



"THE PAPER THAT HAS NO ENEMIES HAS NO FRIENDS."
—George Putnam.

Editorial Comments

WAYNE MORSE, INDEPENDENT

Sen. Wayne Morse has made the right decision in announcing that he will not take part in either the Republican or Democratic caucuses in the Senate. Having bolted the Republican party to support Governor Stevenson for President, the Oregon liberal now intends to adopt the status once held by the late Sen. George W. Norris of Nebraska.

This means, first of all, that he will not take part in either party's decisions on organizing the Senate when it meets in January. Unless by some remote chance a Michigan recount were to change the election result in that state, the division therefore will be 48 Republicans to 47 Democrats, with a vice presidential vote to spare for the Republicans in case of a tie.

As we have said before, the Republicans are entitled to organize the Senate and to control its committees, even though their party majority is so precarious.

Personally, Senator Morse has chosen an interesting future for himself. He will not be eligible for federal patronage; but Senator Norris used to argue that the net effect of this was to relieve him from a profitless vexation. He will not get party help or funds if he seeks re-election four years hence; on the other hand as an independent in such a narrowly divided Senate he may wield more influence than he would as a party member.

There ought to be a place for the independent in American political life. One always remembers, of course, that Senator Norris was finally defeated by a straight Republican. But it has not been proved that his cutting himself adrift from party ties was the basic cause of his defeat; indeed he enjoyed his greatest influence and vote-getting power during the years of independence. Senator Morse now sets himself on the same path and his career will be watched with interest. — From St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

NEW ERA FOR LABOR

Union labor represents one of the largest and most powerful of the self-conscious and organized economic groups that make up the American scene. The coincidence of the passing of its two top leaders just as 20 years of labor-obligated Democratic administrations draw to a close is more than dramatic. It could mark the beginning of a new era. What roes American labor face in the incoming administration? And what does that administration face in organized labor with Philip Murray and William Green gone?

At this moment the new Secretary of Labor has not yet been named. But, barring some radically unorthodox choice for this office, the prospective attitude at both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue seems reasonably plain.

Mr. Eisenhower can feel no such obligation to union labor as its effec-

tive support imposed upon his two immediate predecessors. His landslide election, on the contrary, showed that official labor cannot deliver the vote of the rank and file. There is nothing in his record, utterances, or appointments thus far that suggests an "anti-labor" point of view. He seems a middle-roader on this as on other issues.

Plenty of knotty problems are piling up for him, particularly on the railroads and in the coal fields (no matter how the miners' wage dispute comes out). But Mr. Eisenhower can start out, as a President should, sufficiently independent of both labor and industry to take a national rather than a partisan stand.

On Capital Hill there will likely be general awareness that although the balance of power has shifted a little to the right, labor has not suddenly "gone Republican" nor the country conservative. This Congress threatens little of the pent-up vindictiveness which broke out in the 80th. But labor can expect pressure against the union shop and industry-wide bargaining.

The unions, on their part, know they are now on their own, and there is reason to believe that many of their more thoughtful leaders see this as a healthy change. This recognition, undoubtedly, is spurring CIO leadership in its efforts to agree on a successor to Mr. Murray without a divisive convention fight. Ultimately it may work for labor unity. The AFL quietly chose George H. Meany, who was Mr. Green's right-hand man, for its top office, which is a little more of a chairmanship than a presidency. Chances of the stormy John L. Lewis moving into any power vacuum anywhere seem much more remote than a few years ago.

The new administration, therefore, will likely face a situation with the AFL, the railway brotherhoods, and the miners such as they have been. The CIO may be shaken but not deeply split, and under the leadership either of UAW's dynamic but not radical Walter Reuther, or of some other president chosen chiefly to hold the status quo until the organization can digest its new alignment of forces.

Added all together, here is a prospect which poses problems, to be sure, but which should not be unduly alarming either to labor or to the man about to move into the White House.—From Christian Science Monitor, for Nov. 29, 1952.

Our Christmas Hope

Maybe we're just "tuckered out", but it does seem that Christmas and New Years gets here and leaves with a rush. When a child, Christmas's arrival took ages. New Years Day wasn't noticed. Toys and that "Christmas gift" filled each new day with joy. Now the New Year is a change in numbers on the calendar and a sure sign of another birthday.

It is said that the tender years of life are the ones full of great discovery. The teens and twenties bring "worldly knowledge". Thereafter we humans endure life with the inner-hope that our faith in it will somehow get a boost.

So great is this hope for signs of the good in us that tiny bits of it keep us going in the trudge through adult life. Christmas gives each of us a made-to-order chance for showing we aren't really "that way" after all. The joyous beauty of our children's part in the great Christmas play wipes away worldly cares. Those who would spoil Christmas haven't a single care for the well-being of Man.

So much fun has been poked at New Year's Resolutions that their use is on the wane. It is rather "corny"—this making and breaking of resolutions. What isn't corny is the renewed faith we get from the spirit of Christmas. Just when we're about to throw in the towel on the good fight, along comes Christmas and the story of the birth of Christ, the hope of the world. Again we are reminded that here is our answer. The New Year becomes a new chance for betterment.

Courage is needed by each of us for solving the tough problems that pop into our daily lives. Christmas builds a reserve of that courage. Those who miss out on this gift of Christmas, because of their uncertain plunge through life, pass up a richer and fuller life. Christmas puts a twinkle in the eye and charges up that sense of humor. We long for the day when the spirit of Christmas reaches 'round the world. Perhaps this wish is kin to the eager desire we held as children for the magic of Christmas. Peace and joy a! over the world will be the greatest Christmas gift of all.

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