

Washington Digest

GOP Tries to Face Facts: Changes Are Sure to Come

By BAUKHAGE

News Analyst and Commentator.

WASHINGTON—I don't want to get into semantics but I have to say something about the word "conservative," purely as a word, if I am going to discuss some of the undersurface terms in Washington recently.

If it is fair to define a conservative as a person who has something to conserve, and I think the American people are naturally conservative in that sense, when you take away that something, Americans will join the radicals or anybody else to win back what was taken away.

The majority of the people don't want a free lunch. They just want a chance to earn enough to pay for their own lunch. But if they can't get lunch any other way, they'll take it how and where they can get it. That is a lesson which certain conservatives (in the political sense) are learning slowly.

Last month Tom Dewey returned from his political grave to say at a Republican Lincoln Day dinner that if the GOP tried to go back to the 20's, it would become the "deadest pigeon in the country."

The burden of his theme was that the party was split wide apart and it had better get together, slough off one extreme element which wants to "turn the clock back" and the other extremists who want to "out-promise the Democrats." He demanded that the party stand for "social progress under a flourishing system of private enterprise where every human right is expanded." Those opposed to "liberal and progressive policies" should get out of the party.

Here again we run into semantics—what is "progressive," what is "liberal"—for that matter, what is Sylvia? To one an owl, to another a nightingale. To the pinks, a "liberal" is a reactionary. To the conservative a "liberal" is a red.

Dewey said that the Republican party (or the party as he sees it) believes in "unemployment insurance, old age assistance on an increased basis, in broader social security generally, in slum clearance, in public development of our water resources, in farm price supports, in vigorous protection of the rights of labor."

And he seems to recognize that all of us, Republicans included, will have to take certain things for granted. Certain social and political changes which we may not like any more than our grandfathers liked a lot of "new-fangled" ideas they met with, like the safety razor, say.

The federal reserve board, the income tax, women's suffrage—all were once considered little less than the instruments of the devil himself by a lot of people who never think twice about them now. What policy the federal reserve board follows is debatable by either political party, but nobody would be fool enough to try to eliminate the board as an institution. Both parties claim they invented it.

The size of the income tax, and how it's distributed is also a matter to be settled by the party in power, but I can't quite see anybody trying to eliminate income taxes entirely. Other matters like the principles of government regulation of interstate commerce, of old age and unemployment insurance and dozens of other activities seem to be here for good.

If I am a Red for saying that, you can measure me for a suit of long underwear to match, tuck me into the one-hoss-shay and send me home.

As a matter of fact I am really pretty much of a moss-back. Although I'd trade in my used airplane for a rocket, if anybody has a survey with the fringe on top and I had a place to park it, that's what I'd really prefer.

Mention of Taft Evokes Criticism

One can't discuss the Republican party without mentioning Mr. Taft. And whenever I say anything good on the air about Sen. Robert A. Taft, I get letters like the following from a man in Lakewood, New York (I had in the same broadcast described a truck-driver who nearly ran over me):

"I can see a picture of you," he writes, "looking down your nose at that truck driver and believe me, I know just exactly how you felt towards him. However, I wonder which is the most dangerous, an idiot with a truck or an idiot with a vast radio audience."

"You see, I look down my nose at you just as you did the truck driver and I have the advantage of having heard a few thousand of your broadcasts. Through this medium I have explored your brain and believe me I find not much there. Your speaking of the truck driver as well as Taft's intelligence is a fair measure of your own."

This was my answer:

"Dear Sir: I have your letter saying that you wonder which is the most dangerous, the truck driver I referred to or an idiot with a vast radio audience—and also that you have heard me a few thousand times. I am glad to note we have so much in common."

My reference to Taft which so infuriated the letter-writer was in connection with an implication that Senator Taft IS the Republican party in the Senate as it exists today. This situation may change, though there are no present indications it will. Taft rides the elephant, regardless of who happens to play the calliope.

