

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us No Fear Shall Awe"
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Operation: Slings Mud

There is a rising revolt among intelligent persons against the mudslinging to which this presidential campaign has deteriorated. Edwin Canham, editor of the Christian Science Monitor, scored it severely in his radio broadcast Tuesday night. The New York Times scolded President Truman for his share in personal attacks on General Eisenhower. The latter has abandoned his purpose of avoiding personalities to slug it out with Truman, although in Salem he confined his remarks to endorsing the moral and spiritual heritage of church and home and school. Stevenson has kept to a high level, but his party eager beavers fear he is staying too highbrow.

In a big general campaign some speakers are bound to shoot the works without restraint. It seems to be what Wendell Willkie called "campaign oratory," which is replete with exaggeration and condemnation of the opposition. A Republican "truth squad" pursues Truman hoping to smother him with counter blasts. Charges of "lying" are hurled back and forth or of twisting the record out of focus for political effect.

We have grown accustomed to considerable of this line of gaff; but the volume of it this time is too great. Pretty soon the people will puke over the diatribe thrown at and by men presumed to be statesmen. So much time is devoted to personalities that little is left for a sober discussion of the issues between the two candidates. The campaign remains, in principle, a contest between Taft and Truman and not between Eisenhower and Stevenson.

Why not get back to the simple truth that both Ike and Stevenson are good, sound Americans, willing to serve their country and capable of serving it well. The heavens are not going to fall if either one is elected; and miracles are not going to happen, either. And both Ike and Adlai are a lot better than most of the men who are campaigning for them.

Candidates in Agreement

Previously we have remarked that, left alone, there probably is little difference in the personal views of Eisenhower and Stevenson. For proof here are these quotes, in discussions of "mistakes" in our foreign policy—

Stevenson at Louisville: "Nor do I list these mistakes in judgment and errors of prediction in order to lay any personal blame on the General. Better we refrain from competing in denouncing each other in a scramble for votes, admit our common mistakes—and get on with our business."
Eisenhower at Eugene: "Let's admit our mistakes, and not try to pin the responsibility on any one man or group of men."
To which the people join in saying Amen.

No sympathy need be lost to the owners of the tin mines in Bolivia over their nationalization by the revolutionary Victor Paz Estenssoro government. The owners, chiefly now living in luxury abroad, have exploited the workers without mercy. It remains to be seen of course whether the government can produce tin any better than Mossadegh's government in Iran can refine and sell oil.

"All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy" is an old saying. Rita Hayworth amends it to read: All play and no work makes Al a poor husband.

'Don't Sell Harry Short' Democrats Warn, As President Continues Attacks on Ike

By JOSEPH ALSOP

SAN FRANCISCO—Judging by reports, the Republican leadership is at least pretending to feel the same contempt for Harry S. Truman's campaign that was so mistakenly felt four years ago. Judging by on-the-scene observation, however, the Republicans would be wise to take the advice of one of the California Democrats.

"Don't sell Harry short," was the way this Democratic politico summed up his reaction to the President's remarkable foreign policy speech here in Oakland. Ironically enough, Gov. Adlai E. Stevenson, who once had a distinct tendency to sell Harry short, is now very long on Harry too.

Everyone must recall what a pallid view Stevenson and his advisers formerly took of the President's whistle-stopping. This earlier Stevenson view is even now reflected in the physical circumstances of the President's stamping trip across the country. Truman is traveling with an allocation of National Democratic funds barely sufficient to pay for his train. No appropriation has been provided for national radio or television time for Truman. Local broadcasts, such as that from Oakland, are being locally financed.

Moreover, the President himself, in his oddly humble way, was worried about Gov. Stevenson's reaction to his efforts until he reached this city. Then, before leaving San Francisco, he had a call put through to Springfield. Stevenson was profuse in his expressions of admiration and gratitude to the President. He begged the President to go right on whistle-stopping, and right on pouring it on the Republicans, until election day. He indicated that efforts would now be made

to find additional cash, in order to put the President on the national air.

