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POLITICAL BOOMERANGS

Charles V. Stanton

Political strategy, which may seem good at the time, often backfires at a later date. Several good examples are currently in evidence.

Democrats are using Vice President Nixon's reference to the "party of traitors," in the last campaign, with good effect in trying to kill off Nixon as a possible Republican candidate if Eisenhower withdraws. Because the President is withholding announcement as to whether he will again be a candidate, Democratic campaigners are at a loss to know where to center their attacks. Consequently they can only fire random broadsides.

Popularity polls show Nixon to be in the favored spot, next to Eisenhower and Warren. So Democratic politicians are trying to weaken his position by reviving the reference, made during the last presidential campaign.

U. S. Representative Walter Norblad, who has been particularly noted in Congress for his exposures of waste and extravagance in the operation of the military services, recently spoke out for regulation of automobile power plants and for automatic mechanical governors to hold down speed of motor vehicles. He has stirred up much controversy.

Most automobile drivers love the feel of power, even though they may be careful drivers. Many motorists find reserve power an important safety factor in avoiding accidents. Some persons, of course, take advantage of the surplus power built into their cars to endanger their own lives and the lives of all others near them on the highways.

May Influence Vote

Now, because of the sudden and unexpected death of Governor Patterson, Norblad is prominently mentioned as a possible candidate to oppose Senator Wayne Morse at elections this year.

Had he known he would be projected into the senatorial campaign, Norblad doubtless wouldn't have proposed regulation of automobiles. The subject is too controversial. It probably will be used as a campaign issue, if he gets into the race, and doubtless will have some influence on voting. It might, of course, operate in his favor.

Then there is the "brink of war" statement by Secretary Dulles to furnish campaign fodder. Anyone who has followed American history knows that the "brink of war" policy is as old as our Nation. We haven't always been able to stop at the "brink" but, at other times, the policy has been very successful.

For example, we were on the brink of war in 1796 when Ambassador Charles Pinckney told the demanding French, "Millions for defense, but not one cent for tribute."

We were on the brink of war when President "Teddy" Roosevelt sailed the American fleet into hostile Japanese ports.

World War II possibly could have been averted had we followed the long established policy of moving to the verge of war; had we stopped the Japanese invasion of Manchuria and Italy's invasion of Ethiopia. A show of force then might have stopped later aggressions.

Political Career Affected

Unfortunately the Dulles statement was sensationalized by headline writing and now provides excellent campaign fodder for these jittery times.

Another politician, who shows much promise, may find his career affected by political strategy which seemed good at the time.

Oregon's Attorney General Robert Thornton is a brilliant and personable young man. But he used his position as the only Democrat in the state administration for party purposes. He used his office in various attempts to embarrass Governor Patterson.

Governor Patterson was one of Oregon's most loved governors. His death has cast gloom over the entire state. Thornton's harrassing tactics may now come back to haunt him, as he seeks to advance his political career, and may retard a deserving young man who could go far, if he could remember that he is a public servant first and a Democrat second.

Hal Boyle

NEW YORK (AP) — Curbatone comments of a pavement flauto:

"I do not believe in immortality and have no desire for it," once wrote H. L. Mencken, who died last week. "The belief in it issues from the puerile egos of inferior men."

At another time he expressed himself this way:

"Life is pleasant and I have enjoyed it, but I have no yearning to clutter up the universe after it is over."

There are many alive today who do not share Mencken's views on immortality, but who are perhaps glad he no longer is here to clutter up the universe.

The tendency to write Mencken off as merely a verbal showman began many years before his death. Those who prize orthodoxy always like to lower the unorthodox man by calling him a showoff. They do this because they fear him. He disturbs the pattern of their snug world.

The critics of Mencken like to dismiss him as the leader of a short-lived intellectual cult, as if he were no more than a faddist with a gift for words.

Sometimes I believe they are quite wrong. I think that if we could return here a century hence we would find that the chronic accents of the sprightly "Baltimore sage" had won a more enduring place in literature than the gibberish of many literary critics to-day who find life an overpowering and confusing.

Certainly those who would pigeon-hole Mencken as merely a short-alee long-hair styled temporarily by sophisticate college kids have got the wrong man in the wrong container. His mind

"Shouldn't We Get the Boat in the Water?"



Bruce Bioassat

As American history unfolds, the focal point of our national energies shifts from time to time. In the roaring 1920's, up to the onset of the Great Depression, they were centered on Wall Street. The national story was one of business growth, exaggerated by the paper boom in the country's financial center.

With the depression, the spotlight shifted to Washington. Through economic distress, partial recovery, another great war and the first years of its aftermath, the capital maintained and enlarged its eminence. Virtually all the great decisions were taken there. During the 1950's, however, the focus has moved part way off the capital, which now must share the spotlight with most of the rest of the country.

