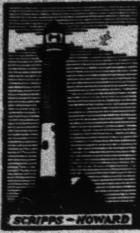


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Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way

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 politicking. 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 heist 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 elder 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 sheet crackpot to plain treacherous. 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 casts 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 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 kayak 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 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 revisions, 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 campaign 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 can rapidly disintegrate 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 maneuver 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 Italian 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 Peloponnesus and several islands of 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 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!

By Joe Williams



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. Garrett, Indianapolis

Very interesting, this story of

Lieut. Dickins 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 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," 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 Mid-

way, 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 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 backs of naval officers, veterans of Mid-

way, we aren't a lot brighter than

that. The F. D. R. Democratic party

has ever put into action the last 12

years they have been in power.

How the Hillman C. I. O. Political

Action Committee felt about Dewey

speeches we wonder. Here is a man

for whom they have had nothing but

criticism now offering labor more

than the Democrats have given

them in 12 long years.

Now will labor go to the polls

this November and remembering

that all the F. D. R. Democratic

party has given them has been a lot of

promises? Since Pearl Harbor day to

the present Mr. Roosevelt has seen

fit to freeze the