

EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT to VOTE

DOES WAYNE MORSE PUT PRINCIPLE ABOVE POLITICS?

Read the Opinion of Ex-Governor Chas. A. Sprague

Reprinted from his column "It Seems To Me" in Oregon Statesman, Sept. 26-27, 1956

Senator Wayne L. Morse is a candidate for a third term as senator from Oregon this time on the Democratic ticket. He demands that the contest between him and Douglas McKay be fought out "on the issues." Very well; but remember that Morse himself is the major issue.

Morse Is the Issue

Morse makes himself the issue. He personalizes whatever subject he is discussing. His speeches are chiefly in praise or defense of his own conduct in office, his own votes, his own opinions.

Morse makes himself an issue because one of his outstanding characteristics is his egotism. I am not ascribing to him vanity, but egotism, defined as "the practice of referring overmuch to one's self." Morse is definitely egocentric, striving to make the world revolve around himself and his ideas.

Now this trait of character might be passed over as a fault, an evidence of the frailties to which all humankind is heir. But in Morse it has developed into a dangerous form of self-righteousness. He is always right, whoever is opposing him at the moment is dead wrong. And he throws a blanket of moral sanction over his actions which confounds the public and which I think results in his deceiving himself. Yet he has reversed himself so often, altered his own course, joined what he rejected, spurned what once he endorsed, that his own actions belie either the purity of his motives or the value of his judgement.

Moral Arrogance

Another effect of this moral arrogance is that it has led Morse into intemperate utterance. He is extreme in denunciation. In 1946 he branded President Truman as "ham actor." Yet in 1952 he praised Harry Truman in a personal telegram: "Your record is indelible one in the history of our country, while that of your detractors will soon fade away." In February, 1952, when he said he was "strong for Eisenhower," he wrote: "I know him to be a very intelligent man with complete intellectual honesty and a marked impartiality." The Congressional Record for March 20, 1952 quotes Morse referring to President Eisenhower as "a man who in my judgment is completely lacking in political morality."

We must allow a man the privilege of revising his appraisal of men and of issues; but when he indulges in such radical utterances and extreme reversals of opinion and does it so often we are justified in challenging either his motive or the soundness of his judgment.

Burned Out Usefulness

In attempting to analyze Morse's claim to reelection and entering my opposition I am not doing so out of personal antagonism. I have no personal quarrel with him. I recognize he is a man of superior intellectual endowments, but regret that he has, in the opinion of many who were his friends, pretty well burned out his usefulness and effectiveness save as a persistent harranguer to a nearly empty Senate chamber. With many of the positions he has taken in his near 12 years of service, I have been in agreement with others strongly opposed. Morse deserted the Republican Party under whose banner he had won his office in 1944 and 1950 to become first an Independent and next a Democrat. He did not merely move across the political aisle, he wound up on the Democrats, not very welcome to those of the older Democratic tradition. That of course was his privilege. Morse justifies his move on the ground of principle and "conscience."

"No. 1 Hypocrite"

Certain it is that Wayne Morse's conscience is both well worked and abundantly advertised. Others who know Morse well have a different view, however. For example W. M. Tugman, editor of the Port Umpqua Courier and long-time editor of the Eugene Register-Guard calls Morse "the Number One hypocrite in Oregon." It is therefore timely to investigate Morse's claim to strict guidance of conscience and firm devotion to principle.

Funds Above Principle

Go back to 1944 when Morse first considered running for the U. S. Senate. When he returned to Eugene after resigning from the War Labor Board a group of local Democrats interviewed him to see if he would become the candidate of that party. Morse turned down their bid. Some years later Tugman learned of the conversations and published in the Register-Guard of March 27, 1953, the substance of the report by Marvin Warlick who was county Democratic chairman at the time:

"I invited Morse to come to my house to meet a number of prominent Democrats and we felt him out on the situation. He told us that his sympathies were largely with the New Deal but that he had always been registered as Republican and that in any case there was the problem of funds for his campaign. He doubted if we could provide adequate financial support, whereas he was sure the Republicans would. Later we had a telephone conversation in which he repeated the same sentiments."

