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HOW DUMB ARE WE?

By Charles V. Stanton

Just how dumb is the American public? President Truman seems to place a very low value on our ability to use our reasoning faculties. Perhaps he is right. Maybe we are as dumb as his speeches would indicate he believes us to be. At least, according to our way of thinking, we haven't been overly bright in keeping the Socialist-Democrats in power all these many years.

In one of his recent "give-em-hell-Harry," whistle stop speeches, Truman lambasted Eisenhower. Ike, said the President, is increasing the risk of atomic war by "talking loosely about liberating the enslaved peoples of Eastern Europe." Truman said his administration is using all means "short of war to help save the brave people behind the Iron Curtain." He added: "There is no way to do more than this now without using force. To try to liberate these enslaved people at this time might well mean turning these lands into atomic battlefields."

Does Truman actually believe the American people will swallow that kind of talk?

What has the Truman administration ever done to liberate Eastern Europe other than cowering and shivering in its boots? It has trembled with fear every time Uncle Joe raised his hand. It has convinced itself, and is attempting to convince the rest of us, that this nation, which has shown great military ability, backed by civilian production which no other nation can begin to match, can't possibly stand up to Russia. That Russia is too big an enemy. Consequently the Truman administration has permitted us to be humiliated, cowed, pushed around, reviled and abused, while our ill-livered State Department groveled before the mighty Stalin.

No Protection For Nationals

Our nationals abroad have been tossed into prison. We've whined about it, paid ransoms, talked and talked. But to our everlasting disgrace we still have nationals in Iron Curtain prisons. We permitted Russia to block our path into Berlin. Instead of pushing our way through, we put on a brilliantly executed airift and bragged about it instead of hanging our heads in shame.

Instead of following the American policy laid down by President Theodore Roosevelt, "Speak softly and carry a big stick," Truman's policy has been to sneak quietly and carry a tiny twig padded with cotton.

But still the cocky little man who has given us the most corrupt administration in all our history, tries to tell us that Eisenhower is "talking loosely" when he says we should do something about liberating the enslaved people of Eastern Europe.

It's time someone was doing something about giving us an administration that isn't scared to death of its own shadow—one that will have at least a sprinkling of old-fashioned American spirit, rather than craven fear of bogie men.

If any man in our country today knows the weakness of our Communist enemies, that man is Eisenhower. If any man knows the weakness and strength of our allies, that man is Eisenhower. If any man is qualified to set up a defensive program to contain or beat Communism, that man is Eisenhower.

We must be mighty dumb if we swallow the political bait with which Truman is fishing.

Weeping Crocodile Tears

Said Truman: "Millions upon millions of decent human beings are going through dreadful agony and it is not for us to play cheap politics with their needs and hopes."

Truman should know about playing cheap politics with the dreadful agony of decent human beings. He was referring to the people of Europe, but how about the people at home?

What administration so balled up our policies in the Far East that Nationalist China was beaten? What administration lost to us the cooperation of China and Manchuria? What administration pulled out of Korea and invited the Communists in, then had to go back in a bloody, costly campaign? What administration has sold itself on the British type of "holding" war, thus committing our troops to apparently endless warfare such as has continued for ages in India and Egypt? What administration has filled our army camps with more men than can possibly be processed efficiently, calling up reservists needlessly, separating them from families and jobs, evidently for the purpose of keeping the labor market in short supply to maintain inflation, while making it possible to demand huge defense budgets from Congress?

And Truman has the unmitigated gall to talk about "cheap politics!"

Can we be so dumb we will swallow that kind of tripe?



There is something to be said about apartment life. I admit. Remembering the days when mowing the lawn, washing the windows, and the re-decorating were somebody else's concern, I realize that the man of the house has a lot more precious leisure in which to read—or fish!

But there is also that rent check: no sooner one is handed over than it's time for another one! And however lovely the landscaping may be one has to depend upon the florist's for a flower to put in the middle of the table for silent grace.

Some time ago a professional man, a reader of this column, remarked what a trial it was to have so little time to read anything other than the daily paper and the publications to do with his profession. He was kind enough to reassure me about the number of books I chat about in this column: said the Mending Basket helped him "keep up" a little with books

he wished he had time to read.

Of course in reviewing a story with a plot in it would be out of the question to give away the denouement and spoil the reader's anticipation, but so many of the books written about here, it happens, are not novels. Not intentionally so. I like a good novel as well as anyone. But there are so many. . . For one reason or another the books that in this corner are what some people call "escape books," but what I like to call door-opening books. They are, with rare exceptions, books for family reading, even reading aloud, books worth adding to the home shelves.

