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California: Diagram of National Forces At Work?

By JOSEPH ALSOP

IN TERMS of mild despair, Vice President Nixon has been exhorting his fellow Republicans to remember how Harry S. Truman (not usually a Republican fellow hero) went in to win against seemingly hopeless odds in 1948.

Anyone who has been exposed to the Republican situation in California, as this reporter has just been, is bound to suspect that the vice president's recent visit to his native state was what plunged him into the depths of bravely concealed gloom.

PRIME TIME
The point about California is not really that the two top men on the Republican ticket, Sen. William F. Knowland and Gov. Goodwin Knight, are openly at odds against one another. The prime point to note is the one made by the man who probably had the most to do with reliving the California Democratic party's former State Chairman Roger Kent.

with great apparent confidence. Kent added: "The Knowland-Knight row has brought the great day four years nearer. But the Democrats would have won this state in 1952, no matter what happened."

NO USUAL FOLLY
Kent hased his claim on the visible combination of thorough reconstruction of the California Democratic Party and progressive disorganization of the California Republicans. On the whole, the Democratic renaissance seems to be the more important of these two developments.

In a state where everything is special and strange, the California Democrats have always been more special and strange than almost anywhere else. They have always had an immense lead in state registration. But for years on end, they never won elections because they nominated scrawny candidates, or because they preferred fighting among themselves, or because of some other folly.

Roger Kent, who is a Stevenson man, asserts that the personality of Adlai Stevenson attracted all sorts of bright new faces into the Democratic Party at the working, organization level. He says that the renaissance really began in 1952, and has gone forward ever since. In any case, the result today is plain. The smooth, hard-working, well-knit California Democratic Party first showed its stuff when it won a 50-50 split in the traditionally Republican state senate. Now the party is united, self-confident, and election-all-out to elect two popular and moderate candidates, Pat Brown for the governorship and Clair Engle for the Senate.

The moderation of the candidates means that the middle-income voters and the business group are not frightened by the Democrats, as they have been in the past. In the business group one even finds a sharp increase about the desirability of Sen. Knowland's favorite right-to-work scheme, which is deplored by

many San Francisco business leaders, particularly. But the really big division is the division in the California Republican Party, which is split, bewildered, peevish and demoralized.

DIAGRAM OF FORCES
Maybe Gov. Knight can still swing the past party. Engle into the Senate seat. The vice president's prescription of stick-chalets and combatants might be written to order for Sen. Knowland, although only Knowland still says he can win. The unwidening of positive election predictions was proven in 1948, by the very case that the vice president

All the same one cannot avoid the suspicion that the diagram of forces that is visible in California has a certain meaning for the country as a whole. Whether defeat or Adlai Stevenson was the tonic, a Democratic renaissance has taken place in all sorts of different states, all the way from New England westward.

AVERT! Harriman in New York, might blunder in Connecticut, Ed Muskie in Maine and other Democratic governors have joined in the lack of reconstructing their party. So have local chiefs like Dave Lawrence in Pittsburgh. Another factor has been the inborn Democratic fondness for winning elections, so different from the attitude that "I'd rather be right than elected" which is too common among Republicans.



"The North Wind Doth Blow..."

The results in this election are plain to be seen. In most states the Democrats have more appealing candidates than in only one state, in the form of Nelson Rockefeller in New York, where the Republicans found a vote-getting new face. In some states they have chosen virtually invisible candidates, like Jack Kennedy's opponent, Vincent, in Massachusetts. The national administration is good for a political party, once in a while, whereas a gaining control can be dangerous.

Uglification Vs. Moderation In Dixie: The Race Between Rant And Reason

"Reeling and Writhing, of course, to begin with," the Mock Turtle replied, "and the different branches of Arithmetic — Ambition, Distraction, Uglification and Derision" — Lewis Carroll.

JUST a hoot and a hollo ago, it seemed that all of the oratory coming out of Dixie had something in common with Mock Turtle's curriculum. The uglification had a particularly raucous ring to it.

From Virginia to the Mississippi delta, demagogic hollers were reported fleeing into retirement and enough venom-and-applause was being dispensed to gladden the heart of the late Theodore Bilbo.

