

"Party Split" More Fun than a Fire

Schism of Dixie Democrats Could Wreck Party Hopes

By BAUKHAGE
News Analyst and Commentator.

A political year may be pretty hard on business, international affairs and persons who expect congress or the President to take some highly important but controversial action which might scare away votes—but, if you can stand on the sidelines dodging the brickbats which each side hurls at the other, a political year is lots of fun.

One thing that is as interesting to the casual observer as workmen excavating a cellar, a sandlot baseball game, a fire or a dog-fight, are the quadrennial "party splits" which threaten (several months before the conventions) to rend the big parties in twain. They usually end the same way—both splinters singing Sweet Adeline, and cursing the other party in perfect harmony.

On the surface the recent row between the southern Democrats and the White House looks like one of those affairs. There is no doubt that the southerners are good and mad. And by all their standards they have every right to be. So there is no telling what might happen! But the fact remains that the Negro voters in the north can vote either Republican or Democratic, just as they please. In fact, the colored population really has more freedom than the rest of the electorate because it has no tradition of following a strict pattern.

A Democrat, however, is he lives in the South and if he is to remain a Democrat, has to vote with the Democratic party, even if he does it with anger in his heart and tears in his eyes. Since the administration banks on this, we see even a president from the southern state of Missouri, defying the wishes of his friends below the Mason-Dixon.

I am not questioning any of the supporters of civil rights and the Constitution from the President down, but there does remain the fact of the Negro vote, and there remains likewise many a warm personal and political friendship which has to be subjected to a painful ordeal. The "split" is exciting to watch whether with Sweet Adeline or not.

And if you look across the aisle, you'll see some more splinters.

Listen to this: . . . If Republican leaders in congress want to win the political confidence of

both Republican and independent voters, they must stop trying to sell the program of the National Association of Manufacturers as good Republican doctrine . . .

That wasn't Henry Wallace speaking. Nor Democratic national headquarters.

That was Republican Sen. Wayne Morse of Oregon. Morse assails "the conservative leadership" of his own party as vigorously as he scores reaction in the Democratic party.

I already have discussed Wallace and his third party "split." There are those who think it of so little importance that it can be ignored. Some now are predicting that before the election, Wallace will be granted some concession, some advantage, and will come out for Truman for president. I wouldn't go that far, but I have heard the prediction in more than one quarter.

Republicans are supposed to welcome Wallace to the race, and to count on him to cut down the Democratic vote to something almost insignificant.

Let me quote Senator Morse on that subject, as his words appeared in an article in the February issue of the Progressive magazine. Morse says that Wallace mustn't be taken too seriously, but that he mustn't be ignored either. He adds:

"Let my Republican party never forget that there are not enough Republicans to elect a Republican president, nor enough Democrats to elect a Democrat as president. Fortunately there are not enough fellow-travellers to elect Wallace."

"Splits" can't be ignored, it is true. They are important because there is always the possibility that the splitters might find another Teddy Roosevelt to lead them. That can't happen often, though, and meanwhile splits are fun to watch.

★ ★ ★ ★

'Inside Info' Exaggerated

There has been remarkable interest recently in charges that Washington officials used "inside information" obtained because of their connection with the government to play the markets. The other day one highly-placed gentleman came to me in quite a stew.

"Have you heard the rumor that I was being charged with playing the market on information I got from the White House?" he asked.

"No," I replied. "Who is doing the charging?"

"That's what I want to find out," he spluttered.

"Well," I answered, surprised at his wrath, "you certainly don't feel insulted by it, do you? Anybody can be charged with anything in an election year."

"I certainly am insulted," he came back, "not because my honor is being impugned, but it is an insult to my intelligence to imply that anyone who has been around Washington as long as I have would be such an ass!"

When I first came to Washington as a reporter, I remember there was a minor scandal on "leaks" that had been used for profit. The chief offender, however, was a publicity man, not an official, and from the standpoint of business it proved a fine thing for him. As soon as the charges that he had obtained confidential information and had passed it on to his client were made public he had a dozen offers from other big firms to get on their payrolls. He did, but it wasn't long before he left Washington. He didn't get any more confidences.