Some years ago eight women met once in two weeks to talk BOOKS. At each meeting one would review, very thoroughly, quoting many passages, telling in this case the denouement, and usually reading the "end." While she talked the others sewed or crocheted or darned socks. A spirited discussion followed. Then refresh-



Fulton Lewis Jr. WASHINGTON REPORT

(Copyright, 1951, King Features Syndicate, Inc.)

WASHINGTON — The South is ripe for GOP presidential candidate Dwight D. Eisenhower's political pitch.

The General has had a strong ally in helping set up the South. The assistance has come from Democratic presidential nominee Adlai Stevenson. So far, every time Stevenson has conferred with a southern politician, sound and fury erupts in the South.

The Illinois Governor gave Texas Democrats the shock treatment on the tideland oil issue. He performed the same hatchet work on other southern states when he buttressed his stand on the FEPC by calling for tougher federal intervention in the race issue if the South lags behind the rest of the nation in handling its racial problems.

The governor's tideland stand has also lost him strength in states other than those in the South. Oil interests on the West Coast took a dim view of his attitude, enhancing GOP chances there for Eisenhower and Senator Richard Nixon.

Stevenson's strategy is puzzling Democrats and Republicans alike. There are three sound reasons for his behavior, however. The first directly concerns Eisenhower and the weak campaign the general has undertaken so far.

In the space of a few weeks Stevenson has acquired the reputation of speaking his mind, irrespective of political consequences. He even bawled out the American Legion. By comparison his toughness reduces Eisenhower to a political nabby pambly.

It is effective and intentional campaign strategy that has paid off so far, but one that has a terminal point where insults to the South and other Democratic strongholds must be weighed against the likelihood of further effective damage to Eisenhower's political reputation.

The second possible answer to Stevenson's rough treatment of the South is a Democratic Party belief that the South is in the bag due to the convention loyalty pledge extracted in Chicago in July.

Eisenhower's tour indicates the Republican strategists discount this belief 100 per cent. The general is the first GOP presidential candidate in many years to make a strong bid across the Mason-Dixon line. He did not go South to look at the scenery. He went to look at the GOP column in November, along with Tennessee, Virginia, Louisiana and Florida. If he gets them he will be the political miracle man his backers have touted him as being.

The third reason Gov. Stevenson may have for kicking the South around is that the Democrats figure they can lick Eisenhower without the South—or at least without paying much political attention to the South.

Here again Stevenson's strategy runs head on into GOP victory plans. Republicans need the 12 midwest states which they figure they have with a maximum of effort, plus Oregon and touchy areas, such as California, Michigan and the New England states. With all of these, the GOP can capture the

ments, limited strictly to "two things." It may seem surprising that many times one or another would read the book subsequently, despite having heard it gone over so thoroughly. Maybe it was because the books chosen had something beside a story?

The plan could be followed with library books or the cost of the book might be prorated. Or each one could take turns in supplying the book. It is so stimulating to get together and really TALK BOOKS!



In the Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

dollars for what they got in the way of government — federal, state, county, city, etc.

That is an average of a little better than \$500 PER PERSON, or more than \$2,000 for each family of four.

Government costs money.

Here's the interesting part: Of this \$87 million dollars dug out of the people of Oregon for taxes in the fiscal year that has just closed, \$29 million went for FEDERAL taxes and only 278 million for OREGON taxes.

A question: If you had your say about it, would you prefer to put up nearly two dollars for FEDERAL government for every dollar you put up for your own LOCAL government—state, county, city, etc?

Or would you rather have it the other way around?

I'd like to leave this thought: Government, I suppose, is worth whatever it costs, for without government there is ANARCHY. Anarchy means every man for himself and the devil take the hindmost. Under such a system, the strong right arm is all that counts.

But government can cost more than it should cost. When government costs more than it SHOULD, it is usually because the people who are running the government spend money too recklessly, with too little regard for the value of what is received for what is paid.

Government is run by MEN. If the men who run our government aren't as good managers as they should be, the cost of government will be too high.

You can paste that in your hat.

Another question: Who really hires the men who run our government?

Why, YOU do. You hire them by the process of voting for them. That's the way they get where they are.

I'd say that with government costing you \$500 per person, or \$2,000 per family of four, per year, you'd better give a little more careful and conscientious thought to your voting.

That's the only way we can get BETTER government.

Editorial Comment

From The Oregon Press

THE JOURNAL & STEVENSON

Corvallis Gazette-Times

The Portland Journal has come out for Adlai Stevenson and will support his candidacy for the presidency.

This comes as somewhat of a shock although the Journal has nominally been a Democratic paper for many years.

