATIONS

The implications of the Snyder story were two: First, the President was foundering the burden of demanding defense of the record a tiring or boring one.

Second, Des Moines admirers had convinced him that he need only appear in the be-

nevolent Great White Father role to recreate "I Like Ike" emotions of 1952.

Dr. Snyder, an elderly Army physician, has been criticized for some of his medical treatment of the President, but no informed person would deny that he knows his distinguished patient's disposition like a favorite book. The President enjoys the motorcades and the motorcades are what the Republicans are going to get.

With Vice President Richard M. Nixon announced by the President to keep smiling and stay on the high road, the question arises as to who will organize the record with force and emphasis comparable to the Democratic attack. Some Republicans are already raising the alarm over the generalized White House approach.

GOP'S GAMBLE

Their party gambled on Mr. Eisenhower's health. It may be that he will gamble on his own health-state conception of his role.

If so, the personal duel between him and Stevenson will be sharpened. Stevenson is using all his force, ingenuity and wit to get the President off balance. Indictments of what the administration does as compared to what Mr. Eisenhower says come thick and fast, always accompanied by the thrust of Mr. Eisenhower's above-the-battle stance.

It may be that the President is protected from the full impact of this. He is not a reader, he skims newspapers and reads the news briefings. Anyway, it ap-



DR. HOWARD SNYDER, Green Light Given

pears that Des Moines has counteracted what doubts he might have had.

'JOE SMITH'

It will continue to be Stevenson's basic theme that Mr. Eisenhower is a good man who might be a good President if he were truly President. Stevenson has named his chartered plane "The Joe Smith" expressly to drive home the thesis that plain people need a President, too.

In broad terms, the contest is between advocates of a strong chief executive and those who believe in maximum presidential intervention in the running of the government.

Nixon Goes After America's Preoccupied, Distracted Voter

By MARQUIS CHILDS

EN ROUTE WITH NIXON through the country with a candidate for high office is not the best way to find out what is happening in America. It is to see the pace, the swift and the view kaleidoscopic, one fact emerges which may be more important than the spate of all the candidates put together.

The American people are intensely preoccupied with a phenomenon that is only sporadically reported and usually with little comprehension of its national scope. The face of America is being made over.

In every city and town, new superstores, bypasses, thoroughfare housing developments, shopping centers are being constructed and blighted areas are being cleared to make way for underground parking and for parks and plazas.

NATIONAL REMODELING

This is all very immediate and distracting for the millions who it affects. They can hardly spare the time to think about something so remote as a national election. The new thoroughfare is going to go just half a block away and it will destroy (or enhance) the value of one's house, store, vacant lot.

Because they are caught up in this great national remodeling job, it seems likely that many Americans will not only not bother to listen to what the candidates of the two parties are saying but they will not take the trouble to register and vote.

GRASS ROOTS ACCENT

That is why the consequences of this immense distraction can be so important in November, outweighing the claims of Republicans and Democrats alike. And it is why intensive political organization at the state and local levels could decide the election.

Both parties are aware of this. The chief reason for Vice President Richard M. Nixon's complete tour of 22 states to get party workers off their hands and at the task of door-bell ringing is very present.

Because of the nature of the campaigning he did in both 1952 and 1954, Nixon has an intimate knowledge of party leadership almost everywhere. He is putting this knowledge to the fullest use, sitting down with Republican workers at every stop between speeches and public appearances, hearing their complaints, urging them to work harder and setting an example by his own zeal and industry.

SELLING A SYMBOL

Nixon has also been trying to reach the distracted and preoccupied citizens by selling the symbol of Eisenhower—a man in a plaid shirt, a man in a plaid shirt, an Olympian figure, yet also warm and human with faith in

God and faith in his country. In speaking to Nixon says in each speech to loud and prolonged applause, a man whom we can be proud to hold up to our children, a President who has restored the dignity and respect of the highest office in the land. Even if you are about to sell your house and move into a new one, you can let down that kind of hero.

VISITING VOTERS

One thing Nixon will recommend when he returns to Washington is that the President get into as many states as he feels he physically can, not to make speeches but to be seen and to talk in the informal, off-the-cuff fashion that he used at the plowing contest in Iowa.

Most people, it is felt, are too busy to listen to speeches. But they will turn out as they turned out at Des Moines and Newton to see the man whose image is imprinted as hero-statesman and paternalist.

As for the Democrats, Adlai Stevenson's campaign manager, Press F. Eisenhower, put by far the greatest stress on intensive organization in the key areas where he believes the election will be lost or won through the efforts of party workers. One of these states is Pennsylvania, where his organization has helped to swing Philadelphia into the Democratic column.

Stevenson will spend the first part of next week whistle-stopting in that state which, with its 22 electoral votes, could prove the margin for the Democrats.