A lesser factor in the affair was a newspaper reporter. It was discovered that he was on the payroll of a brokerage firm to whom he phoned anything he thought might be of interest after he had written his story for his paper whose last edition had an early afternoon deadline. It was shown that the brokers paid him all of \$25 a month. In the investigation it also was shown that while he knew what was news for a newspaper, the reporter had only the foggiest idea of what would interest a broker as he probably never owned a share of stock in his life. He was duly fired from the paper, and suspended from the Press club, but nobody was too sore.

They knew, as my friend indicated, it was stupidity rather than lack of virtue which was his chief sin.

My own first lesson on the subject of Washington journalistic ethics

was administered very tenderly by an Old Timer, my boss. My assignment was helping to cover the British embassy early in World War I, before America had become embroiled.

One night, my boss, who knew everybody in Washington, took me along to introduce me to the British commercial attaché—I'm not sure that was what he was called in those days, but it describes his job. He talked with us quite a while, much more freely than he would have conversed with me alone, for I was a stranger to him.

In the course of the conversation, he mentioned that tomorrow, or next day, Great Britain would announce what amounted to an embargo on American wool (Britain wanted to switch her buying to Australia). The attaché explained the background of the move in detail.

When we were out on the street, my boss pulled out his watch and remarked to me: "Now, if we were crooked, we would still have time before the markets close to make a lot of money selling short, wouldn't we?"

He didn't have to explain further. AFTER the British had made their announcement, I was able to write a good "follow," interpreting the move. That's all any newsman gets out of "confidential" information, and all that 99.44 per cent of us ever expect.

The same thing applies to government employees. Those who act otherwise soon depart.

HOW PRICES DEFLATE

Consumer Resistance Does It

Those same forces which recently knocked down prices of food and other commodities in a spectacular outburst have been quietly at work all during the past year.

Rising supply in a number of lines of goods has caught up with demand, and in some cases it has bumped into demand and money supplies on their way down, according to an analysis by the family economics bureau of Northwestern National Life Insurance company.

Poultry, eggs, potatoes, oranges, canned fruit juices, certain canned fruits and vegetables, preserves and jellies all have had little private recessions of their own during the past year. By the end of 1947 the prices of most of these items either had leveled off or were actually

below the levels of a year previous, the study says.

In manufactured goods, the supply of small radios recently has overflowed the level of demand, with prices skidding in many cities. Large radios are very close to current demand, as are washing machines, stoves and deep-freeze units.

As long as consumers demand goods despite rising prices, the study pointed out, the manufacturer will pay higher and still higher costs for materials and labor, rather than have his production shut down and his flow of goods to the consumer cut off. Retail stores buy his finished products despite higher manufacturing costs because they know their customers want the goods.

But when enough consumers indicate they will not pay increased prices, then manufacturers and stores stiffen their own resistance to higher prices of materials, wage boosts and the resulting price mark-ups for the finished goods because it is evident that such further increases will prevent the products from being sold.

When demand falls off and meets rising supply, the result is a halt in the price rise and often a sharp downturn. Sometimes consumers, merchants and manufacturers all decide that prices are going to keep on declining and therefore cut their buying still more all along the line. Downward price spirals usually start in that way, the study observed.



BEST DOG IN SIGHT . . . Champion Rock Ridge Night Rocket, a Bedlington terrier, was chosen best dog of the show at the annual Westminster kennel club dog show in New York's Madison Square Garden. The champ is owned by William A. Rockefeller of New York.

NEWS REVIEW

Reds Assume Control Of Czech Government

There were six days of crisis in Czechoslovakia and then it was all over—the Communists were in complete control of that nation of 13 million population.

The iron curtain came down with a muffled clang as President Eduard Benes accepted the resignation of 14 of his cabinet ministers after he had refused for a week to do so.