In short, Truman, who was once to be kept in the background, is now to be given a great role in this puzzling campaign. Maybe the change of Democratic strategy is a piece of folly. But in the Oakland speech here, as at the small towns along Truman's route through the Northwest, you could see why Stevenson and his aides now regard Truman as a major asset.

In the first place, the President has been changed by the change in his own situation. As a leader about to lay down his burden, he is easier, more relaxed, and much more eloquent. He does not mangle his words. He no longer seems merely pugnacious. He is humorous and homely. His timing is good. He can even be truly moving, as in the passages in the Oakland speech acknowledging the sacrifice of our dead in Korea, and defending that sacrifice as a glorious contribution to freedom's cause.

This change in Truman is extra-effective because his decision to retire has also rather obviously altered his standing with the voters. A large group, no doubt, still feels bitter resentment against the President. But many others who were once hostile are now influenced by the thought that Truman no longer has a personal axe to grind. They are not worrying any more about the cronies, who are soon to disappear. Resentment has subsided among these people. It has been replaced by admiration for the President's brisk courage in the fight.

These are the reasons why the Truman tour, to date, seems to have been gaining votes for the Democrats. Maybe, as these words are written in San Francisco, the President will be putting his foot in his mouth somewhere down the line from here. He seems more likely, however, to be putting the bee on Gen. Eisenhower.

In truth, Gen. Eisenhower and his supporters are not wise to dismiss Truman's whole attack as "mere mud-slinging." The General, in these last three weeks, has chosen to do a pretty risky thing. He has chosen to denounce the American foreign and defense policy that he himself helped to make. And the President has collected a whole half-full of documents to show Eisenhower's complicity in the very decisions the General is now deploring.

Some of these documents Truman will no doubt strain and misuse. This reporter thinks, for instance, that Truman strained his point when he sought to blame Eisenhower for the mistakes at Berlin which ended in the blockade there.

Yet no one can deny that the General, as Army Chief of Staff, actually initiated the proposal that we withdraw our troops from Korea. No one can deny that the General helped to work out former Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson's disarmament program, which Johnson publicly called an "Eisenhower program." No one can deny that in 1946, the General took an ever-hopeful view of Soviet purposes, while other men like Averell Harriman judged more rightly. Papers to prove these points against the General, and other points too, are in the President's safe.

It is safe for Sen. Robert A. Taft to denounce every aspect of our foreign and defense policy, only because Sen. Taft has had no responsibility for foreign and defense policy-making. The General, on the other hand, although humanly fallible, actually made his tremendous contribution and achieved his greatness as a foreign and defense policy-maker. Hence, his advisors who have badgered the General into talking, at times, distinctly like Sen. Taft, may find they have made a very bad mistake. To produce this result is the President's dearest wish.

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When Indifferent, Don't Vote

The "register-to-vote" campaign is over; more than 47,000 persons are now on the Marion County roll. Since, ordinarily, only about half of those registered to vote cast ballots in the election, the drive to "get out the vote" now will commence.

Almost everyone will agree with Governor McKay when he said (in proclaiming registration week) that "it is a sad commentary on our evaluation of our freedoms that over one-third of all Oregonians entitled to vote are too lethargic or too lazy to exercise their franchise." Americans are both ashamed and baffled when U.S. election turn-outs are compared with the percentage of eligibles who vote in other democracies, and both party and non-partisan organizations denounce political "apathy" and urge political participation, i.e. voting.

But Eric Larrabee, secretary of the committee on American Civilization of the Council of Learned Societies, in a New York Times magazine article questions the value of the annual exhortations to vote.