Now, bless Paddy, the worm has turned. Maybe the bull-throated old pols have given out of breath or maybe, given sufficient time, good sense just naturally asserts itself and drowns out the nonsense.

First, there was North Carolina Attorney General Malcolm B. Seawell who warned of the dangers of following Virginia's reckless course in the segregation crisis. Said he: "It is unthinkable to me that any people possessed of their senses would say in effect, 'We will close our schools and let our children grow up in ignorance.' We must not be swayed by extremists on either side. We must, in good faith, take that middle course, which will under law, save us."

Next, there was former Sen. Frank P. Graham of North Carolina who delivered the Melver Lecture at Woman's College in Greensboro the other day. Said he:

This is no time for inflexibility, defiance, hysteria or gibberish on either local or global fronts. "In America the calling out of the state troops against obedience to the law of the land caused the calling out of federal troops in support of the law. State troops cannot repeal a federal law. Federal troops cannot open or run the public schools. The filling of the jails or the use of federal bayonets and bombs will open no schools but will tend to close more minds, stiffen more wills and

in some states, cause more massive resistance..."

He called for conciliation and a fresh approach to an old crisis.

Finally, there was Gov. Leroy Collins of Florida, a relative newcomer to the southern political scene who at the Triennial General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Miami Beach:

"The people of America are now calling anxiously for new ideas for relieving the racial conflicts which beset them."

"(The answer) will not come from the extremists on either side..."

Earlier, in Lexington, Ky., at the Southern Governors Conference, he said: "I refuse to believe that we have passed the point where men of good will can rise above their differences, above their prejudices and above their pride, in order to enter the 'middle ground.' Gov. Collins urged that the job of implementing the Supreme Court's desegregation decision be shouldered by Congress, "whose members are elected by and directly responsible to the people of the United States." Congress would "provide for desegregation in individual communities where and when it is feasible. But it also (would) provide protection against imposition, forced desegregation in communities where and when it is not feasible."

The moderates are still setting a withering pace—"going on Bill Daly," as horsemen say — and reason may yet nose out rant at the wire. There being no electric timer handy, we will have to clock the race by wristwatch. But our money is on the moderates.

We never believed for a moment that Dixie had achieved some kind of changeless Nirvana. The world changes and people change as well. Being certain they would disappear like the Brontosaurus. The means by which adjustments are made to any human crisis are ideas. That is what we need most today—ideas. We need them as much as we need fresh and imaginative thinking ideas. It must be found. The only alternative is stubbornness, stagnation and, possibly, stark tragedy.

'You Fellows Forget I Was Shanghaied'



HERB BLOCK

Alaskan Boyhood Old-Timey Team

By ROBERT C. RUARK

I HAVE just spent a weekend in the company of a fellow who might be called a "boyhood" — and, what's more, he is by no means an oddity for his country.

His name is Jerry Chisum, and he is 35 years old. He is lean and well-built, with crewed, cropped blond hair and controlled blue eyes. He speaks softly, and volunteers little, if any information.

AIKPLANE TO THE STORE
Jerry's father, Jack, and uncle, Mark, operate an earthmoving and engineering firm. They are both registered guides, run a charter airplane service, and live almost constantly in rough clothing. They are literally ho-ho in an airplane to go to the corner store.

Jerry's only boy (until a few months ago) that when Mark finally achieved an heir after 11 years of girl production in his family. Seeing his son surrounded by sisters and female cousins, Father Jack started lunging the kid around on hunting and fishing trips when he was five.

HAIRY-CHESTED JOKES
He bears the title of Chief Guide, and is ragged unmercifully by his father and his father's friends. But the kidding is adult; there is no hint of condescension in it. Jerry is merely accepted as one of the menfolk, and is treated exactly as an adult.

This means he does his share (and sometimes more) of the rough work. No conventional punches are pulled in front of him even when the jokes get a little hairy on the chest, and the language assumes a ruggedness not generally associated with child-raising. He attends the camping, drinking and poker playing. He hunts as a fully qualified adult.

