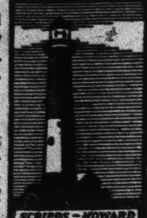


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Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way

REVERSING THE FIELD

MR. ROOSEVELT once likened himself to a football quarterback, and the comparison is rather apt. A good quarterback knows when to change the style of play and, if the opposition is closing in on him, he doesn't hesitate to reverse his field.

In his speech to the Democratic precinct workers Thursday night, Mr. Roosevelt did just that. His teamsters' speech two weeks ago quite frankly was free-swinging, name-calling, wisecracking polking. His followers ate it up. But many independent voters questioned whether the levity was in keeping with the dignity of high office or with the President's pledge that he would not campaign "in the usual sense." So Thursday, Mr. Roosevelt changed his tactics. He spoke this time as the leader of the nation, in temperate and measured terms, with all pointed political implications carefully veiled.

CONSEQUENTLY, there was much in the speech with which all, regardless of party, could agree. His emphasis on the full exercise of the franchise was sound. The strength of a democracy is measured by the ratio in which its citizens participate in national decisions, not alone on election day but at all times—a fact which the present administration seems to have overlooked in its relations with the elected representatives of the people and in its closed door policy on foreign affairs. Be that as it may, we agree with Mr. Roosevelt that everyone should vote in the coming election and that such restrictions as poll-tax laws should be eliminated.

However, we do not agree that those who opposed the federal bob-tailed ballot were seeking to sabotage the soldiers' right to vote. They were insisting only that the voting should be conducted according to constitutional mandate, and in a manner that would not be open to later challenge in the courts. Present indications are that a large proportion of the soldiers will vote, not for President alone but for local offices also—and that is due to the action of the states, under Republican as well as Democratic leadership. And if it is important that as many of the voters as possible should have a voice in selecting a President, it is equally desirable that as many as possible should have a vote for state executives and legislators. Under the bob-tailed ballot plan, that would not have been possible.

MR. ROOSEVELT'S warning that the war is not yet won is both timely and well taken, and certainly Mr. Dewey would be the first to concur in this statement from the President's speech:

"The land of opportunity—that's what our forefathers called this country. By God's grace, it must always be the land of opportunity for the individual citizen—even broader opportunity."

This has been Mr. Dewey's theme—his thesis that New Deal regimentation and bureaucratic tyranny are destroying precisely this opportunity. We are sure that he will welcome a convert to the cause, however belatedly. Though he may have indorsed some of the features of the New Deal, Mr. Dewey, it seems, has no monopoly on the habit of borrowing the doctrines of the opposition.

Recognizing by inference the effectiveness of recent Republican attacks, Mr. Roosevelt gave assurance that service men would be returned "at the earliest possible moment consistent with our national safety" and that wartime controls and restrictions will be relaxed "at the earliest practicable moment." We welcome those assurances, though they do not square with the public statements of some of Mr. Roosevelt's subordinates. Just yesterday, for example, the OWI announced that price controls may be continued for "quite some time." Does that mean that the administration is "talking out of both sides of its mouth?"

IT IS TRUE, as Mr. Roosevelt pointed out, that laws have been passed ordering prompt return of service personnel and placing limits on the duration of war measures—but the American people in the last four years have seen laws by-passed, ignored, or evaded. There is a law, for example against political contributions by labor unions—but there was also a Mr. Biddle to construe it.

And Mr. Roosevelt's argument, "The law is there, for all Americans to read—and you do not need legal training to understand it" sounds a bit "both-sides-of-the-mouthish" alongside the dictum of his philosophical mentor and supreme court appointee, Justice Frankfurter, who said:

"The notion that, because the words of a statute are plain, its meaning also is plain is merely pernicious oversimplification."

Justice Frankfurter, to be sure, was not running for political office when he said that. But he is one of the men who will interpret the laws whose words Mr. Roosevelt says are so clear.

STATUS QUO

A COLUMNIST recently complained that the Gallup, Roper and other polls are taking all the drama and suspense out of presidential elections with their deadly accuracy. We sympathize and offer consolation.

Let her (for it was a feminine columnist) read the prophecies of the rival campaign big-shots. Sidney Hillman has already predicted that Mr. Roosevelt will carry Maine and Vermont. And we expect momentarily to hear that Herbert Brownell has looked up from the crystal ball and claimed the Solid South for Mr. Dewey.

MR. ROOSEVELT SAID—

LET us have the courage to stop borrowing to meet continuing deficits. Stop the deficits. Let us have equal courage to reverse the policy of the Republican leaders and insist on a sound currency.