Into power strode Communist Premier Klement Gottwald who had led his party upward from a minority status in Czechoslovakia until now its members dominated every phase of the nation's life and were prepared to swing it directly into the orbit of other Soviet satellites.

Wielding the club to keep the Czechs in line was Gottwald's good right hand, Vaclav Nosek, minister of the interior, who controls all Czechoslovakian police forces. In



Gottwald . . . Nosek.

that powerful position in a Communist-dominated state Nosek was analogous to the mailed glove on the dictator's fist.

For what it was worth—and that was very little—aging President Benes had managed to keep at least a superficial appearance of representative government by insisting that the government be composed of members of other parties of the national front which reinstated the Czechoslovak republic in 1945 when the Germans were being driven out. But it was a hollow, tasteless victory—meaningless in any practical application.

The new government consists of 12 Communists (there were seven before), four Social Democrats, two Czech National Socialists, two Catholic Peoples party members, one Slovak Democrat and two non-party men, Jan Masaryk as foreign minister and Gen. Ludwig Svoboda as minister of defense.

Bewildered Czechs finally knew their cherished republic had come to a grim end when loud speakers in Prague blared this announcement into the night:

"Reaction has been beaten. Go back to work and let us complete our tasks on the two year plan."

In Czechoslovakia's ironic chronology the surging wall of the Red tide engulfed their country just 10 years after the western Allies had sold the nation to Hitler at Munich in a tragically selfish and futile effort to avoid war and save their own skins at the price of just one small Central European state.

Reaction

With the Balkans all tied up with a red ribbon the world began to wonder which small nation the Communist tide would engulf next. Some thought Finland might be the top name on the list, others

wondered whether Austria, France and Italy might not be clamped soon in the Communist vise.

There was general agreement on one fact, at least: That the Communist coup in Czechoslovakia had forged perhaps the most vital link in the Russian chain intended to shackle the Marshall plan.

In Finland and Italy, as in Czechoslovakia, elections were coming up soon and the Communists were out for victory. Finland, like Czechoslovakia, is ruled by a coalition government which has acknowledged that the country must remain on the best of terms with Russia.

COLD CHICKEN:

No Fuel Oil

Campaigning politicians this year may have to eliminate "a chicken in every pot" from their lists of promises because there might not be enough chickens to go around.

Reports from the poultry belt in the Midwest say that the severity of the fuel oil shortage is cutting into the 1948 baby chick hatch to threaten poultry and egg production this year.

Thousands of farmers canceled chick orders for early March delivery because they couldn't get oil for their brooder stoves. Iowa and the Northwest were suffering most from the situation, but it also was bad in Illinois and Indiana. The kerosene shortage has been severe enough to cause hardship in most of the poultry producing area.

Some poultrymen were deferring chick deliveries until later dates, hoping that warmer weather would ease the tight oil supply.

Officials of one large hybrid chick hatchery in Iowa claimed they needed six tank cars of fuel oil to get their 1948 production under way.

One of the most vociferous complaints generally being made among farmers was that city consumers were using up all the fuel oil.

FEARFUL:

Hoof and Mouth

Cattle, hog and sheep growers of the U. S. continue to live in the shadow of a fear that the hoof and mouth disease which has been decimating livestock in Mexico for many months will spread across the border and affect U. S. herds.

At a recent session in Chicago a joint committee of the cattle, hog and sheep raisers forwarded a plea to Secretary of Agriculture Clinton Anderson to renew efforts to eradicate the disease.

Among other things, the stockmen requested that these actions be taken:

1. Renegotiate with high Mexican officials on plans for resuming the interrupted slaughter and burial program.
2. Immediate construction of a fence along the present quarantine line about 250 miles south of the U. S. border.
3. Build new beef canning plants in the "clean" states of northern Mexico and continue to run those now operating.

NEEDLECRAFT PATTERNS

Dazzling Blouse for Dress-Up



Due to an unusually large demand and current conditions, slightly more time is required in filling orders for a few of the most popular patterns.

