

Matter of Fact

By Joseph Alsop

DOWN ON THE FARM

BY STEWART ALSOP
Keokuk County, Iowa — Estes Kefauver could beat Dwight D. Eisenhower handily in this typical Iowa farm county. Adlai Stevenson probably couldn't. But the shift of the farmers against the President is perfectly real, and the Eisenhower campaign strategists ought to do some hard thinking and hard worrying about it.



These large conclusions spring from an admittedly small but nevertheless fascinating experience — two long days of door-to-door interviewing of farmers in Iowa's Keokuk county and neighboring Muscatine county, with one of the best of professional pollsters, Louis Harris, as guide and mentor.

Harris chose Keokuk and Muscatine counties because they vote the way Iowa votes. The two counties came within one percentage point, for example, of repeating Iowa's 67 per cent to 36 per cent vote for Eisenhower over Stevenson in 1952. For the statistically-minded, our two days of polling showed the following heavy drop in pro-Eisenhower sentiment:

Eisenhower 47 per cent; Stevenson 35 per cent; Don't Know 18 per cent.

Eisenhower 40 per cent; Kefauver 48 per cent; Don't Know 12 per cent.

It is silly, of course, to base confident conclusions on a couple of days of interviewing (although the coverage of a small area was in fact considerably heavier than in most polls). And yet the experience of talking at length and consecutively to nearly half a hundred Iowa farmers left certain very strong impressions, which seem worth recording.

In the first place, this reporter went to Iowa with the strong suspicion that the much-advertised disaffection of the Middle Western farmers was mostly Democratic wishful thinking. It is not. Many of the farmers we talked to — enough of them to make a big political difference —

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were bitter about the Eisenhower administration. My notebook is crammed with examples of such bitterness, but one quotation will do for the rest. A youngish man with an unhappy face and faded blue eyes, standing with one foot on a hog trough: "Sometimes I wonder of they've got some Communists working in there — Benson making that statement where the little farmer wasn't important, and that. Sure I voted for Eisenhower. Not this time."

The Eisenhower magic (which this reporter found operating with remarkable power on a previous pulse-taking expedition with Harris) operates only dimly and faithfully in these parts. Some farmers, of course, deeply admire the President ("He kept us all together when he was going apart," one kind-faced old farmer said thoughtfully). No one dislikes the President. But there is surprisingly little of the personal affection for him which is found elsewhere.

Never once did a farmer call him "Ike" — it was always "Eisenhower," plain and blunt. One man spoke for others among the disaffected, when he said, "I don't blame Eisenhower. He just does what they tell him to do."

"They" are the faceless ones who are raising wages and profits while the farmer gets less for what he sells and pays more for what he buys. Hardly a farmer knew anything much about the Suez crisis. But hardly a farmer did not know that the price of steel and the wages of steel workers were going up again.

In this area, in short, the Republicans, including President Eisenhower, are in trouble — the experienced Harris says that the switch away from Eisenhower is "as heavy as any I've ever run into." A good many switchers gave the President's health as their reason for changing. But both Harris and this reporter had the same impression — that the President's health was often less a reason than an excuse. Eisenhower's illness make it respectable for a respectable Iowa farmer to vote against him.

The Democrats thus have an extraordinary political opportunity to exploit, just as Harry Truman did in 1948. But, as a practical matter, they are probably incapable of exploiting it. Estes Kefauver is amazingly well-liked among the farmers of Keokuk and Muscatine — a number of them, when they heard of his withdrawal, expressed obvious heart-felt regret, and bimed "the manipulators." But Adlai Stevenson is not at all well-liked, even by those who like Eisenhower least. "I just don't like the sound of him or the looks of him," one man said. A young farmer in a tattered shirt, an intelligent man himself, remarked oddly: "Sometimes that Stevenson sounds so bright he's kind of nauseating."

Even those who planned to switch to Stevenson did so reluctantly — "Might as well vote for Stevenson — can't do any worse." This dislike of Stevenson — and it is an active dislike, not just indifference — is as real as the disaffection towards Eisenhower.

But if Stevenson, as the now almost inevitable Democratic candidate, can somehow overcome it, if he can somehow manage to communicate warmth and sympathy and simplicity, it begins to seem just conceivable that the 1956 election may not be quite the tedious foregone conclusion it has seemed till now.

1956 New York Herald-Tribune, Inc.

In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

Farm problem stuff: The department of commerce says the annual rate of farm earnings fell almost half a billion dollars in June, as compared with the rate at the end of May. It adds that agricultural earnings for the first half of this year were well under the comparable figures for 1955.

Meanwhile — The commerce department says —

TOTAL U. S. PERSONAL INCOME for June was at a record annual rate of 324 1/4 billion dollars. That was 1 1/2 billion dollars more than in May, which was the previous record month.

For the first six months of 1956 personal income in the U. S. was at the annual rate of 320 billion dollars, or about 21 billion dollars more than for the corresponding period of 1955.

That is to say: At this present moment in history, American farmers are earning less and less while other Americans are earning more and more.

That's why the farm problem is regarded by the politicians as having possibilities.

