

Matter of Fact By Stewart Alsop

THE MYSTERY OF WHEATSHAEF STREET

Montclair, N. J. — There is good news for Dwight D. Eisenhower on WheatshaeF Street, Roselle, New Jersey. There is also a mystery on WheatshaeF Street—the mystery that makes



Stewart Alsop

American politics so endlessly absorbing and puzzling. The houses on WheatshaeF Street are small, two-story houses built since the war, neat, and rather pretty, and structurally almost identical. The people who live in them are proud of them. Beside almost every front door there is a small ironwork ornament—a railroad engine, an old-fashioned car, a dog. There are flowers around the front steps, and on about every third lawn there is a pink plaster flamingo, or perhaps duck followed by plaster ducklings.

A cop lives in the corner house—he is off duty, raking his lawn. There is a long-haul trucker in another, a unionized aircraft worker in another, a white collar man in a utility company in another. Racially, WheatshaeF Street is a mixture—German and Polish and Irish and Yankee stock. Economically, it is on the blurred borderline—a mixture of union workers, white collar workers, and very small businessmen with the former predominating.

WHEATSHAEF STREET, in a word, is like a thousand other streets on the outskirts of every big American city. But in its very ordinariness lies its mystery.

This reporter and his partner, in their wanderings over the land, have visited other WheatshaeF Streets. There was a WheatshaeF Street, under another name, on the outskirts of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. It was the same street, right down to the pink flamingoes. And there was a WheatshaeF Street, flamingoes and all, in Portland, Oregon.

The Wisconsin WheatshaeF Street was heavily Democratic, as it had been in 1952. The Portland WheatshaeF Street was also normally Democratic, but it had swung in large part to Dwight Eisenhower in 1952, and a sinister portent for the Republicans—looked like swinging back again. Roselle's WheatshaeF Street went heavily for Eisenhower in 1952—and it is sticking by him solid as a rock.

THIS conclusion is based on a door-to-door check of WheatshaeF Street and the surrounding area by this reporter and three crews from Louis Harris Associates, the public opinion survey organization. For what they are worth, the statistical results of our survey were 64 per cent for Eisenhower, 30 per cent for Stevenson, 6 per cent undecided—a remarkable Eisenhower majority in an area with many union members.

More significantly, we found only one voter—a voluble lady in a green dress—who had voted for Eisenhower in 1952 and was now thinking of voting for Stevenson. Asked why, she replied: "So far Eisenhower's been wonderful, but why not give somebody else a break?"

We came upon other peculiar reactions, like that of another lady, who said: "Eisenhower is very straightforward but he wastes too much money." But more often there was the refrain you hear from Eisenhower voters from one end of the country to another: "Eisenhower's a man you can trust, and I think he'll keep us out of war." The refrain of the Stevenson voters—"The Republicans are for the big shots, and the Democrats are for the little guy"—was very rare.

After WheatshaeF Street, we moved on to Greenwood Avenue,

here in Montclair, and again we found good news for Eisenhower. Greenwood Avenue and its side streets are occupied by middle class Negroes, who live decently in houses which are older but bigger than those on WheatshaeF Street.

THE Negroes of the area of Greenwood Avenue will vote Democratic, but in nowhere near the same overwhelming proportions as their economic equivalents in the better apartment houses in Harlem. Instead of better than three to one, as in Harlem, the Negroes of Greenwood Avenue tend Democratic by a ratio of only three to two, and there are real signs of a shift to Eisenhower.

The difference between the voters of Greenwood Avenue and the prosperous Harlemites can be explained in terms of "the Len Hall Rule"—that people who live in apartments, however well off, tend Democratic, and people who live in their own houses, however debt-ridden, are drawn to the Republicans. But how is the amazing difference between Roselle's WheatshaeF Street and its equivalents in Milwaukee or Portland to be explained? The answer would tell a lot about this puzzling campaign, but this reporter does not pretend to know what it is.