When Morse made this response to the Democrats of Lane county was he actuated by conscience and principle, or was he moved by expediency—campaign fund expediency?

Come to 1952 when Morse's conscience really underwent great strain. He came to Oregon early that year and introduced his colleague Senator Duff of Pennsylvania at a dinner of the Multnomah County Republican Club in Portland. Both were boosting Eisenhower for the Republican nominee for President. Morse continued a strong Eisenhower booster and denounced Republicans who chose to file as candidate for delegate by petition so they would not be legally bound by the party preference.

Political Ethics Changed

After the convention, Morse became soured on Republicans, on Eisenhower and Nixon. At first he sulked in his tent, later he came out lock, stock and larnyx, for Adlai Stevenson, the Democratic candidate. This decision was announced as based on "principle" and presumably on conscience. Previously he had declared that for one holding office to bolt his party violated his conception of political ethics. Somewhere along the line that concept of political ethics underwent a change.

Why the Desertion?

After bolting the Republicans Morse became an Independent. Almost weekly during the sitting of the 83rd Congress he arose to make his weekly "report" of the Independent Party. As late as July, 1954 he denounced as a "lie being spread by my enemies" that he would enroll as a Democrat. But after being warned by Monroe Sweetland Democratic national committeeman, that he would get no support from Democrats if he remained an Independent, Morse, well in advance of filing time for the senatorial race in 1956 flew out to Oregon, drove to Eugene and registered as a Democrat.

The question I want to raise is this: Why did he desert the Independent party? What had gone wrong with it, with its leadership, with its principles? What writhings of conscience preceded his walking out of the Independent Party? What purification of the Democratic Party had occurred to make a comfortable spiritual home?—it should be recalled that in the 1940s he was a veritable Saul of Tarsus in flaying the New Deal and the Democratic Party.

Loyalty Questioned

Was not his conversion to the Democratic Party the conversion of expediency? As an independent he stood to fall between two stools in Oregon. As a Democrat he would have a ready-made statewide organization to support him. Morse had no desire to become a dead lion, standing by his principles of Independence. He boarded the Democratic bus hoping that it would be a vehicle to carry him through another election, just as he boarded the GOP bus in 1944 when he thought the fat cats of Republicans would finance his campaign—as many of them did, even rallying to pay off the deficit caused by his free spending.

Now how loyal is Morse to the Democratic Party? I am going to quote again from his interview with Kimmis Hendrick:

"I'm telling people," Senator Morse said for his own part determinedly, "that I'm going to remain an independent—that it's the only right way to represent them in Washington."

In other words, let the Democrats provide the vehicle (and the campaign funds), but let Morse vote as he pleases after he is elected!

However, it is only fair to quote from another columnist, Joe Alsop who observed Morse at the Clackamas County Democratic picnic and reported: When the chairman presented Morse with a check for his campaign fund Morse returned it, telling Chairman Groener to "spend it as he thinks best, for the benefit of the entire—and mind you, I say entire—Democratic ticket in Clackamas county." That was when he was wearing the party coat.

Morse bases his stand on public issues on principle—and he seems to have so many principles that he can call up one to support each stand he takes. Thus in 1946 when he was new in the Senate he voted to confirm the nomination by Roosevelt of Henry Wallace for Secretary of commerce, basing his stand on the principle that a President is entitled to name the members of his cabinets. However, when President Eisenhower nominated Charles E. Wilson for secretary of defense Morse pulled out another "principle"—I don't know just what—and in obedience to that principle he voted against confirmation.