Memo To Educators

The Unmanly Practice

FEAR of political interference in education is deep-seated and understandable. But so far as the record shows, the national government has not been more guilty than have the local or state governments of interference with intellectual freedom. It has been less guilty. The task of educators is not to bewail the inadequacy of local funds and fight to the death against the threat of federal appropriations which may carry with them improper controls. Their task is to find whatever money is necessary to do the job of education as it should be done and

to educate legislators and administrators, local and national alike, to the perils of improper interference. There is no evidence that this cannot be done... It has not even been tried in our country, and it is time that American educators abandon the unmanly practice of scaring themselves with bugaboos of national education. Let us of people doing and civilizing the political process. — Henry Steele Commager in "The High School in a New Era."

From Shrinking Violets To Activism?

EXCEPT that old scold, Cyrus Eaton, businessmen today are not noted for lusty politics.

A shrinking violet attitude has reigned. Andrew Carnegie, denouncing law with a thunderous "Hain't I got the power?" J. Pierpont Morgan speaking to a President of the attorney general as "your man" and telling that President to send him to "my man" — a House of Morgan executive. Such rambunctious figures are lost in a labyrinth of timidity, unconfident, personality tests and balmy "togetherness."

Good-bye and good riddance to such rambunctiousness.

But it was still refreshing to find that the board chairman of General Electric, in a Charlotte press conference, urged GE management and employees to take an active hand in politics. It is like a splash of cool spring water to find members of the business community who do not consider it gauche to be political activists.

It is Mr. Cordiner's contention that "a great number of limitations to business in the private enterprise system are being written in the halls of Congress." Whatever the merit or gist of that legislation, if it has been of dire effect on business perhaps the shrinking of politics in some quarters of the business community is to blame. More than certainly, than the frequent designs of those knifers of "free enterprise" who are always hearing about.

In thinking Mr. Cordiner for his interest, we don't mean to whitewash all the vagaries of business politics. The report went out in 1956 that younger employees of some concerns were being told that unless they contributed cash to the right campaign fund they could well feel uneasy about their jobs. This is not political activism; it is political blackmail.

But to encourage a proper concern with legislative issues can lead only to good results.

The gigantic advertising firm of Young and Rubicam took a tack worth imitating the other day when it quoted Edmund Burke in one of its own advertisements: "All that is necessary for the forces of evil to win in the world is for enough good men to do nothing."

That applies to all walks of work. We are glad to see it suggested that business is no exception.

Bible Belt

IN Tallahassee, Fla., a clergyman reported the theft of 25 sermons from his parked car.

In Nashville, Tenn., a man was caught shoplifting a Bible.

Three dozen pews and the pulpit were reported stolen from a church near Gold Hill.

Yep, Religion is certainly catching on down South.

People's Platform

Teen-Council Members Object To Kids Series

Charlotte
WE THE members of Hawthorne Center Teen-Council would like to voice our objection to the recent articles written by Mr. John Kigo, concerning juvenile delinquency in the community centers.

We feel that we have made great strides toward the betterment of Hawthorne Center and the City of Charlotte. Any disturbances have been few and far between. In fact, for the past year our center has carried on a good program for all ages—not just for teenagers—there has been no real behavior problem. We believe most everyone will agree that where you have a group of people, whether teenagers or adults, there will always be one or two persons who want to cause trouble. At our center, and the same applies to the other centers, these people are reprimanded or asked to leave.

In our opinion, properly supervised community centers are completely safe places for teenagers. We hope you will understand the position in which we, as teen-agers,

Carolina and other areas in which there is a degree of two-party government.

Obviously Mr. Eaves is a good Democrat since he concludes his letter with the usual Democratic bromes: "but please more out of the premises upon which he draws his conclusion. Ask Mecklenburg and other Western North Carolina counties in which there has been some representations by both political parties. Mr. Eaves states:

"Communities of some parts of the western section of North Carolina are far ahead of communities in the eastern section of the state in economic advance and leadership.

Coira Fits Picture Of Greater Progress

Charlotte
I repeat, Mr. Eaves, "far ahead" in economic advance and leadership. This strikes me as a pretty good reason for getting more into a "degree" of two-party government.