Going on with the farm problem, let's turn now to Charles Shuman, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation. He tells the AFB's Northeast summer conference now in session at the University of Vermont that the farmer's real problem lies in the cost of products he uses, and in marketing costs rather than farm prices.

He adds: "Our tendency in the last few years has been to look to Washington for solutions to our problems. But less than 20 per cent of the decline in national farm income was due to INCOME DECREASING. Eighty per cent was due to INCREASES IN COST."

"The farmer's solution to reduce costs must be to eliminate much of the labor from marketing and processing."

WHAT he is saying, of course, is that the real bite in the farmer's trouble lies in the fact that while prices of what the farmer has to sell have been going steadily down prices of what the farmer has to buy have been going steadily up.

But he goes farther than that. He is telling us that not only has the farmer been whipsawed between falling prices for what he has to sell and rising prices for what he has to buy. In addition, he is feeling the bite of modern food processing, which is an immense labor saver for the housewife but WIDENS THE SPREAD between what the farmer gets and what the consumer pays for food.

Modern food packaging lightens kitchen drudgery. It speeds up — and therefore tends to cheapen — food handling. It must be added, I think, that it also tends to increase food consumption.

But, as Farm Bureau President Shuman says, it undoubtedly increases the spread between the price the farmer gets for the food he produces and the price the consumer pays for it.

Just how that problem is to be solved, no one is yet prepared to say — and it should be noted that while President Shuman calls attention to the problem he doesn't offer a specific solution for it.

But I think it will be generally

GOLD HILL 50th Anniversary Observed

By MRS. SAM ELLIOT

Gold Hill — Raymond Richard Wakeman and Alice Harriet Wakeman celebrated their 50th Wedding anniversary, Wednesday, July 28, at their home on Kane creek. The wedding cake was brought from Myrtle Creek by Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Brill. Mrs. Brill is a sister of Mrs. Wakeman. Also present were her brother, S. J. Bailey of Ashland and his wife, Mrs. Clara Bailey, a sister-in-law of Myrtle Creek; a nephew, Maurice Bailey of Ashland, and his wife, Velma; one son, Roland Wakeman of Yreka and his wife, Calneva, and three of their four children, Buddy, Ricky and Cathy; another son, Lester Wakeman, of Kane Creek, and his wife, Wauneva, and two children, Steven and Leslie.

Their daughter, Mary Adele Wakeman, was unable to attend because of her work in the Chico bank.

They served a cafeteria luncheon followed by a mock shotgun wedding with the ceremony performed by Maurice Bailey, Mrs. Wakeman is a native of Binghamton, N. Y. They have spent most of their life in California and moved to Gold Hill a year ago from Red Bluff.

There are quite a few Boy Scouts leaving Sunday for Camp McLoughlin. The boys leaving from Gold Hill are Jack Jones, Johnny Elliott, Butch Harrison, Frankie Balch, Howard Misner, Arlen White, Donald Fisher, Charles Johnson, Buddy Smith Roy Beman, Ray Dusenberry and David Molloy.

Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Kofahl are visiting their son, Colonel Harold Kofahl, his wife and four children, Tish, Mike, Robert and Pat. The colonel and his wife are from Falls Church, Va., where he has an office in the Pentagon. Colonel Kofahl is chief of the personnel procurement division of the Air Force. They stopped at Salt Lake City to visit Mrs. Kofahl's mother, Mrs. J. B. Petersen and at Menlo Park, Calif., to visit the colonel's sister, Mrs. J. H. McMasters, and family.

Pat Ross, son of Mrs. Amy Ross, was here on leave from the Navy last week and has now left for two months training in refrigeration. When his training is finished he will rejoin his ship the Southernland in Formosa.

Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Hoffman of Highway 99 have a house guest, Mrs. Helen Wagoner, of Leitchfield, Minn.

Mr. and Mrs. Truman Price Sr. and son, Johnny, have returned from a six weeks trip through the Southeast of the United States. They went by the southern route and visited Mrs. Price's sister at San Antonio, Tex. They held a family reunion in Atlanta, Ga., at the home of Mr. Price's parents, J. A. Price.

They went on to Tampa and Zephyrhills, Fla. On their return home they went sightseeing in Salt Lake City, Utah. The HEC had an unusual meeting this last week. It turned out that it was for the most part a mother and daughter meeting since most of the members had for a visitor a mother or daughter. Guests were, Mrs. Edna Foote and daughter, Mrs. Edna Mae Foote, of Lynnwood, Calif., Mrs. Lena Laricks and her mother, Mrs. Charity Garrington, of

agreed by this time that the solution doesn't lie in an appeal to the politicians.

Magazine Ad Features Native of Valley

Ed Schieffelin, a native of the Rogue river valley and founder of the famed Tombstone mine in Arizona, is featured in a U.S. Savings Bond advertisement in the July issue of House Beautiful magazine, according to Miss Claire Hanley, Jacksonville.

Miss Hanley said Schieffelin, now deceased, was born on the Schieffelin donation land claim adjoining the historical Birdseye place west of Gold Hill.

He left this valley in the 1870's or thereabout, Miss Hanley said, and found several mines in the southern section of the western United States, acquiring a fortune into the millions of dollars.