But that was in 1932, before he became President.

Reflections

By Joe Williams



DETROIT, Oct. 7.—Say, that Cordell Hull is quite a gent, isn't he? As the saying goes in baseball, they can't get him out. I don't make a point of keeping records on older statesmen, still I can't remember when the old Tennessee Oak ever dropped a decision, and he's been in there swinging for a long time, and against opposition ranging from sheer crackpot to plain treachery. Also, there have been times when it looked as if his own manager was trying to give him the business. Yet when the last punch is thrown it's always the veteran battler who walks over to the mike and says: "Hello, Mom. I won easy."

First Notable Triumph in London

CHARLES MICHELSON, in his current book, goes back to 1933 with the secretary of state and describes his first notable triumph as a resolute, independent, forthright character. This was at a little thing called the London Economic Conference. Supposedly the secretary spoke for the White House, but he hadn't been mingling with the claw hammer coats of Downing Street long before one of the original brain trusters, Prof. Raymond Moley, popped up; from then on the professor would take charge. This was a subject for the scientific mind. The secretary disposed of this embarrassment with characteristic directness—he simply requested that Mr. Roosevelt make a choice between him and the double dome, and in due course, the professor was peddling his scholarly peanuts elsewhere.

This is one of the remarkable things about the secretary. He seems to be the only big league executive who is able to consistently to take a stand and make it stick. Even the White House, in the end, always manages to come around to his way of thinking, which in itself is enough to establish the secretary as a four-star genius, for the White House record for co-operation, harmony and team play is scarcely complimentary. Whatever the answer, the relationship, considering the scrambled confused character of the administration, is extraordinary.

Kayos Member of New Deal Varsity

THE SECRETARY'S latest kayo victim is the treasury's Henry Morgenthau Jr., and this is an impressive victim because Morgenthau is a Hyde Park intimate and long a member of the New Deal varsity. You probably read the details of Morgenthau's plan to cut Germany up into small farms and, in effect, reduce the country to a population of potato growers. There must be ways, and most certainly to chasten and chastise a war-crazed people, but even to the man in the street this sounded more like savagery than sense.

It plainly didn't sound like sense to the secretary, and just precisely what he did about it must be left to speculation, but the fact remains that within 24 hours the Morgenthau plan was repudiated, and Mr. Roosevelt pointedly announced that control of German industry will be under the guidance of the department of state, which was another way of telling Morgenthau to go back to his tax forms and war bond drives.

True, Rooseveltian actions are subject to sudden and sharp reversions, but the Hull record for getting things done his way is such that there is reason for optimism. Incidentally, if there's a champ in Washington, a lot of people are beginning to suspect the name is Cordell Hull.

World Affairs

By Ludwell Denny



WASHINGTON, Oct. 7.—Political overtones of the allied campaigns in the Balkans may be even more important than the military. There is an element of competition between the Russians and British in those areas where their desired spheres of influence meet and overlap.

Not that the campaigns are without military justification. On the contrary, a collapse of the south wall of Hitler's fortress hasten German military disintegration and shake German morale. Loss of Romania has denied Hitler his largest remaining oil production. He will lose minerals in Yugoslavia and food sources in Hungary. If the Russians succeed in reaching Belgrade and the key communications center of Nish, most of the 200,000 Nazi troops in the south will be trapped.

But the local political stakes are high for Russia and Britain. Always Britain has shown a special interest in the Balkans because of their relation to the Mediterranean and the Middle East, which are essential links of the British empire. Also traditionally the Balkans have been the goal of Pan-Slavism, particularly Bulgaria and Yugoslavia. Stalin's interest in the Balkans and the Dardanelles is obvious.

Maneuver for Position in Italy

THE FIRST maneuvers for position occurred in Italy. Although the British were in on the ground floor, and the Russians were handicapped by having no troops in the liberation and occupation, Moscow has managed to get at least as much influence as the British with the Badoglio-Savoy conservatives and the coalition cabinet.

Stalin is said to want a fairly strong post-war Italy to balance British power in the Mediterranean, while London prefers an Italy dependent on Britain. In Yugoslavia the pro-Moscow movement grew so fast that the London Yugoslav government-in-exile, under Churchill pressure, dumped Mihailovich and made a deal with the Communist Tito rather than risk total eclipse.

The recent landings of western allied forces in Albania and on the Dalmatian islands and coast were expected to increase British prestige, but much larger Russian forces quickly crossed into western Yugoslavia from Bulgaria and Romania to join up with Tito scouts for the drive to Belgrade.