The latest California poll shows Press F. Eisenhower and Stevenson running very close. In that empire of the West, Democratic clubs extensively organized have supplemented the Democratic organization.

PIOGNANT RING

For Republican orators, the facilitating job going on in America is part of the Eisenhower prosperity and the voter should be duly thankful. But gratitude is not an emotion to be counted on in politics. That old story about the constituent, reminded of the favors done for him in the past, who asked, "Yes, but what have you done for me lately?" is a poignant ring in the candidate's seeking reelection. The remodeling job is an important phase of the current prosperity. Yet it could keep different and preoccupied voters from the polls.

'Continued Windy, With Some Chance Of Storms'



People's Platform Bring Back Conservatism!

Editors, The News:

TO THE citizen who thinks objectively, this campaign discloses the overwhelming need of a national conservative party. The country must have a balance wheel or governor or the old machine is likely to fly to pieces. No country, however rich in resources and potentialities, can long stand two Santa Claus parties vying with each other for the vote of the people.

I listened in on both national conventions for note or expression of conservatism, but in vain. Nothing was said of thrift, economy and industry on the part of the individual or his obligation to the government. It was all the other way round—the duty of the government to the individual, and one party went so far as to chide the other for attempting to balance the national budget.

This callous quid-pro-quo theory of government can't be endured. Every pressure group—the farmer, laborer, veteran, infirm, and aged, to mention only the most notorious—is offered all it demands, with suggestions that the demands are modest.

Labor is offered, by one party, repeal of the Taft-Hartley Law, which once balanced the Wagner Act, and \$12.25 an hour minimum wage, full 100 per cent parity price support to the farmer, increased old-age benefits, etc., with the end result a new and happier America, and at the same time complaining of the high cost of living. To follow this type of logic would require the intellectual flexibility of a modern Hindu.

The objective of the other Santa Claus party is even more Utopian: a peaceful and happy world, effected, of course, by submission to our leadership and the benefit of American imperialism.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON, D.C. WHITE House advisers are giving serious consideration to the appointment of a Negro Judge William Hastie to the U.S. Court of Appeals in Philadelphia, to the U.S. Supreme Court. If the appointment is made it would be the first time in history that a Negro was appointed to the Supreme Court and might well put Eisenhower on a plane with Lincoln in the minds of the Negro population.

The President has the Justice Sherman Minton vacancy to fill as the October term opens. Minton was appointed by President Truman.

through the House a bill known as the Jonas Motor Pool Bill which resulted in the saving of millions of dollars and reduced expenses.

Mr. Jonas has just recently steered through the House a bill to permit the City of Charlotte to block away and it will destroy (or enhance) the value of one's house, store, vacant lot.

Mr. Jonas should be, with this record of achievement, the people's choice by both Democrats and Republicans.

—L. L. CHILDRESS

Why Won't Minister Seek Mayor's Post?

Editors, The News: COME weeks ago I wrote you suggesting that the ministers of Charlotte attend to their flock and the Lord's words, and allow our wonderful mayor and the councilmen to attend to the needs of the population of Charlotte. Someone else suggested that the preachers be chained to their pulpits. I would like to ask some of these preachers if they would be interested in running for mayor.

Therefore, I am inclined to think that if they really want to help our community they don't come to make a sacrifice financially and endeavor to run for their own provinces to the public that their intentions are to help?

—J. P. WIMBISH

Ike Urged To Name Negro To Court

WASHINGTON, D.C. being urged, among others, by Judge William Denham of the U.S. Court of Appeals, 8th Circuit in San Francisco. Judge Denham, a Roosevelt Democrat, recently wrote President Eisenhower: "Never has the criticism of godless Russia been so bitter as on this treatment of the Negro," he said, referring to recent southern opposition to school integration. "The appointment of a Negro judge of outstanding judicial capacity more than anything else would tend to mend our deteriorating power in world diplomacy."

White House advisers, who naturally have a weather eye out for political reactions, are not unimpressed of the fact

that the big city Negro vote is crucial in the November election. Most of them also believe privately that Ike has lost the solid South, thus the need to lose by the appointment of a Negro. It's even suggested that, in the end, southern Democrats would fight and filibuster the Hastie appointment. The Negro vote would be lost to the Democratic Party for years to come.

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McCloskey has taken on the thankless job of treasurer of the Democratic National Committee and is trying to raise money from little people. It's been tried before, but never successfully. Most campaign money in the past has come from big donors, on the Republican side, and big donors on the Democratic side.

Thousands Contribute However, here are the figures Matt McCloskey has been nursing: In the 1948 campaign, four weeks after Truman was nominated, there were only 139 Democratic contributors. In the 1952 campaign, four weeks after Stevenson was nominated, there were 614 contributors. But this year, four weeks after the nomination, there are 13,177 contributors.