Send your order to:
Sewing Circle Needlecraft Dept.
Box 3217 San Francisco 6, Calif.
Enclose 20 cents for Pattern.
No. _____
Name _____
Address _____

Oh, Shah!

While visiting in England, the shah of Persia was invited to the running of the derby. Before the race he observed that the crowd was tense with excitement. During the running, the mob roared frenziedly, and when the winning horse crossed the finish line pandemonium reigned.

Puzzled, the shah asked his host: "Why are the people shouting so?"

The host stared at him unbelievably.

"Because, well, it's always exciting to see a horse win a race!" he tried to explain.

"Were they not already aware," gravely inquired the shah, "that one horse can run faster than another?"

EMBROIDER this sunburst in outline, single-stitch or eyelets. Sequins for dots. It's an easy-to-sew blouse!

Pattern 682 has embroidery transfer; blouse pattern in Misses' sizes 12, 14, 16, 18, 20; 40. State size.

New, improved pattern makes needlework so simple with its charts, photos, concise directions.



Do not immerse the electrical parts of an appliance in water, particularly the motor, heating element, thermostat, or switch.

Glue a small piece of cloth measuring tape to the inside of the wooden frame of your knitting bag. You'll find this handy when sewing or knitting.

If delicate net curtains are placed in a cheesecloth bag, they may be laundered safely in the washing machine. Such articles as nylon hose and lingerie may also be washed this way.

Lose hinges are a common cause of sagging doors, and often the mere tightening of the screws will correct the trouble in a jiffy. However, if there is some warping of the wood, a planing job probably will be necessary.

The vitamin value of lettuce drops markedly when this vegetable is kept in the refrigerator too long. The rate of loss corresponds to the amount of wilting.

To retain the fluffiness of chenille or candlewick bedspreads hang them double and wrong side out when drying. In this manner the tufting rubs together and is kept fluffy.

To keep the inside of an aluminum pan bright, boil one quart of water in it containing either of these: 2 teaspoons of cream of tartar, 2 tablespoons of vinegar or several slices of lemon.

Acid foods such as tomatoes, lemons and vinegar are apt to leave a stain on porcelain enamel of range or refrigerator. So be careful in handling these foods in the kitchen.

Liberty Portrait on First Post Cards Unlike Statue

For 12 years after the first American postal cards were issued in 1873, the stamp printed on them carried a bust portrait of the Goddess of Liberty whose statue France was making as a gift to the United States. Since the plans for the head were incomplete when the drawing for the stamp was made, the artist had to use his imagination. As a result, his picture bore no resemblance to the finished Statue of Liberty, which was unveiled in New York harbor in 1886.

Relieve MISERIES OF Chest Colds



At bedtime rub throat, chest and back with Vicks VapoRub. Relief-bringing action starts instantly . . . 2 ways at once! And it keeps up this special Penetrating-Stimulating action for hours in the night to bring relief.

TAKE LAXATIVES?

Try This Instead

JUST THE JUICE OF A LEMON

IN A GLASS OF WATER

FIRST THING ON ARISING

LEMON IN WATER IS GOOD FOR YOU Try it 10 days. Sunkist

To Help Avoid COLDS and COUGHS due to colds...

Many Doctors recommend

SCOTT'S EMULSION

If you catch colds often—because you don't get enough A&D Vitamin food—you'll be grateful for the way good-tasting Scott's Emulsion helps build you up and helps ward off colds, build stamina and resistance. Scott's is a HIGH ENERGY FOOD TONIC—rich in natural A&D Vitamins and energy-building natural oil. Good tasting. Easy to digest. Economical too. Buy today at your drug store.

MORE than just a tonic—it's powerful nourishment!

SCOTT'S EMULSION HIGH ENERGY TONIC

Fresher-so...Tastier, Crisper



Because Kellogg's Corn Flakes are so popular, they come to you fresher. Crispy-delicious!

Kellogg's CORN FLAKES

MOTHER KNOWS BEST!