Matter of Fact

By Joseph Alsop

OMENS ON ROUTE TWO

Greenfield, Ind.—No sensible man could resist the comfortable charm of a journey along Rural Route 2, which wanders vaguely through the soybean fields and cornfields of Indiana's Hancock county.

Joseph Alsop

This James Whitcomb Riley country is rather flat and featureless. But the people are full of savor and wonderfully friendly. (Where else would two wandering, totally unknown reporters have been generally welcomed at an afternoon meeting of a ladies aid society?) The fat land and the big barns and the small neat farmhouses in the groves of trees, all brightly gilded by the autumn sun, make a fine scene of peace and plenty.

For the philosophic eye, even the vast brood sows wallowing by their roadside pens have the beauty of visible prosperity. But for Republicans in 1958, this Rural Route 2 is an ominous road, figuratively crawling with adders, shaded my poison sumac, and leading onwards to probable disaster on election day.

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WHAT makes this road so ominous for Republicans is the simple fact that it used to be a Republican glory road but has changed sharply in the past two years. The figures tell the story. In a long day's work, the professional poller, Lou Harris, and this reporter talked with 36 qualified voters on Route 2 and the intersecting and similar Rural Route 3. The farmers who broke off their soybean harvest and the housewives who interrupted their canning spoke with equal frankness.

Of the 36, one had been too young to vote in 1956; five had voted for Adlai Stevenson; and no less than 30 had voted for President Eisenhower. Some of the younger voters had been out of the state and some of the women had not voted (as a surprising number of women do) except for the presidential candidate. Thus there were nine non-voters for the governorship in 1936. Even so the remaining votes were split in a richly Republican manner, 21 for Governor Harold Handley and only 6 for his Democratic opponent.

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AMONG these 36 men and women, Gov. Handley is still losing the same six votes in his race for the Indiana Senate seat that he lost last time in his governorship race. Eight additional former Handley voters or new voters have already made up their minds to vote for the Democratic Senate nominee, Mayor Vance Hartke of Evansville. Five more voters said they were undecided; and of these, three were ladies at the aid meeting, where it was an act of courage to talk like a Democrat. Finally, two former Handley voters were now too disgusted to vote for either party.

"I just can't make myself vote for a Democrat," said one leathery farmer of the antique Republican stock. "So by God, I'll just have to vote pro-high (which, being interpreted, meant "Prohibition Party") if I vote at all."

In other words, in this ultra-Republican territory where he won by more than three to one last time, Gov. Handley is running only a little better than even today. If this shrinkage in the basic Indiana Republic asset of farm votes is repeated along the other rural routes in the other farm counties of the state—which is not proven—Handley is going to take a licking. Judging by Rural Route 2, furthermore, Handley will be licked although no one knows much about his rather dim and dingy Democratic opponent, and simply because Handley is thought to be even dimmer and dingier.

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WE made a good many fascinating discoveries along Rural Route 2. From a loyally Republican, sternly Lutheran old lady, we even heard how her family had fled from the part of Germany that Napoleon devastated, and how her great grandmother had virtually been sold as an indentured servant and how her "people had just gone on votin' for the Republicans since Abe Lincoln's day."

But there were two discoveries that stood out. On the one, desertions from the Republican party were just as common among the richer farmers, with their two or three hundred fruitful acres and their many thousands of dollars in machinery, as among the small farmers who eke out their incomes with part time jobs.

"It takes two of us nowadays—me in the factory and my boy in the field—to feed this family," said one of these smaller farmers angrily. "So I'm votin' for the Democrats because they're for people like us, and let the others go Republican." But he was wrong about "the others." His neighbor, who must have been worth above $150,000 in land, plant-machinery and stock, was also voting for the "Democrats "because it's time for a change."

On the other hand, there was no real love for the Democrats among the Republican deserters, as is indicated by the size of the "don't know" and "plain disgusted" groups. Desertion had plainly been encouraged by the character of the Indiana Republican party, which is rent with feuds and stained with scandal. But desertions on the scale we found would never have occurred if the enthusiasm still persisted that had made five out of six of these people vote for Eisenhower on the national ticket. Among too many, that enthusiasm has altogether seeped away.