Munsie, Ind., Mrs. Gertie Rosecrans and her daughter, Mrs. Buelah Barnett, of Albany, and Mrs. Sadie Frink Cyphers, Mrs. Cyphers is a pioneer in Sam's Valley and has recently returned. Cecil Gabe was remembered with a Get Well Card, Mrs. Bob McDaniel was sent a sympathy card as her son Lt. H. Lockwood was killed recently in a plane crash at Fairbanks, Alaska.

JACKSONVILLE Jubilee Opened Yesterday

By MRS. C. S. HOSKINS

Jacksonville — Today is the second day of Jacksonville's ninth annual Gold Rush Jubilee, sponsored by the Jacksonville Lions Club. Last year during the two-day community event approximately 7,000 out of state visitors, guests from neighboring cities and home town people thronged the streets of Jacksonville.

The custom of a yearly Jubilee began in 1948 and the first Gold Rush Queen crowned was Miss Barbara Taylor. Each year new attractions and entertainments have been added making the annual celebration a "looked forward to" event.

Some of this year's attractions include a 4-H Club Livestock show at the high school grounds and a display of work done by the home economics group of the 4-H club being held at the old post office building.

There also is an art display by the Southern Oregon Society of Artists at the new Library in the

Oregon Fourth in Tree Farm Numbers

Oregon with 214 tree farms now rates fourth in the nation in tree farm acreage, C. A. Gillett, managing director of the American Forest Products Industries, announced this week.

On July 1 of this year Oregon's tree farm acreage totaled 3,524,931. Georgia, with 3,795,743 acres, leads the nation in total acreage; Florida is second with 3,603,014 acres; Alabama third with 3,558,242 acres; Texas fifth with 3,389,881 acres; Arkansas sixth with 3,372,423 acres and Washington seventh with 3,322,994 acres.

Certified tree farm acreage in 43 participating states now totals 39,587,554 acres as compared with 37,838,910 acres on Jan. 1 and 35,396,564 on July 1 a year ago.

Mississippi leads in the number of certified tree farms with 910. Texas is second with 831 and Alabama third with 663.

Three more states, Vermont, Connecticut and New York, launched the tree farm program during the first half of this year, Gillett reported. Launching ceremonies in Indiana are planned for this month by Fores Products Industries, the national sponsor.

NOISE OR MUSIC Oceanport, N. J. — (U.P.) — Magistrate William Ulman complained at a borough council meeting that Sunday morning builders were "hammering me awake" every week end. He got no sympathy from fellow council members. Mayor Edward C. Wilson told the judge he should be up and about by 8 Sunday mornings. Buildings Supervisor Thomas M. Ross chimed in that the noise was "not hammering but music."

Court Records

Danny Eugene Gilman, no operator's license, \$5.
Donald Edward Rudnich, no operator's license and excessive noise, \$15.
David Lawrence Egey, violation of basic rule, \$10; and failure to stop at stop light, \$5.
John Franklin Watson, reckless driving, \$25.
Delbert Valantino Sharp, violation of basic rule, \$10.
John Seymour Reynen, violation of basic rule, \$5.
Charleen Gwendolyn Hewitt, violation of basic rule, \$10.
DISTRICT COURT
John Alfred Hogan, overload, \$161.
Arthur Richard Dionne, violation of basic rule, \$25; bail forfeited.
Glenn Herbert Mills, no safety chains, \$15.
MARRIAGE LICENSE APPLICATIONS
Jimmie M. Gleason, Crescent City, Calif., and Ruth Louise Powell, 162 North Pacific hwy., Central Point.

CECIL AND CECILIA
Miami — (U.P.) — A lonely frustrated bridegroom-to-be nearly went wild before a crowd of 200 persons Friday when his mail-order bride arrived from Australia. There were sighs as love-sick Cecil charged to a fence to kiss Cecilia. It was obvious the crowd thought the two camels made the loveliest couple at Crandon Park Zoo.

Three Boys Arrested For Part in Theft

A 15-year-old boy and two 14-year-olds, all of Medford, were turned over to juvenile authorities after their arrest Wednesday in connection with theft of items belonging to L. G. Frick, 1654 Thomas rd. and John Brewold, 110 Renault ave., the sheriff's office reported Saturday.

Frick reported to the sheriff's office the theft on July 1 of an air cooled one-half horse power motor taken from a tractor belonging to him. He said the motor was valued at \$64.

Brewold reported the theft sometime between the night of July 23 and morning of July 23 of several items at the location where he is building a school near the Griffin Creek school. The items included two scooter wheels, sun glasses, screwdrivers, pliers and a thermos jug.

The three youths confessed the thefts and were to appear with their parents before juvenile authorities Friday.

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Chicago — (U.P.) — Police said a pistol-packing motorist wanted in New York for 45 traffic violations and six accidents was arrested Friday for making an improper left turn a few hours after his arrival. Asked why he carried a loaded .45 pistol in his car, Henry Kuinland, 30, of New York explained his friends told him Chicago was dangerous.

Dead line Sunday Classified is at noon Saturday

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