

Matter of Fact

By Joseph and Stewart Alsop

THE "PEACE ISSUE"

Washington — In retrospect, it is clear that the Republicans fumbled the ball at the very beginning of this campaign. Now, as the campaign ends, it begins to seem possible that the Republicans will recover the ball — but in a highly dangerous way.

The Republicans fumbled, as the Democrats as Sen. Paul Douglas of Illinois, they denounced talk of economic trouble as "gloom and doom," and loudly proclaimed that everything was just Jim dandy on the economic front. This gave the Democrats precisely the opportunity they were looking for.

In a way, of course, Republican boasts of prosperity were justified. Most of the important economic indices — national income, total employment, and so on — remain at boom time levels. But the fact also remains that everything is not just Jim Dandy.

Very large voting groups have been hurt at least to some degree. There may be only 3,000,000 unemployed at the moment, for example. But estimates of the number who have suffered periods of unemployment this year run as high as 12,000,000. And the number of people who have been worried at one time or another about being unemployed this year must run much higher than that.

Or take the farmers. Farm politics precisely illustrates the spot but nevertheless very great influence of the pocketbook issue in this election. If there is a universal farm revolt under way against this Administration, it is not detectable to the human eye. The Benson farm program is not even really a dominant issue except in the dairy areas and some of the wheat states, where price cuts plainly marked "courtesy of Benson" have been taken by the farmers.

But in general, where the farmers have been hurt, even by such impersonal causes as drought, they are angry, and they are included to take their anger out on the Administration. Conversely, where they have done well — as in the corn and hog areas of, say, Iowa or Illinois — a majority of the farmers are pleased with themselves and with the Administration.

BUT the point is that there have been enough wounded pocketbook nerves in the country to give the Democrats much their best issue — and the Republicans obligingly made the issue better by pretending at first, that it did not exist.

The other Democratic issues — the "give away" of natural resources, the "rich man's tax bill," and all the rest — simply fed and sustained the main, central economic issue. And the ineptness of the Republican response made it especially easy for the Democrats to claim that they were the "party of economic progress and security" and to picture the Republicans as the "party of economic privilege."

As the campaign has progressed, the Republicans have desperately searched for an issue with which to counteract the Democrats' largely phony "economic issue." At first, the Republicans thought that the President's coat tails would carry them home. Some Democrats

thought so too, and tried to scramble aboard. But the old rule that a President cannot transfer his popularity effectively to local candidates has held good.

Then, particularly after the New York poll which scared the daylight out of the Republican high command, some Republican orators — conspicuously Vice-President Richard Nixon — tried to revive "the Communist issue." It had new trimmings, especially the disingenuous "security risk firings" gimmick. But McCarthy is discredited, and the issue is old and tired.

NOW, the campaign draws near to its close, the Republicans have at last found their issue. It is the "peace issue." It was a natural Republican response to answer the Democratic cries of "special privilege" by calling the Democrats "the war party." It was no doubt natural to go further, and to indulge in such oratorical flights as "the blood of 140,000 American boys on every Democratic dollar."

But now the Republicans are going further still. Innumerable campaign orators, including figures high in the Administration, are coming precious close to "peace in our time." There is not much doubt that this is a politically effective promise.

These reporters have been conducting a long distance telephone poll of a number of states, and in almost every case they have been told that the Republicans have been moving up in the last few days. The explanation offered is almost always the same — "the peace issue is beginning to take hold." But although it can be politically effective in the short run to promise peace in our time, it can also be dangerous in the long run — as Neville Chamberlain discovered to his sorrow.

100 Attend Juniors Halloween Party

More than 100 boys and girls attended the annual Halloween party of Bliss Heine's Juniors Friday evening at the Moose hall.

Renee Johnson placed first for the girl's costume judged best; Judy Morris, second; Jay Morris, first for boys, and Robert Edwards, second. Sidney Yarnell received a special prize for his costume depicting "Bozo," the clown.

Judges Listed
Chief of Police Charles Champ-lin, Mr. and Mrs. Mirl Morse and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Laurine were the judges.

The parents committee which assisted with the party was made up of Mrs. Fred Foust, Mrs. Tom Morris, Mrs. Leo Webster and Mrs. George Adams.

The program included tap dancing by Gail De Rushe and Marlene Davis of the Colleen Hope Dance studio; a dance by all Juniors present led by the captain of the drum section, Billy Foust, accompanied by others from the drum section; and a surprise selection of Scotch brass drumming by the original bass drummer of the Juniors, Jimmie Bishop, who now is a corporal in the Air Force now visiting here on furlough.

Refreshments were served at the close of the party.

Jamaica's supply of aluminum ore is expected to last 50 to 60 years.

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Sets Annual Sale Chin Up Club

Final plans have been completed for the Chin Up club's fourth annual hobby sale, to be held at the Eagles Hall, 217 West Main st., Friday and Saturday.

Displays will be set up Friday morning and the sale will open at 1 p. m., continuing until 10 p. m. Saturday hours will be 9 a. m. to 10 p. m.

Among items to be featured are fancy work, weaving, dolls, antique items and a cooked food sale. Club spokesmen emphasized that all items, except the antique merchandise, is new.

The Chin Up club is composed of handicapped persons and non-handicapped who are interested in working with the handicapped. This year the club plans to

use funds derived from the sale to further its handicapped aid pool, which was recently set up. Under the plan equipment will be loaned or rented to handicapped persons who are unable to obtain needed equipment themselves.

Anyone is invited to enter merchandise for sale and may obtain price tags by calling 2-2974.