The size of the vote is no index of the quality of government, he says. (Is government in England or Albania or Israel, where a much greater percentage vote, better than in the U.S.?) Why should we condemn American non-voters as second-class citizens, when the right to vote subsumes the right not to vote? Maybe they have good reasons for not voting. Maybe they feel the nation will be in good hands no matter who wins. Is it pathetic not to vote when you literally dislike all the candidates? Does apathy necessarily imply lack of passion or conviction?

Larrabee thinks we don't know much about apathy and use the term much too easily. We also use the term "participation" too easily. Universal participation in politics is offered as a panacea; if everybody would vote we could not fail to have good government; the voice of the people is the voice of God, etc.

But suffrage has never been universal in America, Larrabee points out. We exclude the immature and the unfit; why not also the indifferent? For apathy is not the main enemy of good government; incompetence (inability to understand politics, to judge political issues, to relate one's understanding to action) is a more serious enemy, Larrabee concludes:

"Exhortations to vote merely for the sake of voting seem to me inadequate, but... they do in fact do a certain amount of good, since they necessarily compel voters and non-voters alike to consult their political consciences... The opposite of apathy is not merely 'participation' but more thoughtful people, more thoroughly dedicated to the arts of self-government."

This is particularly true in a state like Oregon where the initiative and referendum place the responsibility for final judgment upon the people. The several state issues on the ballot this fall require thoughtful and informed decision—more so, perhaps, than a vote for a presidential candidate or state official. Thus when we urge citizens to vote we do, indeed, mean them "to consult their political consciences," and if they are, indeed, "too lethargic or too lazy" then it is good citizenship for them to abstain from voting on the issues and offices to which they are indifferent.

One for the Quiz Kids. Who is Democratic candidate for vice president?



Restaurant in the State Capitol comes out with "I Like Ike" cigarettes. Gaudy red-and-white striped jacks. Demos can't get "Adlai, Madly" or "Light Horse Harry" brands so they have to be satisfied with the elephant blend. What happens when you drag on one of those festive fags? Are they kind to your "T" (for taxes) zone, do they give you a treat instead of a statement, and are they round, firm and fully stacked clear up to here? ...



California scribes are waving their yagis hysterically in praise over Nixon's teetotal appearance. Hal Humphrey, L. A. Mirror radio-TV editor, even channels out the info that TV made Nixon. The large citizen response to Nixon's fund talk and true story, hints Humphrey, can be credited to the fact that Nixon gave his talk over video. Humphrey should note that several hundred Salem citizens also responded joyfully to Nixon's talk—and not more than 2 per cent of them (if that many) saw him on TV.

The only thing wrong with Ike's sterling talk in Salem was that about 70 per cent of the crowd at the depot couldn't hear him. Those two mike's on the train platform were about as adequate as a whisper in a wind-storm. A good share of the crowd, after a few minutes of eardrum straining, left before the talk was over. Local GOPsters were told that the campaign special was a self contained unit with everything but those mikes, meant for the usual whistle-stop crowds of about 3,000, were lost in Salem's 10,000 turnout.

At Eugene where the crowd was even larger a PA system was rigged up on a sound truck. Hard-boiled radio and newsmen aboard the special told Rep. Marz Hatfield they were really impressed with the hospitality, beauty and crowds in Oregon... While the huge crowd waited around the Salem depot for the Ike train, up drives Gov. McKay's block-long Cadillac. As the crowd watches expectantly the door opens and out hops Hatfield and Winton Hunt, Marion County GOP leaders. Amid cheers and same good-natured boos Hunt and Hatfield doff their hats and salute the spectators in regal fashion... .

Riding with Ike from Salem to Albany with the Marion County delegation was Dennis O'Hara, and Bill Ford, Salem youngsters. When young O'Hara was introduced to the general he told Ike: "I met you in Seattle and you told me then you would introduce me to your wife." Ike grinned and turned to one of his aides. "Take this boy back right now and introduce him to Mamie."... And Frances Cole, secretary of Marion County Young GOP group, was also supposed to board the train at Salem and even bought her ticket for same. But she became so absorbed listening to Ike talk and handing Mamie flowers on behalf of the local club, that she stood there in a daze as the train pulled out of the station without her.