The reason is simple: Gradually the story of the nation's economic development has emerged once more as the most exciting aspect of American life. The details of our upward surge toward higher living standards and levels of prosperity are in some ways almost incredible.

Yet they cannot put Washington in more than partial shadow. For the great decisions of war and peace must still be made there, and they override all else. The Cold War, our relations with our foreign friends, the state of our defenses, all are matters subject to daily review in the capital.

Even with the great economic surge, Washington might still loom more importantly in our lives if it did not suffer — as it does — from certain serious failings.

Men in the capital, particularly in Capitol Hill, have not shown the will needed to make some of the big decisions that fall within their province. While the country grows and thus redoubles its requirements for schools, hospitals, highways and other facilities, the lawmakers talk.

Talk, debate, discussion are all part of the lawmaking and decision-making process. But at heart it must be earnest and to the point. Too much Washington talk is beside the point. Controversies swirl around topics that in the end do not matter.

Even in the foreign field, where external dangers compel action, the politicians waste endless time debating side issues.

The volume of Washington talk is far too great on almost any subject you can name. Most of it is confusing rather than illuminating. Everything is run into the ground, to the point of weariness and downright boredom.

he could sympathize with every form of human frailty except pretense and stuffed-shirtism. In his death freedom lost one of its most ardent swordsmen and pomposity its bitterest foe.

Mencken be forgotten? Even though the 23 volumes he wrote should sink into oblivion with his ashes, one sentence alone should guarantee him immortality.

As long as men love kindness, understanding and a sense of humor, they cannot forget the man who penned this as his whimsical epitaph:

"If, after I depart this vale, you ever remember me and have thoughts to please my ghost, forgive some sinner and wink your eye at some homely girl."

What critic of Mencken has ever written a line that shows so warm a feeling for humanity — not as it should be but as it is?

IN VIRGINIA

Pat James C. Maxon, son of Mrs. Ernest Novak, 1194 W. Harlan St., Roseburg, is a diesel repairman with the 57th Transportation Company at Fort Eustis, Va.

Private Maxon entered the Army in March 1955 and received basic training at Fort Ord, Calif.

He attended Liberty High School and was a farmer in civilian life.

Although a maximum age of golden pagers is unknown, there is evidence that they can live as long as 30 years.

Health Problems Accompany Rise In Populations

PORTLAND (AP) — Serious health problems arise as a result of population increases in suburban areas, the Legislative Interim Committee on Local Government was told Monday.

Dr. Harold M. Erickson, state health officer, said that the incidence of communicable disease was higher in areas where there were inadequate programs for water, garbage disposal, and fly and rat control.

Dr. Erickson, the first of some 50 witnesses expected to testify at the two-day hearing, displayed charts showing a higher rate of such diseases as hepatitis and polio in unincorporated areas than in cities with adequate water and sewer facilities.

He said the state needs stronger laws and additional personnel to handle the public health and the preventive medicine program in these areas.

Similar hearings have been held in other Western Oregon cities.

BISON BUTCHER

MISSOULA, Mont. (AP) — For his 30th year, Missoula butcher H. J. Helgeson has completed the annual kill of buffalo on the National Bison Range in northwestern Montana. He killed and butchered 57 bison, bringing to 3,341 his total kill.

It is of these little merchants that I'd like to speak in this piece. There are ten of them at this convention. They were chosen from among the tens of thousands of newspaper carriers in California. They are clean, handsome and ALERT. In no way are they out of place in this convention which includes some of California's most successful business and professional men — for the modern newspaper is both a business and a profession.

They are here as representatives of the California Newspaperboy Foundation, which is their segment of the newspaper business. In the state of California there are some 50,000 newspaper boys. These boys handle some 20 million dollars every year.

They are the newspaper boys of today. To a surprising extent, they represent the business leaders of tomorrow. The newspaper has no prouder boast than the large number of America's most successful business and professional men who got their start as newspaper carriers.

I'd like to quote here a recent statement by J. Edgar Hoover, the able and respected head of the FBI, who says:

"Among the 600,000 newspaper boys in the United States, LESS THAN ONE PER CENT BECOME JUVENILE DELINQUENTS."

That is a record that our industry can be proud of — and is proud of.

And yet —

There are people who say that employment of these young Americans to deliver newspapers to their subscribers constitutes EX-PLORATION and ought to be forbidden by law.

With that, I can't agree.

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TOKYO THIRD LARGEST

TOKYO (AP) — The Tokyo Metropolitan Statistics Bureau said today Tokyo's population was 3,048,613 — third largest in the world — as of Dec. 1. London and New York are more populous.

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