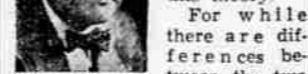
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Today and Tomorrow

By Walter Lippmann

THE TIMES WE LIVE IN

At Cleveland and Lexington this week the President insisted "that there are deep and essential differences in the beliefs and convictions of the two major parties." I do not believe the facts support this theory.



Walter Lippmann

For while there are differences between the two parties, they are not very deep or essential in the field of their beliefs and their convictions. The new Republicanism which the President proclaimed at the San Francisco convention does not challenge, indeed it accepts and proposes to extend, all the big innovations which were made by Woodrow Wilson and Franklin Roosevelt. This covers not only the vast structure of the new welfare state, the federal protection of agriculture, the regulation of business and of banking, but also that most far-reaching of reforms within the western capitalist order—the acceptance of federal responsibility for full employment and for the management of the business cycle.

These innovations which have meant a vast extension of the federal power have little connection with the essential beliefs and convictions of either party. As a matter of fact, according to their historic tradition which descends from Alexander Hamilton and Lincoln, the Republicans should be the Federalist party. They were that in the 19th century and down through the administration of Theodore Roosevelt. It has not been ideology, but history, the turn of events in this century, which has made the Democrats over into the Federalist party.

THE great reversal of roles took place in 1912. There had been building up for some 20 years before that a strong popular demand for public control of the excesses of the new corporate individualism. President Theodore Roosevelt, that is to say the Republican Roosevelt, undertook to make the Re-

Communications

Letters to the Editor must bear the name and address of the writer, although under certain circumstances the use of a pen name or initials for publication is permissible. The Mail Tribune reserves the right to edit all letters with a view to clarification and condensation. Letters submitted for publication must not exceed 400 words.

Would Sell Out TVA

To the Editor: Shortly after taking office, President Eisenhower appointed Dr. Dean Manion and ex-President Herbert Hoover to head two study groups for the purpose of determining the appropriate areas of activity for the Federal government—particularly in the power field. In order to get an idea of the political beliefs of Dr. Manion, I would like to give a portion of a TV appearance in which he was interviewed by William Wise, former deputy administrator of the Rural Electrification Administration.

"Mr. Wise—Dean Manion, I wonder if you agree with my favorite Republican of all times that the government should do for people which they cannot do for themselves or that which they cannot do so well for themselves? I refer of course to Abraham Lincoln.

"Dr. Manion—No I do not agree with Abraham Lincoln.

"Mr. Wise—Do you agree that the test should be not whether the states should have the power but whether or not it is necessary for the Federal Government to take certain action in

what to protect and advance for the general welfare of all the people to the greatest good for the greatest number?

"Dr. Manion—No, I don't. "Dr. Wise—Do you agree that there is no one other than the Federal Government large enough to do certain things which have been done during this last 20 years to which you have referred? I would like to ask you with respect to certain specific action: one, the TVA.

"Dr. Manion—I think the TVA should be sold to private business.

"Mr. Wise—Do you think private business would build TVA projects in the first place? "Dr. Manion—I don't think the Federal Government should have built the TVA in the first place. Surely President Eisenhower must be held responsible for the Dean Manions, the Herbert Hoovers and the Douglas McKays who after all must have reflected the boss' views. It is going to be very interesting to hear what Mr. Eisenhower has to say to the power minded Northwest when he returns accompanied by another man who walked out on us—Douglas McKay.

Ken Corliss, 1564 Myers Lane, Medford, Ore.

Humane Society

To the Editor: I only know what I read in the newspapers and lately I have read news items, an editorial, and communications all concerning the humane society. From these I judge something must be wrong. Through the years what was organized and incorporated as a non-profit and charitable society for the prevention of cruelty has become a boarding kennel. During the years of inactivity money was received from donations, county and state funds for payment of salaries and operating costs. Now there is a kind man to underwrite these expenses and some fine citizens have become directors. But where is the humane officer and when will a program be inaugurated to accomplish the work that humane societies generally do? If it is still to be a business why bother? I have yet to hear of another business that expects to be maintained by donations and public funds.