Now I do not believe that a person should be a slave to consistency. Different times, different relationships call for different judgments. But I do object to this parade of virtue and exploitation of "conscience" as a cover for all the gyrations of the Morse career. I credit Morse with acting many times out of genuine concern for the public interest. But I think also that he indulges in rationalizations until he suffers from the illusion that he is always right and drapes himself with the cloak of "principle" and "conscience" as a protective coloration.

Conscience Unreliable

Let us have done with this excessive advertisement of the Morse conscience, which if it is truly his guide is then remarkably unstable and unreliable.

Pd. Adv. Curry Co. Republican Central Comm. Ed Ackley, chmn., Brookings, Ore.

Timber Resources Review

First of a series of articles on our timber resources written by W. E. Ragland, forest ranger

For many years the Forest Service has periodically examined the forest situation as part of its over-all responsibility to keep the people and the Congress informed as to timber supplies and outlook.

Investigations for the sixth report were started in 1952 and have now been completed for preliminary release and review. Private industry and state agencies cooperated in the gathering of the data for the report. This report is called the Timber Resource Review or TRR.

TRR has been condensed into 21 highlights which answer questions that are highly significant to the nature of our nation's long-term economy.

TRR answers such questions as: How much timber do we have?

How fast are we harvesting our timber resource?

How fast are we growing new crops of timber?

How much timber will we need in 1975 and year 2000? In brief, the essence of the findings of the Timber Resource Review are this:

Tomorrow the nations need for timber will be strikingly greater than it is today or at any time in the past. And we have the potential to meet that need if we fully apply our forestry knowledge and skills promptly.

Some of the highlights of TRR will be presented in successive articles. The economic picture painted by TRR is more significant nationally or regionally than locally. However, to the local community, are several lessons that should be observed by all who wonder or who are concerned about what the future will bring to their community. We know that those communities who are doing a better job today of protecting their forest lands and of restocking their cut-overs are going to be in a more favorable position economically tomorrow.

Would You Believe It's Ten Years Since:

Doc Schmidt was running for coroner.

A girl's physical education committee was formed at the high school with Patty Braun, Lois Ann Miller, Nettie Raymond, Larrie Robinson to push it and Ruth Hasset contributed a cot to be used by the girls.

Joe Gallagher loaned Howard Gardner a 45-60 rifle and three shells for Howard to go deer hunting with, remarking he wanted two shells returned. (You guess the answer—one guess!)

The Joe (Carl's brother) Bergers move to Mount Vernon, Washington.

Ed Oar got the first buck of his life cruising up the south bank Chetco road.

When Louie Sparling built a bolted-together cabin back of Hanscam's some years ago folks wog-

gled their heads, but' when Louie decided to move his chattels up to Dale Bravo's, they didn't laugh when Louie unscrewed the well oiled nuts, took his residence's panels asunder, moved and set them up in their new location some miles away.

And Don Merritt also went hunting and got sore feet.

Some bad fires fought on the beach.

Knapp hospital, Crescent City taken over by Del Norte county.

Everyone not hunting was planting lilies.

Herman Goering, Hitler's playmate, suicides before facing war criminal trial.

Christmas Overseas Mailing Gets Underway

Postmaster Bill Thompson reports that Christmas packages for servicemen overseas should be mailed between October 15 and November 15. No assurance can be given after that date in time for Christmas. Even airmail should be sent early, Thompson said.

For an APO address airmailed packages are limited to 30 inches in length and girth combined, and two pounds in weight. Surface shipment packages are not to exceed 50 pounds in weight. A heavy corrugated cardboard, wood or metal containers are requester for shipment overseas, Thompson said.

No currency can be shipped overseas and some APO destinations will have to have custom inspection.

Brookings Items

Clarence Keyes who suffered serious injury in the woods some time ago, is still a patient at Good Samaritan hospital, Portland. According to his wife, he expects to be X-Rayed again, soon, to see if broken bones are knitting satisfactorily.

Gary Wimberly has been planting cucumbers and they're peeking out of the ground. Figures he will have a good crop come the holidays—in his big greenhouse of course.

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