"No other man fits better in this picture than Bud Coira. It is men like him who are responsible for our greater progress. Let's pick the best available leaders at the polls in November. Vote for Bud Coira." — J. JEWETT

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON
FOUR men from Clinton, Tenn., came to Washington last week to try to see President Eisenhower. They had met in the office of Anderson County Judge J. I. Farrell on Saturday night to make plans for building a major high school, and they sat until late in the evening considering the problem of their overcrowded school.

Aggravated Before Dawn

As they went home they did not know that their problem was to become grave. It aggravated before dawn that morning at 4 a.m., three bombs, carefully timed and obviously planned by experts, exploded. They rained Clinton's high school into rubble. Walls were shattered, beams craved windows smashed, the roof was ripped open by the power of the skilled planned explosions. Sixteen out of 21 classrooms were destroyed.

So the four men came to Washington a city which had helped many communities in the past and from which had been handed down the device for de-escalating such the bomb-obsessed President Eisenhower. They found would not see them.

A Bootless Trip: Clinton To Washington

He had to greet the new ambassador from Finland, Richard Bissell, and see Governor Anderson. He also had to attend the swearing-in ceremony of a new special assistant, Don Parkers, with the usual business of photo-graphing. After that he took the afternoon off, leaving the next day for three days in the Maryland hills before flying to New York for a big political birthday party.

No Federal Money

The four men from Tennessee, however, were patient. They had hoped to see the President but they did not complain. They were able to see Gov. Siciliano, an assistant to the President, to get with Commissioner of Education Lawrence G. Derthick and one of his assistants, Alden Lillywhite. They were sympathetic but not helpful.

Under Public Law 825, the four were told, "you can contribute to a new school if your children's parents work for the federal government and if their number is increasing. But the number of children whose parents are working for the government at the new big Oak Ridge atomic energy plant) has decreased from

1,572 children in 1955-57 to 1,450 children in 1957-58."

A Driblet

The Office of Education had carefully looked up the figures, found that Clinton school was not qualified for any federal money, and gave them a dribble. Commissioner Derthick said he was permitted to see the money from maintenance to school construction but it would be no more than around \$70,000 and a new schoolhouse would cost at least \$500,000.

Derthick In Russia

Commissioner Derthick had recently returned from Russia. Upon his return he pronounced Russian education "astounding" — ample teachers, up-to-date schools, uncracked classrooms. He warned that the United States could not sit by and watch Russian education forge ahead at this rapid pace. But he had no solution for the stupendous problem faced by the four men from Tennessee in keeping their children from falling behind Russia.

THE UNCONTAMINATED MOON

THIS clipping has been lying around on the desk for nearly a week, now, while we've tried to think of something funny to say about it. It is funny in the rule. Too much heavy stuff lately.

Nothing comes. Walter Sullivan wrote the story for THE NEW YORK TIMES. His lead began:

"The United States has agreed to conform to recommendations designed to avoid contaminating the moon and other celestial bodies.

The story went on to explain that a Committee on Contamination of Extra-Terrestrial Exploration, better known as Cetex, has recommended to the International Council of Scientific Unions that all missiles launched toward the moon be sterilized in advance. The experts urged that no TNT blasts be set off on the moon, because these would contaminate the atmosphere for years. Nuclear explosions on the moon, they added, might make it impossible for future explorers ever to be certain of radiological analyses of lunar minerals. The space-men wouldn't be able to tell what was there to begin with, and what earlier earthlings had brought along.

There is something in the very exist-

ence of a Committee on Contamination of Extra-Terrestrial Exploration, better known as Cetex, that makes us want to scratch a puppy's ears or look at the ball game, or do something else having no constructive purpose at all. There is the moon, doing nobody any harm and giving a lot of people pleasure, and here is a committee formed to urge that the human race not contaminate the moon if we can help it. Such a committee had to be formed, we suppose, on the reasonable hypothesis that man will contaminate anything he can get his curious hands on. When it comes to contamination, twentieth century civilization has one swell record. Year by year we are doing a marvellously efficient job of fouling up the planet earth. Hate and disension and lust, the boarse shouts of angry men, the arsenals of A-bombs, the night air full of choking smog.

Doubtless the earnest astrophysicists of Cetex are doing a useful job. But the far from thought will not get away that sooner or later, despite their recommendations, a dirty trick will be played on the moon. The first expedition may be antiseptic, but in time man will mess it up, too.