ANCHORS AWEIGH

Manchester, Mass. — (U.P.) — When George Poor launched his new 37-foot ketch here, he did it in style. A five-piece Dixieland band played appropriate nautical tunes from the dock-side. Poor, himself a professional musician, played trumpet.

CAP Begins New Class Schedule

A new class schedule for the air patrol has been announced. Medford squadron of the civil The squadron meetings are scheduled each Monday evening at 7 o'clock at the CAP building at the Medford airport.

The class schedule includes subjects offered for both cadets and senior members. Included will be an extensive study in the flight manual with detailed concentration given to prepare cadets for national merit awards.

The CAP is a nonmilitary organization, but former members

going into the armed services have found their CAP training an asset both for advancement reasons and for making the service more enjoyable. Films will be shown on various subjects during the season, on the second Monday evening of each month, the first film to be shown on Nov. 8. Parents of CAP members are also invited to the meetings.

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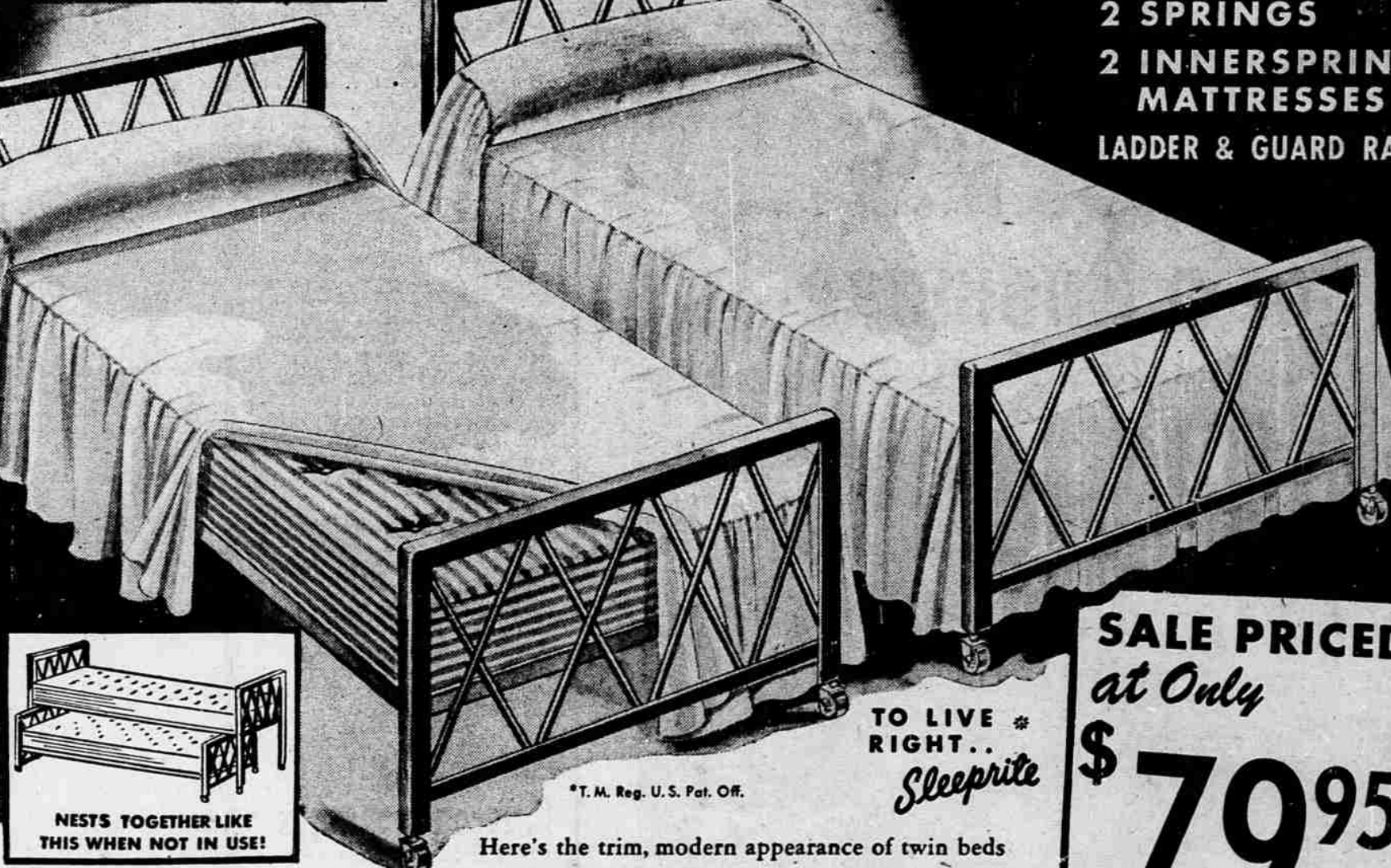
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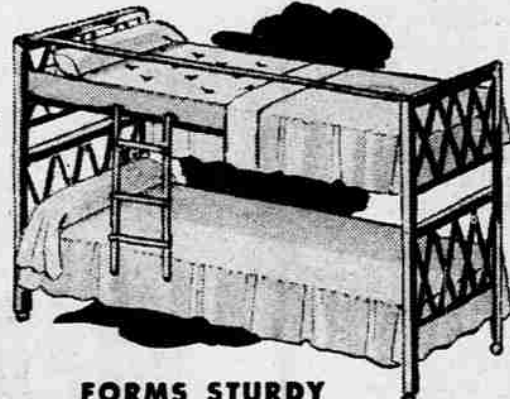
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