Mrs. E. O. Green, 1039 Crater Lake ave., Medford, Ore.

Communism Issue Again

To the Editor: Just a few questions to my Democratic friends who are now writing to "The Editor" in such glowing terms of Sen. Wayne Morse: 1. Did they vote for Senator Morse in 1950? If they did they did more than the undersigned registered Republican did. 2. If they didn't vote for him in 1950, why are they voting for him in 1956? Surely it is not because, as of now, he is a registered Democrat? Could it be that they now consider he has changed so much in the past six years that they now feel he is the champion of the double talk? 3. What happened to the Independent party? Is his next move to the Morse party? 4. Were not both houses in Washington controlled by the Democrats these past two years? It must be that the Editor of the Mail Tribune must be trying to tell the people of Southern Oregon that all of these "awful woes" were not caused by this last Congress. 5. Does Senator Morse frankly admit that the Communist party is not a threat to the United States?

W. E. Driscoll Sr., 1120 South Oakdale ave., Medford, Ore.

Who is Emotional?

To the Editor: Some of the most entrancing reading at this stage of the campaign is supplied by editors who, never having within the memory of man supported a party other than the Republican, go into the Silence and emerge solemnly with "considered judgment" to do the same thing this year.

As witness, The Oregonian, Sept. 23, and The Sat. Eve Post, Sept. 29, 1956. Both eschew emotion, the Oregonian declaring slogans and emotional issues aside, deems it "logical" to "keep Eisenhower in the White House." The Post begins by "leaving out emotional issues" but does so beneath a page-tall headline—"The Country Still Need Eisenhower."

Dear Sirs: Eisenhower (and particularly "Ike") IS the emotional issue, and your party is certainly not putting it aside or leaving it out. On the contrary, it appears to be about the only one (you hope) you can depend upon, and Ike and his affection for the people and the people with their affection for Ike, are going to have ample opportunity to react emotionally over and over, over the country, no matter how wearing on Ike, or how confusing to the unemotional issues at stake.

By the way, one of the Democratic plans the Post opposes is the one condemning the wrong-named "right-to-work" laws. But representative secretary of Labor Mitchell has also condemned

POTLUCK (By M-T Staff and Contributors)

A woman we know does not have any antipathy for the term "Egghead." "Because," she explains, "not all of them are cracked—and some of them are even hard-boiled."

A subscriber called the newsroom the other morning to ask if anyone else had telephoned about the "bright red star, low in the eastern sky?"

He reported his wife roused him out of bed at about 4:30 a.m. to look at it. It seemed to have a flaming tail, he said, and he hauled out his binoculars to take a look. They studied it for some time, and then returned to bed, still thinking about the odd star.

When they got up later, about dawn, the star was still low in the eastern sky, but they got a better look at it—a red beacon light atop one of the surrounding hills.

A big headline in our favorite newspaper the other day said "Lenin Still Diety in Russia But Everyone Wants to Forget Stalin."

Whereupon a subscriber, who modestly forgot to identify himself, clipped it and mailed it in, with the request to "Tell us more about Lenin's diet where he is now."

Speaking of headlines, a five-paragraph humorous column, which said nothing whatsoever about the climate, appeared in a neighboring daily paper the other day under the heading of "Weather." The columnist was not Old Sunnyside, either.

Good news, friends! October is Potato Chip Month.

The week ending Sept. 29 was National Television week. Also National Day week. Also Home Fashion Time, Christian Education week, National Tie week and Visit Your Dealer week. Gold Star Mother's day fell during that period.

October is Membership month of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers.

Next week is National Wine week.

Columbus Day is next Friday.

The information above was culled, more or less casually, from mail received in this office. Think what we might have done if we'd researched a bit.

Editorial Comment

GIVING UP?