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Editorial Comment

A FINE OPPORTUNITY

Organization of the Federal Aviation agency scheduled to become operative on Jan. 1, 1959, provides a fine opportunity for sweeping out many of the old cobwebs that have cluttered the civil aviation picture during the postwar decade, and taking a fresh, technically modern and economically sound approach to what is becoming an increasingly acute problem. The entire civil aviation picture is badly in need of a new and well coordinated program aimed at alleviating the many technical and economic problems that threaten to curb its genuine growth potential.

President Eisenhower has made an excellent choice in naming Elwood P. "Pete" Quesada to head the new Federal Aviation agency . . . We hope this excellent choice . . . will be followed by the equally wise selection of James T. Pyle, present Civil Aeronautics administration chief, as deputy to Mr. Quesada. "Jimmy" Pule has brought a breath of fresh air to the musty CAA and has the vigor and courage to battle for the many breaks with tradition that are vital to aviation's progress.

One of the major problems facing the new agency is recruiting sufficient vigorous and technically sound personnel to match the pace of its administrator. Simply taking over the present CAA personnel lock, stock and barrel would doom the new agency to sterility from the start. There are able men in the present CAA organization, but they are in a minority. On the whole, the CAA has become a classic example of how the civil service system can create a bureaucratic monolith that is interested primarily in preserving a status quo and shuns all progress and change. CAA's postwar record is a decade of utter futility in coping with the tremendous problems posed by aviation's rapid technical development. The fact that we are entering the jet age with a creaking traffic control system and grossly inadequate ground environment can be laid primarily at the doors of the former lighthouse keepers and OX-5 engine experts of the CAA whose technical education ended with the Jennie . . .

The selection of Mr. Quesada to head (the Federal Aviation agency) has been widely endorsed by knowledgeable groups. All of us who have fought so hard to get this type of aviation agency and vigorous leadership must now fight equally hard to see that it is given whatever it needs to take full advantage of the fine opportunity that now lies ahead. —Aviation Week.

Truman Raps Administration In Attack on Foreign Affairs

By RAYMOND LAHR
UPI Correspondent

Washington – (UPI) – Former President Truman, praised by top Republicans last week for soft-pedaling foreign policy in politics, attacked the Eisenhower administration today for "blunder, bluster and brinkmanship in foreign affairs."

That was his answer to the foreign policy remarks of President Eisenhower in a Los Angeles campaign speech Monday night and of Vice President Richard M. Nixon Tuesday night. Both spoke out against appeasement of Communism and asserted that peace had been preserved under six years of the Eisenhower administration.

Both Eisenhower and Nixon praised Truman last week for taking the position that foreign policy did not belong in the 1958 congressional election campaign. In a few off-the-cuff jabs, Truman later replied the Republicans had made campaign debate on foreign policy inevitable by doing it themselves since 1952.

Gives 'Price' Version

In a speech prepared for a Democratic rally today at Wilmington, Del., the former president gave his version of the "price" the nation has paid for the Eisenhower administration. This included an all-time high cost of living, a $12 billion federal deficit, a $20 billion decline in farm income, a doubling of the rate of small business failures and a "dangerous delay" in the strengthening of national defense.

His final item in the "price" was "a decay of our world position, through blunder, bluster and brinkmanship in foreign affairs."

The Truman attack came while Eisenhower was in Chicago preparing for his second major campaign speech of the week–this one over a national radio and television network.

Before leaving the West Coast Tuesday the President told GOP workers the nation should elect a Republican Congress to insure passage of legislation to "fumigate" corrupt labor union leadership. He blamed the present Democratic Congress for killing his labor program this year.

Says Budget Too Big

Eisenhower also said the federal budget is too big and appealed to housewives to join a campaign for less federal spending. And he charged the Truman administration with shortchanging the missile development program.

In his Baltimore speech Tuesday night, Nixon said the Truman administration had followed a policy of "weakness and vacillation" under then Secretary of State Dean Acheson. He said the Eisenhower administration believed Communism could be defeated without war only by "military strength and diplomatic firmness."