And paradoxically enough, it will be Senator Taft, the strongest figure in the senate, arch-Republican, symbol of reaction to his enemies, who probably will be a powerful factor in the enactment of more than one of the so called "social-service" laws which are a vital part of the administration program. Housing and federal aid to education are two measures which might be named. And although the Taft-Hartley act will have a new name, the imprint of its senatorial sponsor will not be entirely eradicated from its structure when it comes out of the hopper.

Taft was able to drag out the labor bill hearings for two weeks longer than was originally planned, and I would not be surprised if these lines appear in print before his gently-led filibuster against the repeal is over, or at least long over. But that does not mean Taft or his party controls the senate.

As this was written a theory was abroad that the Republican strategy had developed to the point where, if the party would keep its "young Turks" in line—the so-called liberal Republican senators who tried and so dismally failed to curb Taft's power—they could count on enough votes of the southern senators on most controversial issues (unless these issues step on the toes of southern tradition) to wrest control from the Democrats.

In fact, the expounders of this theory were only a little while ago pointing to defeat of the bill to exempt the tax on the inauguration as proof that the fate of the Democrats in the senate was a pretty dark one. They explained it was symptomatic when 41 Republicans voted against the measure, and found to their surprise and pleasure that they were able to get six Democrats to join them, thus providing a majority and defeating the measure.

That made things look very simple. But there is another side to that story. That vote backfired and hurt the Republicans more than it helped. It did more than a little to create Democratic solidarity, and the really deep-dishers on Capitol Hill are predicting that the Democrats are going to achieve enough unanimity from now on to maintain their majority on major issues.

There will be, of course, matters where members of both parties will desert because the issue involved is such that the particular state or area from which the senator comes has an interest which conflicts with the majority of his party.

There will be some issues in which Democrats will join Republicans as well as vice versa. And, as I said earlier, there are some things that don't appear on the surface.

The burden of the attack against the Democrats, whether you call them New Dealers, Fair Dealers, or Trumanites, is that they seek government control of business.

Now I believe most Republican leaders have the brains to admit (and if they haven't they can expect to be defeated, just as the liberals and conservatives were beaten in England) that the best way to kill government control—the antithesis of free enterprise because it is government monopoly—is to kill private monopoly. The latter is a two-edged sword against free enterprise. First, private monopoly kills competition. Second, it opens the way to government ownership.

Today the intelligent leaders of the GOP have to admit what I am sure they believe at heart, namely, that they will have to let the federal government do certain things for the people, if private enterprise can't or won't do those things. Taft, as well as the young Turks, knows that. They also know that private monopoly breeds state control.



Esteron 44 Results In Wild Onion Curbs

Wild Garlic also Found Vulnerable to Solution

Wild garlic and wild onion long have been two of the most troublesome weeds in southern lawns, pastures and certified grass and grain seed production fields.

As lawn weeds, these plants give the lawn an uneven, ragged appearance and produce a very disagreeable onion odor when mowed. In pastures, dairy cattle feeding on these plants produce milk with an off flavor which is of great concern to dairymen in several states. Seed production has been limited by the presence of wild onions in many fields because of potential contamination.



During the past three years many experiments have been made with various forms of 2, 4-D to control wild garlic and wild onion. Tests with sodium salt of 2, 4-D were unsuccessful. Esteron 44 and the amine liquid salt formations, however, gave good control when used at the rate of three to four pounds of 2, 4-D acid equivalent per acre.

Apparently the amount of water used makes little difference in the results obtained. As many as 125 gallons per acre and a few as five gallons per acre were applied with equal success.

For pasture work, observers agree that Esteron 44 may be somewhat more effective than the amine salts, but because of the possible danger from volatility of the esters of 2, 4-D, it is suggested that the amine liquid salt be used where susceptible plants grow in immediately adjacent areas. (Lawns, for example, with adjacent flowers and shrubs).