The Southern Pacific, a great corporation, is apparently giving up. Passenger service, the Espee is deciding, is not worth fighting for. Service to "Rogue River" towns south of Eugene was halted more than a year ago. Now the firm wants to increase fares on the Shasta Daylight by 10 per cent, a move that is certainly not calculated to increase business. The fare increase, if granted, would apply only to fares for trips within Oregon. The step, in other words, would be another in a series of steps to eliminate the relatively scanty traffic on short hauls.

Already it is less than easy to book passage on the Shasta and the equally pleasant Cascade. In-state passengers are urged instead to ride the old Klamath—an experience which will drive the more sensitive passengers onto the airlines for keeps.

The railroads' attitude (and we don't think this is limited to the Espee) is in marked contrast to the attitude of the phonograph industry which is bigger now than it was when it was "killed" by radio a quarter century ago. Phonographs were supposed to be as out-of-date as the linen duster as soon as radios began appearing in living rooms. But the phonograph industry improved its product, did a masterful selling job, developed equipment and demonstrated there was still room for the "Victrola."

The phonograph people were demonstrating the spirit of "try," the spirit we like to think built America's industrial might. The railroad people are giving up.—Eugene Register-Guard.

(Editor's note: The above editorial was written before the SP announced that during the winter months it will run the Shasta Daylight only three times a week.)

Deer Hides for Boat

The Sea Explorer Post 30 of the Boy Scouts, Medford, are collecting deer hides to raise money to outfit a 26-foot boat which was donated recently by the Navy.

Persons wishing to donate deer hides are asked either to call 2-2877, 2-6435 to have someone pick up the hides. The hides can also be left at the Kliever Machine shop, 130 North Front st., Medford.

How About Hell's Canyon?

Vice President Nixon told his audiences in Idaho and Washington that only through President Eisenhower's "partnership policy" can the natural resources of the West be fully developed. "The Hell's Canyon debate," he said, "typifies this issue." He went on to say that "we are for whatever program can produce the power we need at the lowest cost."

Let us take a look at how the facts bear out the vice president.

Under the Eisenhower program the Idaho Power Co. is building two, perhaps three, small dams on the Snake River at the Idaho-Oregon border. These private projects have been given preference over a public project for a high federal dam which would have afforded full development of the most valuable remaining waterpower site in the United States.

The Idaho Power dams, compared with the federal dam which the Eisenhower Administration has rejected, represent a loss to the West of as much electric power as the entire prime output of Bonneville.

They represent a loss to the West of nearly three-fourths of the water storage that could restrain floods and enhance the production of downstream power plants by regulating stream flow.

THEY represent a loss to the West of electric power which could be produced at the low figure of 2.71 mills a kilowatt-hour. They represent a saddling on the West of high private power production costs of 6.69 mills a kilowatt hour—more than double the amount!

Finally, the private project represents a loss to the West of an opportunity to develop extensive deposits of phosphate ore for use as fertilizer to enrich the farms of the region. That development would be made possible by means of cheap electricity that would be produced at Hells Canyon. Idaho Power's electricity will not be cheap.

HELLS CANYON is the example of Mr. Nixon's own choosing. He could hardly have selected an example which typified more completely the deliberate incomplete development of a great natural resource, the production of electric power at unnecessarily high cost.

It is on the basis of this performance that Mr. Nixon asks the voters of Oregon to elect to the Senate Douglas McKay, who as secretary of interior was the man most directly responsible for the Hells Canyon debacle. On the same basis he asks Oregonians to retire Sen. Wayne Morse, who has fought zealously for the full development of their natural resources. And on the same basis the vice president calls for the voters of Idaho to reelect Sen. Welker, an isolationist who has joined the bloc of Republicans-against-Eisenhower on many issues.

Vice President Nixon is the second ranking official of the party which has set "truth squads" to trail Democrat candidates. It would take a truth battalion to correct the distortions which the Californian has left at Hells Canyon.