Britain Has Big Stake in Greece

BRITAIN IS even more interested in Greece, because of Suez and the Middle East. Hitherto it has been assumed that Russia would not challenge Britain's sphere of influence there. But there has been fighting in Greece between two guerrilla groups, one of which has relations with Tito and Moscow. At the moment there is a truce between the two while they fight the Germans, and the British have moved into the Peloponnese and several islands off the Greek coast.

From the beginning there have been two dangers in this Russo-British political rivalry in the Balkan-Mediterranean area. The first danger was that it would color Anglo-American military strategy to the extent of making the Balkans, rather than a western front, the main point of attack against Germany, but the Americans insisted on a western front, and won.

The remaining danger is that Moscow and London may not be able to keep this rivalry from straining the larger allied unity in the difficult political decisions regarding the European settlement and an international security organization. Meanwhile the trend seems to be toward a Europe divided into Russian and British spheres of influence, rather than toward the democratic international system pledged by the Atlantic Charter and the Hull-Moscow pact.

To The Point—

SOME GIRLS do a fine job of keeping away from cigarettes—by using a holder.

GOLD BRICKS are coming back—judging from some of the builders' estimates.

Your Hit Parade!



The Hoosier Forum

I wholly disagree with what you say, but will defend to the death your right to say it.—Voltaire.

"WHO DO YOU THINK I'LL VOTE FOR?"

By F. M. Harrett, Indianapolis

Very interesting, this story of Lieut. Dickens of the navy and his companion being beaten up by a bunch of hoodlums in the Hotel Statler in Washington, D. C., the night of the President's speech on Sept. 23. All because he refused to give his political affiliations, or say he was going to vote for his "commander in chief." We in this country are supposed to vote or think according to our own views. Are the ones in power now so intent on staying in power that they will resort to gangster and gestapo methods? If they cannot smear their way in, or buy their way in, are they going to try to coerce their way in?

Why is F. D. R. so against Hitler? Is it because Hitler is stealing his stuff? We might as well call all our boys home and let Hitler have it if we can't vote for whom we please.

A serviceman wrote that it was getting so a soldier had to voice his intention to vote Democratic in order to get a furlough home. If this is true, it is pretty rotten, don't you think? When F. D. R. said he was too old to talk out of both sides of his mouth at the same time, he was doing a pretty good job of it right then. He was talking against dictatorship and encouraging it at the same time by chumming around with his "old pal," and friend of long standing, Dan Tobin and a gang of hoodlums, for who else would pick a fight with a couple of naval officers, veterans of Midway, over a matter like this. I have a son who is a naval officer and I hope if he runs into any of Tobin's gang he puts them in their place. Who do you think I'll vote for? Who will you vote for? Here's for a "New Deal" and get rid of a "great deal" of the "Old New Deal."

"YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO MISS THE BOAT"

By a C. I. O. Member, Anderson, Ind.

Now with election only a few weeks off, I wonder if labor hasn't once again missed the boat. Riding high, wide and handsome on the F. D. R. Democrat party band wagon is the Sidney Hillman.

For over two years now C. I. O. has tried to break the Little Steel formula and to get a much just needed raise. Now they have shoved us around here and there till now that election is only a matter of days away, F. D. R. and

his Democrats can't wait to break the little steel formula. It will be done in October to sweeten up the voter and keep the great Democrat machine rolling.

For myself, I am a member of a C. I. O. union, also a strong worker for C. I. O. But we can't keep going on just one break every four years. Wake up, labor, you can't afford to miss the boat this time.

"WE SHOULD LEARN BY EXPERIENCE"

By Price of Experience, Indianapolis

Politics taboo—here are some facts Americans must face.

When farmers did as they pleased they bankrupted the agricultural industry, brought the water level of Indiana (and other states) to an amazing low that caused erosion of land that should produce good forests and pasture, caused disastrous floods in the Southern states and pushed non-capitalist labor into the cities.

When manufacturers did as they pleased they did as bad-leaving laborers with no wages, therefore, no buying power.

The NRA, WPA, PWA, etc., were boondoggling but they prevented a revolution right here in the U. S. A. and were the best emergency measures available.

Surely we should learn by experience.

As for individual states controlling unemployment, old-age pensions, free medical care and social security—we should know better than that from the experiences of Europe.

Do we want passports and different currency for our states?

Must the youth that have down all over the world be hampered by state-lines?

Has any group or corporation the right to ruin our streams?

When Kansas dust hovers over Washington, D. C. is it anybody's business?