Moisture Conservation Helps With Wheat Crop

A 30-acre field that had produced little during the last few years, even with favorable moisture conditions, produced a good wheat crop, according to the Kansas state college extension service.

"A combination of things made the land productive again," a conservation district cooperater said. "Use of sweet clover, seeded in the spring of 1946, for green manure and terracing, and contour farming for moisture conservation were important."

The land, he explained, was badly eroded. The soil was thin, dense and hard to work. It had not produced a decent crop in the previous six years and was practically idle land. Gullies were plowed shut after the terraces were built, so that the whole field could be contour farmed. In addition, grass waterways were developed and more terraces planned.

New Hay Chopper

This combination hay chopper and ensilage cutter, which can be operated by one man, has been introduced by the New Holland Machine company. The new machine feeds, cuts to desired length and blows corn, hay or other crops to mow or silo in one operation. Cutting in lengths ranging from 3-18" to 1 1/2", the chopper cutter can handle up to 20 tons of silage an hour.



Baseball Outlook

ALMOST 21 MILLION spectators paid to enter big league ball parks last year. What will 1949 offer? An increase or a drop?

Apparently, the astute athletes are not looking for any increase and they seem to be shy about equaling the 1948 roundup. They are shying away from bonuses arranged on attendance figures. You can't blame them.

The ballplayer can see a dollar or a paying fan about as far as anyone else, including the owners. He recalls the American League had a race that is not likely to be duplicated with Cleveland, Boston and New York neck and neck or nose and nose at the wire. This meant terrific business for the three top teams and also for many of their opponents.

It isn't at all improbable that some team, possibly Cleveland, will pull out several lengths in front and stay there. Or it may be the Red Sox or Yankees. But the odds are we'll have no such hell-for-leather riding down the stretch next September.

There is the chance, of course, that the Athletics may improve and the Tigers might move abruptly into a challenging position under Red Rolfe. This might make the bonus angle even better, but it isn't an even chance and the player would rather let the club owner take the gamble. As a result, over 30 ballplayers are balking at terms, especially those terms involving attendance and gate receipts.

What about the National league race? This can be closer than the American, what with the Braves, Dodgers, Cardinals, Giants, Pirates and the improved Cubs—a rather uncertain medley of scrambled talent.

At this spot, the Dodgers and the Braves have the edge, but it isn't a killing edge. Any one of five teams can win this race and most of them can also finish in the second division.

Reports of winter injuries and ailments to Carl Furillo and Rex Barney haven't helped the Dodger outlook, but the month of May is still a long way off.

But once again the earnest athlete doesn't seem to be too interested in National league attendance, especially as it might concern a 1949 contract. We think he is right. Racing is taking a 15 to 20 per cent decline and the chances are baseball will face a drop of a million or so, perhaps more.

It would be no surprise to see the total attendance slip from 21 million to 19 million this next season.

Ben Hogan
Ben Hogan had just reached the peak of a brilliant career when his accident cut him down for months to come. No other game could have suffered such a loss from the absence of one player.

Ranking Hogan as a golfer of skill and a competitor of high rank, he undoubtedly belongs on level terms with Bobby Jones, Walter Hagen and Gene Sarazen. And you can add Harry Vardon.

Outside of Vardon, he was a more accurate club-swinger than any of those just mentioned. He had fewer bad holes. Both Jones and Hagen had to depend on brilliant recoveries and marvelous putting to win their 24 championships. Gene Sarazen was a golfer of moods, of sudden inspirations and sudden depressions.

But none of this lot kept up as savage and as steady assault on par as Hogan. As great as they were, neither Bobby Jones nor Walter Hagen ever were able to average 69 strokes for all their tournaments in a year.

Hogan is as fine a swinger as golf has ever known. He has been golf's hardest worker, undoubtedly. Bobby Jones, a hard worker himself and a most determined competitor, marvelled at Hogan's intense, unbroken concentration and determination—his willingness to take a beating and keep coming back.