SORRY, but we can't take credit for the above. It is a reprint of an editorial in a "bigger and better" newspaper than the Mail Tribune—i.e.: The St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

The Post-Dispatch has no axe to grind as far as Hells Canyon and the area it serves is concerned. We doubt if even Mr. Nixon would call this journalistic off-spring of the grand old New York World, a "leftish" or a Red "communist sheet." It just happens to be an independent paper with a genuine interest in conservation and the production of more and cheaper power, not only in Oregon but throughout the USA.

That is one of the chief reasons it condemned the policies of Mr. McKay when he was Secretary of the Interior, and on these two issues is a strong supporter of Senator Morse.

WE BELIEVE it is interesting and should be profitable for the people of Oregon in a hot senatorial campaign like this one to get the views of newspapers of high standing and influence outside of the state as well as within.—R.W.R.

As to Communications

With only about 30 days left before election and the partisan tempo sure to rise, it appears necessary to again point out this paper's rules and regulations particularly regarding communications of a political nature.

We welcome them regardless of the party slant but we will not print communications of any kind over 400 words in length, nor any where the identity of the writer can not be established.

We have received more political offerings this year than ever before signed with name and address, but upon investigation have found neither to be genuine. It has therefore become necessary where the name and address can't be verified by the local directory or telephone book, to make a special check, and needless to say this takes time, and therefore causes delay if not rejection.

We have received several complaints of non-publication in this area, which have been due entirely to the necessity of such action.

The fault has been not with this paper but with our communicants.

THERE is another point which needs to be clarified. Some years ago we made it a rule that all communications of a purely political or controversial nature must be signed by the name and address of the writer and printed so. In other words a distinction was made between controversial and non-controver-

sial offerings, to the "letter box" and that is the rule today.

The former must in all cases be signed. The latter need not be if the writer wishes anonymity and has a valid reason for it, but the correct name will be placed on file not for publication at any time, but only to answer inquiries as to the identity of the writer if and when they occur. (It might be added that through the many years this regulation has been in force such inquiries have been very few and far between.)

BUT the point we wish to make particularly clear at this time is that offerings of a political nature from whatever source must be signed by the writer, and the writer identified.

If this were not done we would be flooded by letters of a political and controversial character, with the request that the name of the author be withheld.

Finally, this has been pointed out many times before but apparently it needs to be stated again.

While the Mail Tribune gives a greater percentage of free space to its critics than any other newspaper in the state, and is the only newspaper that gives free space to both sides in a political campaign three times each week, there is no obligation to print EVERYTHING of a political nature it receives, signed or unsigned, it reserves the right—as does every newspaper in the country—to decide what is most newsworthy and what isn't. Otherwise in a hot campaign like this one there would be room for nothing else.—R.W.R.

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National Editorial Association logo and membership information. Includes details about the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association.

Flight o' Time advertisement for Medford and Jackson County. Offers history from the files of the Mail Tribune for 10, 20, 30, 40, and 50 years ago.

10 YEARS AGO Oct. 7, 1946 (Monday). Article about O. H. Bengtson, Medford attorney and legislator.

20 YEARS AGO Oct. 7, 1936 (Wednesday). Article about a fire prevention week event in Medford.

30 YEARS AGO Oct. 7, 1926 (Thursday). Article about a reunion in Jacksonville for the 50th anniversary of the first business structure.

40 YEARS AGO Oct. 7, 1916 (Saturday). Article about Sen. George E. Chamberlain arriving in Medford.

50 YEARS AGO Oct. 7, 1906 (Sunday). Article about Oregon postmasters appointed today.

What's the Answer? Can You Get 4 of the 7? Editorial research report.

1. Most TV stations would prefer Very High Frequency (VHF) or Ultra High Frequency (UHF) channels... 2. Senator Kefauver is some years older or younger than Vice President Nixon... 3. St. Pierre and Miquelon are two small islands, belonging to France in the Atlantic south of which large island?...