GRIN AND BEAR IT by Lichty



The Government must plan now for any financial chaos!... We must never go back to the old-fashioned type of unplanned chaos!...

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued From Page One)

Board and the Superintendent. The Board also could go outside the state to choose its executive if it so desired.

The argument against the measure is that the executive head of the school system is "twice-removed" from direct responsibility to the people. He is appointed by the governor. Holy first proposed that members of the State Board be elective, but that idea was rejected, and rightly so, in my opinion. It is much easier for the people to vote for one person than to elect boards of seven members.

I favor keeping the office of State Superintendent elective. It has been kept on a high plane and will continue so in view of the great interest of the people in education. It is perhaps less apt to become involved in politics than it might be with authority stemming from the Governor's office.

With the growth in authority of the State Department of Education there is need for a continuing direct relationship between it and the people. While a good many states have appointed Commissioners of Education others which are leaders in education retain elected Superintendents. Moreover, we do not want to get our schools too strongly centralized. Districts should enjoy reasonable latitude in developing their programs and managing their affairs.

There are good arguments on both sides of this question, but I recommend Vote 301 X No.

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Literary Guidepost

By W. G. ROGERS

CHIAROSCURO: FRAGMENTS OF A UTOPIA, by Augustus John (Pellegriani & Cudahy; \$5)

America's Jo Davidson, the late sculptor, was John's opposite number, so to speak: As Davidson sculpted the great and near great, so John has painted them... you could almost say, if a sitter wasn't great before, he was after John had done his portrait. There is a John cachet.

But the sitter paid in money and also in the artist's assessment of his character, for John could be frank and earnest, too. Friends and acquaintances as well as clients are the subjects of his generous praise but also on occasion the victims of his sharp tongue. Orpen, he says, had an "infinite capacity for avoiding pains." Modigliani was, he says, "normally charming... but rarely normal." He couldn't stand Frank Harris, was not overly impressed by the fading Wilde, notes Gogarty's "customary malice," and his own father, a lawyer but perhaps a bumbling sort of fellow, is described as a seashell picker-upper whose cowries alone, says his son, would have made him rich in Central Africa.

Born and brought up in Wales, one of four children, John studied at the Slade... that's almost all he tells about art. Because he was skilful, personable or lucky, or a combination, he early became fashionable. At his first show he made 30 pounds, and from then on he traveled pretty much as he pleased, with or without wife and children, in England and Ireland, on the continent, in America, often visiting the Gypsies whose language or languages he appears able to speak. Among his sitters have been Joyce, Yeats, Stresemann, Lloyd George, Montgomery, Hirohito.

This book was begun as a peccolent project for Cyril Connolly's magazine Horizon, and other sections were written to fill in. As a result, you get absolutely no idea of time, and John's remark that "chronology is not my strong point" is such a fantastic understatement as to be, in effect, false. He jumps, for instance from an Avignon-to-Marseilles walk in 1926 to the 1896 and Arthur Symons and to 1914 when... he thinks... he painted Symons. In this case you happen to catch him skipping about; usually he does it and leaves you bewildered. Though you don't learn it here, he was born in 1879.

Better English

By D. C. WILLIAMS

1. What is wrong with this sentence? "Are you planning on a trip to Atlanta, and how long will you stop there?"
2. What is the correct pronunciation of "facet"?
3. Which one of these words is misspelled? Alabaster, porter, janitor, arbiter.
4. What does the word "perfidious" mean?
5. What is a word beginning with *dem* that means "a woman of doubtful reputation"?

ANSWERS

1. Omit "on," and say, "how long will you stay there?"
2. Pronounce *fas-et*, a *as* in *fast*, accent first syllable, *J*, *Janitor*.
3. Basely false to trust. "They were all involved in this perfidious fraud." 5. Demimonde.