But he tempered his criticism of the Democrats by saying "there is no war party in the United States" and adding "there is only one party of treason – the Communist party."

Democrats have interpreted some of Nixon's previous remarks as applying the war and treason labels to the Democratic party.

Johnson 'Notable Example'

Nixon called Senate Democratic Leader Lyndon B. Johnson a "notable example" among Democrats who have supported the Eisenhower foreign policy. He said the criticism came from leaders of the Democratic party wing "which is radical in its approach to economic problems."

Nixon was scheduled to campaign today in Hartford, Conn., Burlington, Vt., and Provident, R.I.– three states with both governorships and U.S. Senate seats at stake.

In a New Castle, Pa., speech Tuesday night, Truman said the GOP was afraid to run on its own record and had dug up "the old scare-words like socialism" to attack the Democrats. He also said the business recession had not ended and would not end so long as Republicans controlled the administration.

Boy Will Leave Psychiatric Ward

New York – (UPI) – Melvin Dean Nimer, the 8-year-old boy who once said he stabbed his parents to death, will leave the Bellevue Psychiatric Ward Thursday to be taken to Utah to live with his grandparents.

The boy, who is called by his middle name of Dean, underwent six weeks of psychiatric examination after he allegedly "confessed" killing his parents, Dr. and Mrs. Melvin A. Nimber Jr., then recanted the story.

The child's attorney, Harris B. Steinberg, said Tuesday that psychiatrists at Bellevue found Dean had "an emotional disturbance that requires close psychiatric supervision" and the condition apparently pre-dated the Sept. 2 double murder of his parents.

Death Deepens Shooting Mystery

New York –(UPI)– The mystery of why four men were killed in a Broadway bar early Sunday deepened today because of the death of the man who pulled the trigger—Patrolman James B. McDermott.

The 34-year-old officer, father of four children, was gunned down by fellow policemen after his unexplained shooting spree. With five bullets in his body, McDermott clung to life until late Tuesday.

He died in Roosevelt hospital without revealing any motive, police said.

Grange News...

Shady Cove Grange

The Shady Cove Grange was host for the local 4-H Achievement program Saturday, Oct. 15, at the Shady Cove school cafeteria.

County 4-H Agents Miss Marilou Garner and Glenn Klein were introduced by Master Ed Houston. They each talked on 4-H work and then introduced Wes Nissen of the First National bank.

Nissen presented pins and awards to the following 4-H members who had finished their projects:

First year, Judy McKinsie, Sheri Watson, Sharon Hawks, Geneva Lowery, Sue Jean Lowery, Vernon Martin; second year, Margaret Hanson, Leonard Hanson, Cheryl Miller, Lois Rodgers, Lloyd Wallsup, Earl Naumann, Linda Fay Paulson, Carole Hale, Cecilia Kee; fourth year, John Cox; sixth year, Ira Conner; eighth year, Robert Peile; 10th year, Velma Peile.

A special award given by the County Fair board for Record Books was presented to Margaret Hanson.

Sandwiches, cake, ice cream, cider and coffee were served to 4-H members and guests by the HEC.

Reed McKay was presented a birthday card and decorated cake.

At the HEC meeting held at the Ed Houston home in Shady Cove plans were made for a fall dinner to be given at the Shady Cove School cafeteria Nov. 23.

The next regular meeting of the HEC will be Nov. 11 at the Bert Clark home on Butte creek with a 12:30 p.m. dinner.

Next regular meeting of the Shady Cove Grange will be Nov. 1.

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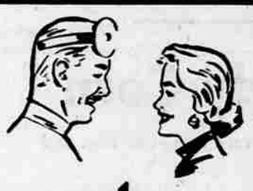

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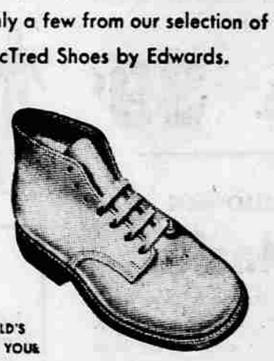

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