

'T Aint' Santa Claus'

Marquis Childs

Truman And 1948

A Fair Hearing For Bilbo

IF, as now seems likely, the question of Theodore Bilbo's fitness to take a seat in the United States Senate is to be decided by a vote, it is probable that the division will be along party lines. Republicans will vote against Bilbo, who is, among other things, a Democrat; Democrats will automatically vote for him. The only Southerners in the Senate may even rally behind Bilbo with a filibuster aimed at preventing a test of his qualifications, since they see in the organized partnership a threat to the doctrine of states' rights, and to some of the racial principles they themselves accept.

Bilbo seems to us unfit for public office on several counts, of which his racial views are perhaps the least important. But it is essential that he be given the benefit of every doubt, for there could be no more dangerous a precedent than the disqualification of a Congressman, elected by a majority of his constituents, from his state, because a majority of his colleagues do not agree with his point of view. This is not hair-splitting, for the effect of such action would be to rule out minority opinions in the Congress.

As The New York Times points out, there is no reason to believe that Bilbo will not have a fair hearing. The chairman of the investigating committee is Senator Ellender of the neighboring state of Louisiana and another member is Senator Maybank of South Carolina. These gentlemen are also products of the South's peculiar electoral process, and certainly they can be depended upon to defend it valiantly against unwarranted attack by Republican commissioners.

Bilbo may achieve a sort of spurious martyrdom before the investigation is concluded, as he has so often before. We have no high hopes of seeing him unseated as a result of action from either side. He may have a little more difficulty with another Congressional committee currently investigating war contract scandals in Mississippi. But it is encouraging that the Senate investigating committee has charged the same men from South Carolina and Louisiana, who have voted to take a close look at the manner in which the most notable of the Southern demagogues rose to glory.

Professor Shapley's Contempt

IT SEEMS to us that a Congressional Committee on Un-American Affairs could and should serve a useful purpose, and that a major portion of its time should be devoted to tracking down and identifying Communist agents and sympathizers. That is certainly, in no easy task, for American Communists, native and otherwise, believing that they owe allegiance to a higher, finer cause than petty nationalism, do not scruple to use every trick in the book to evade the committee. Their favorite tactic is infiltration, and their favorite target is the labor union, as the CIO has just recognized by announcing a purge of its own leadership.

extreme as even the CIO's PAC, Representative Rankin, sitting as a one-man committee, nevertheless summoned him to Washington, refused to admit his attorney to the inquisition, and finally, according to Professor Shapley, compelled Rankin to remove certain names from his list. When Rankin refused to submit to this treatment, Representative Rankin charged him with contempt.

Miss Knox And Her Spastics

ON SATURDAY, in place of Dorothy Knox's column on the back page of The News there appeared a brief note: "Miss Knox has knocked herself out, bumping her head against the altar of Club's Spastic Survey of Mecklenburg County." The use of the phrase "knocked out" was no strained effort of an aging editor to drop into the current vernacular; it was a genuine expression of sympathy with a cause, and her enthusiasm had once again exceeded her energy.

trained personnel, special equipment, and, usually, months of hospitalization. Because the brain injury is so frequently mistaken for a feeble-mindedness, and because the cause is almost always overlooked, there are only a handful of spastic centers in the United States. There is none in North Carolina, although there would be if Miss Knox has her way. Her plan is to build a spastic hospital in the community. But the creation of a state center is only a beginning, for no single hospital could be large enough to meet the need in North Carolina. The problem must be solved on the community level.

Another Voice

KINDLY paternalism of the past still suffices the racial view of a number of Southerners who honestly consider themselves more enlightened than the Tamagades and the Bilbos. Hardy a better sample of it could be found than the race relations statement of Alabama's retiring Governor Shapley.

This is a project for the years, we suppose, but sooner or later the tragic plight of these spastics will touch the conscience of the community. It is the community conscience that must be awakened, not the state. Miss Knox, our favorite gadfly, will see to that.

Paternalism In Race Relations

with the white. While Governor Shapley denies any form of "White paternalism," he asserts "the necessity of segregation, and of no social equality, and a careful protection of our electoral franchise." That is a way of saying he believes the Negro should have no vote, and that, of course, the Negro is dependent utterly on the dubious bounty of the white South for education, economic opportunity, and justice. It is to be destroyed by this one man. Governor Shapley's view, but he finds in it, may sound, cause for distress as deep as that occasioned by such forthright negroes as Georgia's Tamagade, and Mississippi's Bilbo—Louisville Courier-Journal.



People's Platform

Who Is John Lewis?

Editor, The News: I HAVE sent the following to President Harry S. Truman by telegraph.

NATIONAL destruction of property, unreasonable demands, and often uncalled for action on the part of Mr. John L. Lewis for personal gain, prestige, and power, is hurting the cause of labor-damaging business, undermining and dividing our Government and should come to an end.

The Government has seized the coal mines. If Mr. John L. Lewis continues to defy the United States Government, and nothing else will do, then our Government ought to seize him, and let Mr. Lewis be acquainted with the inside of jail. Some things mellow in jail. Let him understand that he is not running the United States, or dictating to its President.

As citizens we are proud of the United States, and we do not see it as a disgrace for John L. Lewis. We don't want our allegiance to, and our respect for this great nation to be lost by the confidence in you, Mr. Truman, as spokesman of American people, and believe you have the power to do this. We are confident in you, Mr. Truman, as spokesman of American people, and believe you have the power to do this. We are confident in you, Mr. Truman, as spokesman of American people, and believe you have the power to do this.

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Why Democrats Lost

THAT coalition of "incomplete" forces which the Democratic Party is now seeking sanctuary, some may wonder who killed and how. It is not the Republicans, but the Democrats themselves. They had better check their laurels for a moment, and give serious consideration to the problems and responsibilities they must now solve and shoulder.

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Drew Pearson: Lewis Fears Competition More Than Jail

(Editor's Note: This is the third of Drew Pearson's columns on America's most powerful labor leader—John L. Lewis.)

BOTH in high-up Government circles and at every cross-section of the people, Lewis has been asked, "How can we avoid having John L. Lewis put a pistol to our head every six months? Why should one man be permitted to control the price of coal? Why should one man milk bank their fires, and American homes be heated?"

Incidentally, Lewis at first was dead opposed to the proposal to hold over the mine. He was not in favor of him about the New Deal bandwagon. Apparently he didn't recognize what a bonanza he was in for. At that time, the A.F. of L. had a long list of members, and the economic theory which was partly the reason for the coal miners' undoing.

an employer to bargain with a union. However, it was not Lewis, but Phil Murray who sold to the Democrats. In 1932, with the miners in misery and the union treasury down to around \$50,000, Lewis refused to go to the mines to calm Franklin Roosevelt. Then, however, in 1935, Lewis sued in his Indianapolis headquarters. He had a delegation to Albany alone. Roosevelt promised Murray to put miners' problems near the top of his work program.