Will we be foolish enough to lose the start we have made for a better, safer, more productive country?

"LET'S NOT GAMBLE WITH THEIR LIVES"

By Mariel Swigart, Indianapolis

The Terre Haute train wreck will remain long in many memories as a climax most maddening in its cruelty to the brave fighting men who were supposedly "safely home."

The early reports that the car in which the soldiers were riding was a wooden Pullman have been denied by the Pullman company's vice president. So that eliminates the possibility of preventing similar tragedies by improving the type of car used.

However, there is another step I think should certainly be taken to protect our service men during future trips via railroad. All trains on which both soldiers and civilians are riding should be arranged so that the soldiers' cars are in the center or rear of the train—which is safer. Heretofore their cars seem always to be the furthest forward, with the result that the enlisted men suffer the greatest casualties in a train wreck. Centralizing their cars would help, too, if some misguided individual were contemplating causing a wreck through sabotage. He'd be less anxious to carry out his plans, if he found out that most if not all the casualties would be civilians.

Great efforts are made through medical science and in other ways to preserve the lives of these men. Let's not relax and gamble with their lives when they come home for a rest.

DAILY THOUGHTS

Rejoice, and be exceedingly glad; for great is your reward in heaven; for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.—Matthew 5:12.

A RELIGIOUS life is a struggle and not a hymn.—Madame de Staël.

Side Glances—By Galbraith



"All I'm looking for is a stenographer—I know they pay more at the airplane factory, but please remember that I'm not going to ask you to build any airplanes!"

Political Scene

By Thomas L. Stokes



WASHINGTON, Oct. 7.—President Roosevelt's reiterated appeal to register and get out and vote in his speech Thursday night to Democratic precinct workers all over the nation was far more than mere campaign talk.

He was in real earnest. His plea reflects the bearishness recently noted in the Democratic high command here, a sort of October pre-election blues not typical at this stage before previous Roosevelt tests at the ballot box. Democrats are frankly worried. Whether their pessimism is justified or not, the party strategists tell you privately that this looks like a very close election that might be topped against them by carelessness.

Not Up Against Amateurs

SOME INSIDERS began to sense the danger some time ago. They recognized that they were not up against amateurs this time. They felt in Governor Dewey and his board of strategy a sure, professional touch. The tactics which brought his nomination were evidence of this. Further proof came in Governor Dewey's organization of the 26 Republican governors, all the head of effective state machines, into a flying squad at his St. Louis conference.

President Roosevelt has a very keen political ear, himself, as is now well-known. That is why he became an active campaigner so early this year. He realized that he must carry the big burden of the battle himself. He had to stir up Democratic forces, to dispel the apparent apathy, and he saw that he could not wait too long. That accounts for his rousing speech to the teamsters.

Democrats felt better after that, particularly since Governor Dewey had lulled them into a state of contentment by his fairly calm, moderate speeches on the Pacific coast aligning himself with the New Deal. It looked for a time like Wendell Willkie all over again. Then, sizzle, came the Oklahoma City speech which sent a thrill of exhilaration through the ranks of Republican party workers.

Strategists Took a Second Look

THAT MADE the Democrats sit up. Here was a fighting fellow, ready to slug at close range with Mr. Roosevelt. The party strategists began to take a second look at their situation. They found it none too good. Some became a little panicky.

So President Roosevelt went in to pitch again Thursday night. His insistent plea to register and vote gave the clue to what Democratic leaders diagnose as the chief disease which may cripple them, and the remedy.

The disease is a small vote which would give full advantage to Republican machines now in control in all the key states. It is the consensus of Democratic strategists that a large vote is necessary for the President's re-election. The smaller the vote, the better are Republican chances. Democrats learned that lesson from the 1942 congressional elections.

Sought to Take Curse Off P. A. C.

THE PRESIDENT sought to rally elements which can contribute to a large vote in two ways. He sought to take the curse off the C. I. O. P. A. C., which is engaged in a registration and get-out-the-vote campaign, by spoofing charges of communism hurled at the P. A. C. by Republicans who always mention Sidney Hillman and Earl Browder in the same breath.

He went back to the soldier vote bill fight in congress and state legislatures to accuse Republicans of trying to restrict soldier voting, presumably for the effect this may have upon soldiers and upon their parents and relatives and to help along the Democratic thrusts at Governor Dewey on this score in New York, now regarded as a doubtful state. Incidentally, President Roosevelt's vote speech was timed for the big registration drive in New York City next week.

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SATURDAY

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