



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

LET THE PEOPLE RULE

Estes Kefauver doesn't pull any punches in his Collier's article, "Why Not Let the People Elect Our President?"

The Tennessee senator who made a valiant but futile fight for the Democratic nomination declares that "the election system in this country is bad enough, pegged as it is to the antiquated electoral college tradition which makes it possible for a candidate to receive a minority of the popular vote and still be elected president. But the convention system is a mockery of our democratic processes."

Then from his own bitter experience and observation he points out how national conventions become "the easy tool of the political bosses, the slick manipulators and the unscrupulous king-makers."

Kefauver is optimistic, however. He believes that the people, after following the conventions by TV and radio, are now wise to this "undemocratic spectacle" and will move to remedy it.

Still smarting over the ignominious treatment he received at the Democratic convention, particularly at the hands of Chairman Sam Rayburn, who blocked his last-minute effort to withdraw in favor of Governor Stevenson, Kefauver bears no grudges. He campaigned energetically for Stevenson and he pledges his co-operation to President Eisenhower. But he does believe strongly that something should be done, and soon, about presidential election reform.

The Kefauver program involves a federal law setting up presidential primaries in all states. Delegates would be firmly pledged to cast their votes for leading candidates in state primaries on a proportional basis. No candidate could be placed on the ballot against his will, as they may be in Oregon. Nominations at national conventions would be by simple majority. After 10 ballots delegates would be free to vote for any one of the three leading contenders for nomination.

Kefauver has an interesting suggestion about nominating vice presidential candidates. He would have them chosen by delegates from the three candidates who polled the next highest number of votes in the nationwide primaries. He believes this would prevent "degrading" the office of vice president to the political barter level.

Finally, Kefauver urges shorter presidential campaigns. He believes quite properly, that our present sys-

tem of long, bitter campaigns is no longer justified.

"I have never seen any sense in practically killing our presidents before we elect them," is the way he puts it.

Perhaps Senator Kefauver has not devised the perfect plan for modifying and improving our nominating and electing procedures. Several others, including Senators Douglas of Illinois and Smathers of Florida, have plans, too. Smathers, for example, believes that if a vice president succeeds to the presidency by reason of a death, there should be a special presidential election at the next general election.

In any event, the Tennessee makes a cogent case for presidential election reform. We agree with him that the era of boss rule is fading and that his program, if approved, might be its death blow.

We agree also that the people should control elections, not rigged convention halls and smoke-filled rooms.—From Oregon Journal.

FRANK EDWARDS Says:

(Heard over KPOJ, Portland, at 10:15 p.m., Monday through Friday)

If you hold GI insurance, here's a tip that may be worth a lot to you. Very few veterans know it, but there is a bargain in disability insurance available to every veteran who has kept his GI insurance in force. It is a provision of the policy which enables the insured to pay a small premium which will entitle him to \$5 a month on each \$1,000 worth of insurance in case of disability. This means that a 30-year-old vet with a \$10,000 policy can pay an additional \$10.70 per year and draw \$50 a month in case he becomes disabled. Not enough to live on but quite a help in time of trouble. How do you find out about this disability provision of your GI insurance? Just make written application to your nearest Veterans Administration office and be able to furnish satisfactory proof of good health. It's disability insurance at a low cost.

The mail is full of letters from ladies who tell me that their nylons aren't what they used to be. From Chicago comes this lady's comment: "Tell the ladies and the girls that I have solved the problem of nylons quite a while ago. I pay 82 cents a pair for black cotton stockings. They wear like iron and they look like gunny sacks but they never run! But then I am 75 and I seldom run either."

Charles E. Wilson's attitude while testifying before the senators was not one which was likely to make any friends. He was the big successful executive; they were the politicians who worked for comparative peanuts. The ex-president of General Motors snapped at the senators: "What's good for General Motors is good for the country."

You may recall that another fellow named Wilson dealt with that same topic, but he told the whole story. His name was Woodrow Wilson and he said: "When privilege gets the profits, the people pay the price."

Writes a San Francisco lady: "I

DETROIT

By MRS. S. T. MOORE

Rudy Lumber company was high bidder on timber auctioned Tuesday at the Detroit ranger station.

The sale is located on Mary's Creek and includes 72,000 board feet of blow-down and insect killed trees.

Bid prices were \$15.50 for Douglas fir and \$3.00 for Hemlock.

Star Reed and Frank Moore are in Oakridge this week attending a timber management training session. Mrs. Nettie McMillan, mother of Mrs. Star Reed, is a house guest at the ranch home of Mrs. Edna Swartz near Jefferson.

How's business? It's great if you can get a \$75 million ocean liner for \$28 million — at the taxpayers' expense. The United States Lines, owners of the luxury liner United States (sometimes known as the U. S.S. Subsidy), report net earnings of \$7 a share for 1952—up \$3 per share above 1951.

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Nature Rampages on Highway

The North Santiam hit the front pages again this week with something that is unfortunate this time, a huge landslide right onto our North Santiam highway. Let those situated on the South Santiam smirk, we would remind them that their's was a like fate not so many years ago! We can take pride that ours is the biggest, it must be. It's in the North Santiam!

So far we have found the public most gentle in their comment on the whole situation of a 15,000 cubic yard slide right smack on our fine new highway. It's said that that road, meaning the North Santiam highway, slices through some pretty big mountains and so it does. Until we can get things settled alongside this new roadway we all can expect more of the same in the years ahead. The South Santiam route was plagued by one slide after another until the earth decided that the whole thing was, after all, permanent.

It seems absurd blaming Oregon rain for this whole thing. A more appealing excuse for it is that one of the North Santiam's choice deer kicked a rock and started the whole thing going. It could be also that an enterprising Mill City chamber of commerce member dreamed up the whole thing just so we could get some more free state-wide publicity!

"Uncle Sam" will pick up the check on this current splurge of nature in the North Santiam canyon. The state of Oregon again snickers up its sleeve at the plight of "Old Whiskers". The horseless carriage certainly has been making a dent in "Uncle's" bankroll for many years now. Our North Santiam is no exception, far from it. Highways such as we have right under our noses cost many pesos. We in the North Santiam voice an Allah to "Uncle" for his making possible such fine roads. To the thousands and thousands who have pitched in tax dollars to the federal treasury we say, "Thanks". We like 'em even if they do get stopped up once in a while!

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Editor's Letter Box

We received this short letter from Mr. Hunter this week and we find that it expresses the feeling of many residents here and perhaps you have some thoughts on the subject too. If so you are welcome to use this column pro and con on the subject at any time. Try not to write your letters too long, however, we would like to have longer ones than Mr. Hunter gave us. His letter follows:

To the Editor:
How about a Public Utility District election now?

My winter operating expense has gone up too. Can I get 20% more? No, and neither can you. Let's have that PUD election now.

C. F. HUNTER, Mill City.

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