Of course we can't know the real reasons for the Journal's course of action, but for public consumption the paper bases its decision on a letter from Governor Stevenson to Tom Humphrey, the Journal's editor.

As highlights of this letter the Journal has chosen the following four points:

1. "I have no commitments to anyone about anything — including Stevenson's candidacy."

2. "As to whether I can clean up the mess in Washington, I would bespeak the careful scrutiny of what I inherited in Illinois and what has been accomplished in three years."

3. "Our job is to persuade the country that they can have a change without changing parties."

4. "I'm considered a very hard man with a penny."

Probably very few people in this neck of the woods can deny Stevenson's first point. Just how he holds it to the men who got the nomination for him we will probably never know. We do know, however, that he is tied to the American for Democratic Action mess, the Jake Arvey Cook con-

ty mob and was approved by the labor bigwigs who pulled convention strings hard enough to pull Vice President Barkley clear out of the picture. We do know too, that his convention band wagon wasn't progressing at all until Harry showed up in Chicago and threw his weight around.

The Oregonian has ably answered the second and third points of Stevenson's assertions and we will let them answer these for us.

"The governor asserts his ability to save this spoiled Washington omelette—this mess—by a simple change of cooks, rather than by the throwing away the repugnant mixture. And, strangely, he supports his claim by citing the case in Illinois, where, actually, he succeeded an opposition party and was quite free to toss the old, political omelette out the window. That is, in Illinois, he was in, actually the opposite position from what he would be in if he should achieve the White House."

The Oregonian also wonders if Stevenson expressed his opinion of the Washington "mess" while he was attending the special cabinet meeting last week or does he reserve his opinion of how the Democrats have been running the country "for spreading among the people of the remote hinterlands."

The fourth point of Stevenson's allegations is one which can be answered with facts and figures and we will let them answer for us. Here are the facts:

Adlai Stevenson, acting as a true dealmaker, has broken all records

Stevenson's Detroit Crowds Fall Far Short Of Truman's

By JACK BELL

DETROIT (AP) — Gov. Adlai E. Stevenson campaigned in Michigan Monday and, in the eyes of this reporter, failed by a country mile to equal President Truman's 1948 personal impression on many of the same voters.

No exact comparisons can be drawn, but in retracing the Labor Day route by which the President formally opened his campaign four years ago, the Illinois Governor fell far short of Truman's crowds and their responsive enthusiasm.

If there was any real display of enthusiasm for the present party nominee it was in the predominantly Democratic and Polish island of Hamtramck within Detroit. This was the birthplace of the sit-down strike 15 years ago.

At Grand Rapids and Flint the crowds seemed curious to see Stevenson, listened politely but found no occasion to pound their hands, whoop and holler as they did four years ago for Truman. Stevenson's

speech at Pontiac was rained out.

Small Crowd In Square

Even in Detroit's Cadillac Square, where organized labor puts on its biggest shows, the crowd was small.

A blazing midday sun, a tire-some walk in a long Labor Day parade and television probably accounted for the empty standing room in the streets.

It was obviously easier to drop into an air conditioned bar and catch Stevenson's speech, cold beer in hand, than to melt in the unseasonable sun.

Few men can match the presidential crowd draw, even a major aspirant for the job. There is something about an American that makes him want to see a President in person, even if he's looked him over a hundred times on TV and in news reels.

There is plain evidence that Stevenson deliberately talked over the heads of many who listened to him in person.

Wilson Wyatt, the governor's campaign manager, said the Detroit speech, which dealt with a proposed new law to supplant the Taft-Hartley Act, was beamed at national consumption through television.

It was an effort, Wyatt said, to lay down in compact form the foundations for the labor issue the candidate will touch upon time and again before November.

Time will tell whether the TV audience appreciated the substance of what it got.

But the more immediate problem for the Stevenson camp lies in the curious fact that the high-level, philosophical type of speech which captivated crowds in New York and New Jersey last week laid a political egg in Michigan.

This state, with 20 important electoral votes, is regarded as something of a key to the Midwest.

Truman Orders Installation Of Air Fields

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Truman Wednesday ordered into immediate effect a long-range program aimed at giving the United States more and better air fields.

The program was embodied in recommendations made to the President by a special commission headed by James H. Doolittle, World War Two flying hero.

Embodied in the recommendations were these key provisions:

1. Airports should be given a major role in community planning and air fields should be integrated with other modes of transportation.

2. Air fields should be moved closer to the cities they serve.

3. No new airport should be planned without clear, level areas at least 1,000 feet wide and at least half a mile long beyond each end of the main runways.

4. Zoning laws should be set up protecting approaches to airports against construction of buildings for at least two miles in fan-shaped areas at least 6,000 feet wide at the outer ends.