I have seen Ben work for an hour on just one shot—over and over and over—from 90 yards away, from 120 yards away. His idea was to get every approach shot dead. Few know the beating he took to reach the perfection he finally gained before his accident.

Before the Los Angeles Open, Hogan had taken a rest for two months. He wanted to be at home. He was getting sick of hitting the road in long automobile trips.

"I knew I had made a mistake," he said as the Los Angeles Open started. "You can't stay away two months and be any good."

NEEDLEWORK PATTERNS

Sew a Layette for a New Baby



Made of silk crepe, the dress will be a lovely christening gown.

To obtain complete pattern for the 5-piece set, tracing for embroidery, stitch illustrations and finishing instructions for the lovely Layette Set (Pattern No. 5539) send 20 cents in coin, your name, address and pattern number.

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530 South Wells St. Chicago 7, Ill.
Enclose 20 cents for pattern.
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MASON-DIXON 'LINE'

The Mason and Dixon line actually was surveyed by two Englishmen, Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon, (November 15, 1763, and December 26, 1767) to settle constant dissensions between the Lords Baltimore and the Penn family, the lords being proprietors of Maryland and Pennsylvania, respectively.

The line was originally marked by milestones, every fifth one bearing the coat of arms of Penn on one side and those of Lord Baltimore on the other side.

Layette Is Fine Gift
A DAINTY, yet very practical layette that makes an ideal gift for the babies of your friends, daughter or granddaughter. Use fine white nainsook for the petticoat, sacque and dressing gown.

ASK ME ANOTHER?

A General Quiz

1. How far is the sun from the earth?
2. Governor Dewey polled over 22,600,000 votes in the presidential election of 1944. How many did he receive in 1948?
3. Is the peanut a nut or a vegetable?
4. On what Pacific island did the mutineers of the "Bounty" settle?
5. Who was the first United States ambassador to the Soviet Union?

The Answers

1. 93,000,000 miles.
2. Over 21,383,000.
3. A vegetable belonging to the same family as peas and beans.
4. Pitcairn island.
5. William C. Bullitt.

HEAD COLDS?

QUICK RELIEF WITH MENTHOLATUM

SOOTHES IRRITATED MEMBRANES...BRINGS EASIER BREATHING

MENTHOLATUM

IF YOU WERE A WAVE, WAC, MARINE or SPAR

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- an education leading to R. N.
- more opportunities every year in hospitals, public health, etc.
- your allowance under the G. I. Bill of Rights often covers your entire nursing course.
- ask for more information at the hospital where you would like to enter nursing.

In more ways than one... THE NATIONAL JOY SMOKE

Pipe smokers prefer Prince Albert for its cool, tongue-easy smoking comfort—roll-your-owners like the way Prince Albert rolls up fast and easy into extra-tasty cigarettes!

I GET REAL SMOKING COMFORT IN A PIPEFUL OF P.A. AND WITH THE NEW HUMIDOR TOP P.A. STAYS SO FRESH AND RICH-TASTING

"Crimp cut Prince Albert has been a favorite in my pipe for years," says Al Earl. "Rich-tasting P.A. smokes mild and cool—easy on the tongue." Right, Al! P.A.'s choice tobacco is specially treated to insure against tongue bite.

I LIKE THE WAY P.A.'S NEW HUMIDOR TOP KEEPS EASY-TO-ROLL, CRIMP CUT P.A. FRESH FOR TASTY, MILD 'MAKING' SMOKES

"Yessir! Prince Albert's crimp cut is great for fast, easy shaping of full-bodied cigarettes," says Paul Fillman. "And those trim P.A. 'making' smokes are mild, cool and extra tasty." Yes! For more smoking joy, roll 'em with P.A.

THE NEW HUMIDOR TOP locks in the FRESHNESS and FLAVOR

MORE MEN SMOKE

Prince Albert

THAN ANY OTHER TOBACCO

THE NATIONAL JOY SMOKE

TUNE IN P.A.'s "GRAND OLE OPRY," Saturday Nights on NBC