5. Government appropriations for airport improvements should be increased substantially.

6. Helicopters and other forms of air taxi service should be set up between airports and cities.

The White House announced that the President has directed federal little commission recommendations into immediate effect, agencies to begin putting the Doolittle plan into effect.

37 Persons Die From Sleeping Sickness Disease

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Thirty-seven persons have died in California from sleeping sickness (encephalitis) this summer, the State Department of Health reported Thursday, but the total number of reported cases has fallen.

New figures represent an increase of four deaths in a week.

The department said the reported case total since June 1 has fallen to 597. It was once well above 600. The drop was caused by discovering suspected cases really weren't the mosquito-borne disease.

Of the total, 508 have been clinically diagnosed as encephalitis and the remaining 89 are still in the suspected category.

New cases reported have fallen off. The department gave much of the credit for the drop to the widespread control measures through the hot Central valleys in a war of poison sprays against the common mosquito.

for spending as Governor of Illinois. He has submitted two budgets in the State Legislature, in 1949 and 1951. Both exceeded any previous budget. The last pre-Stevenson budget, for 1947-49, showed new appropriations of \$1,087,400,000. The current Stevenson budget for 1951-53 shows \$1,364,700,000.

State payrolls have climbed under Stevenson. The average number of employees in all agencies under the Governor before Stevenson (July-December 1948) was for July-December 1951 was 29,283.12. The corresponding figure 1,686. This is a net increase of 1,374 employees during the Stevenson regime.

The huge cash surplus inherited by Stevenson is vanishing. When Stevenson's first two-year budget became effective on July 1, 1949, the State had a surplus of \$147,000,000, built up under Republican Governor Dwight Green. By April 30, 1952, the surplus had dropped to \$70,000,000. Now the surplus is "much less." By July 1, 1953, the end of the current two-year fiscal period, the surplus may drop to \$1,000,000.

The State's surplus is being spent despite the fact that State revenues from the sales tax, its largest source of general revenue, are at an all-time high. In the fiscal year ended June 30, 1951, the state's receipts from all sources totaled \$516,000,000. But Stevenson spent \$533,000,000. Thus, the State was in the red by \$17,000,000.

Under Stevenson, gasoline taxes have been increased from 3c to 5c a gallon and truck license fees have been sharply increased. In our book Stevenson's four points are none too palatable. We are indeed sorry to see such an able man as Tom Humphrey playing footsie with the corrupt Washington gang via the intermediary log of the captive Democratic nominee.

Statue Will Honor Dr. Marcus Whitman

OLYMPIA (AP) — Thursday is the 150th anniversary of the birthday of Dr. Marcus Whitman, pioneer medical missionary whose statue will be placed in the national capitol's Statuary Hall as the first commemorative representation from the state of Washington.

Governor Langlie took the occasion to report on the progress of the plan to finance the statue by public subscription.

He said \$20,000 of the \$30,000 needed already has been raised.

He urged "patriotic Washingtonians to assist in completing this fund-raising campaign so that the installation of the statue can take place as a part of the official opening of Washington's territorial centennial on March 2, 1953."

He sampled a basket lunch she had prepared, and found it "delicious."

Yesterday they went on a city welfare department boat ride — as honeymooners.

Couple Meets On Boat, Now Honeymoon On One

NEW YORK (AP) — Paul Roberts, 69, and Mary Watts, 65, met on a boat ride sponsored by a day center last month.

He sampled a basket lunch she had prepared, and found it "delicious."

Yesterday they went on a city welfare department boat ride — as honeymooners.

MY PAPER HASN'T ARRIVED YET

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A Tribute To OUR LABOR LEADERS

These hometown folks, often sacrificing their own interests, show devotion to their jobs and the interests of members of their unions. We have in mind such men as Alfred Gunderson (Lumber & Sawmill Workers' Local 2671); Ted Prusia (Lumber & Sawmill Workers' Local 2949); Mrs. Johnnie Scott, affectionately known as "Scotty" (Culinary Alliance Local 293); Tom Hart (Building & Construction Trades Council); Roy Rose (Barbers' Local 902); Ralph Aman (Building Service Employees' Local 154); Bob Caley (Carpenters' & Joiners' Local 1961), who is also president of Roseburg's Central Labor Council; R. W. Habel (Northwest Lumber Inspectors' Local 16); O. E. Fosback (Musicians' Local 539); Mel Hanna (Teamsters' Union Local 962); and many others we haven't space to acknowledge. These folks give of their time and talents, often without compensation, to the cause of labor in the endeavor to obtain for labor a just share of our economic wealth. They occupy an important place in our community and we salute their leadership and guidance on behalf of the thousands of union members.

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