

Battalion EDITORIALS

Page 2 TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1948

"Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman"

Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions

Crisis In Southern Politics . . .

What will be the result of the ultimatum given to President Truman by four Southern governors that he call back from Congress his Civil Rights program? The only result that we can see is the election of a Republican president in 1948.

No doubt the four governors—of whom Texas' Jester is one—feel that it is necessary to block the Civil Rights program at any cost. But we fail to see how the election of a Republican administration will block such bills as Republicans have been introducing in Congress for eighty years.

As a result of the furor over the Civil Rights program, a new political party is scheduled to be organized in Mississippi shortly. It has been tentatively named "The True White Jeffersonian Democratic Party," which is quite a mouthful, and is seeking \$100,000 in campaign funds, of which \$61,500 is said to be already pledged.

According to reports from Washington, National Secretary Howard McGrath was asked to use his influence to restore the two-thirds rule. Abandoned under President Roosevelt, this requirement formerly gave the South a stronger voice in selection of the party's nominee for president. It could block a candidate it didn't like.

Bringing to a climax the seething Southern political revolt over the Truman Civil Rights program, the governors asked McGrath:

1. If he could deny that proposed anti-poll tax, anti-lynching, anti-employment discrimination and anti-Jim Crow legislation would be "unconstitutional invasions of the field of government belonging to the states."

2. If he would oppose adoption of federal regulations, as well as laws, in the job discrimination and race separation fields.

3. If he would oppose establishment of a "special federal police agency" such as the proposed division of civil rights in the department of justice.

4. If he would work to restore the two-thirds convention rule.

5. If he would use his influence for adoption of a party platform blank opposing, as an invasion of states rights the series of measures to which they object.

6. If he would work toward withdrawal from congress of "the highly controversial civil rights legislation."

In a statement the governors said they did not come to argue "the merit or demerits of the proposals embraced in the so-called civil rights program."

"What concerns us most at this time," they said, "is the scrapping of fundamental principles of government necessary to impose the program upon the nation. We are convinced that the methods recommended will irrevocably change our form of government and may well sound the death knell of local self government through the sovereignty of the several states."

Whether the Dixie uprising results in a broad party upset appeared to hinge on whether any of the Truman Civil Rights program becomes law.

In Fighting Mood . . .

The angry Southern governors proclaimed they are in a "fighting mood."

But two Dixie senators who are active in fanning the flames told a reporter privately that if congress does nothing about such things as anti-lynch, anti-poll tax and anti-discrimination bills, their insurrection may never amount to much.

On the other hand, they agreed that if any of these things are written into law—and they look for that to happen—there will be "real trouble" for Mr. Truman in the South.

As an example, one of these senators said the legislature in his state undoubtedly would vote to remove the name of both the president and his running mate from the ballot. The voters then would cast their ballots for presidential electors who could vote as they choose.

There are increasing signs that the Southerners fear they have been caught in a political cross fire from which they may not be able to escape.

A secret senate poll has convinced some of them that their most effective weapon—

the filibuster—may fail because of lack of Republican support.

The Dixie governors came to Washington under orders from the Southern Governors Conference to lay the South's complaint before party headquarters and demand an answer.

"We really mean business," Gov. J. Strom Thurmond of South Carolina told a reporter as the five-man delegation went into a huddle yesterday to plan the presentation of the Dixie case.

McGrath showed no signs of giving in to the Southerners.

In a Jackson-Jefferson Day address at Providence, R. I., the national chairman declared that "the Democratic Party is on trial."

Asking his listeners whether the party has "the forthrightness to stand up for human rights?" he added:

"Unless we support a policy that leads to a better way of life for all mankind, then we have no message at all in life."

Sink or Swim Together . . .

New York City may have beaten the South to the punch in the current bid to see who can do the most damage to the Democratic Party.

When Leo Isaacson, American Labor Party nominee backed by Henry Wallace, won a smashing victory over both Democratic and Republican opponents in a Bronx Congressional Election last week, the confused shifting in the Democratic Party took on a new aspect. The surprising victory of the Wallace candidate has started political tongues wagging as to the possible effect of Wallace's third-party movement on the November presidential election.

One thing is certain: whether the election was just one of those oddities that comes along every now and then in politics or whether it actually reflects unsuspected strength in the Wallace camp, the Southern states had better reconsider their threat to bolt the Democratic Party.

A two way split in the Democratic party would be bad enough as far as the South's retaining its share of the voice in party affairs is concerned. But a three-way split! The South might as well stay away from the polls altogether. Up to now, the Wallace movement has been looked upon with alternate amusement and indifference. Now the signs point to a definite split—one that will surely nullify all chances the Democrats have of winning the November election—unless they can construct a united party front out of the current chaos.

Southern Congressmen have stated that the time has come for the South to make some decision concerning its future course of action in the Democratic party. For too long now these Southern Senators and Representatives say, the South has been content with being a rubber-stamp faction of the Democratic Party. It is time, they continue, to make the weight of the South felt.

Granted these statements are true, does it seem logical that the South can accomplish its objectives by completely breaking away from the one political group in which it now has any degree of strength?

The question answers itself—even more so, now that the unexpected success of the Wallace movement has thrown a new light on the subject.

The South is at a cross-roads: it faces a problem in the civil liberties issue that has slowly been coming to a head since the last shot was fired in the Civil War. By deserting the Democratic Party, the South, whether its objectives be good or bad, is deserting the only chance it has for accomplishing those objectives.

The lines are clearly drawn: The Democrats cannot possibly win the November election without the whole and unequivocal support of a loyal South; the South, in turn, cannot accomplish its avowed purpose of retaining its traditional positions unless it can speak through the medium of the Democratic Party.

For the South and the Democratic Party, it's sink or swim together, whether they like it or not—halfway measures will only place a Republican President in the White House come next January.

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ON THE CAMPUS



"That's the new disc jockey on WTAW."

Aggie Ramblers Making Name For Selves; Radio Stars Now

By LOUIS MORGAN

A new student organization has been throwing its voice about the campus the last few months. That organization is the Aggie Ramblers and if you haven't heard them it must be because you don't have a radio, you don't go anywhere, or you are stone deaf.

Starting as an idea in the minds of Chester Chambers and Buddy Luce, the Ramblers have grown into an organization of six musicians with three broadcasts a week over Radio Station WTAW. Their specialty is hillbilly music, and their popularity has been growing by leaps and bounds.

Chambers and Luce planned to start such a band when they were Freshmen back in 1943, but it was not until they returned to school as veterans that the organization really got underway.

The Ramblers made their first appearance at the Aggie Rodeo sponsored by the Saddle and Siroin Club last October. They had only two practice periods together before the rodeo. Since that time they have played for local night clubs, the Kiwanis Club and the Foot & Fiddle Club, a group of local square dance fans.

In January, the Ramblers congregated at WTAW for an audition. After playing three numbers, they were signed up for a thirty minute show three times a week: Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 12:30 until 1 p. m. Their broadcasts, always beginning with the theme song "Just Because," started February 16. They are now looking for a sponsor for the program.

All of the Ramblers are from West Texas except Roland "Blimp" Johnston, who claims to be from the west side of Galveston Island. A liberal arts major, "Blimp" plays the bass fiddle. Chester Chambers, landscape arts major from El Paso, is business manager for the Ramblers and accordionist. He says the Ramblers have been asked to play for the "Old Folks Days" celebration in Tilden, Texas, some time in April.

Buddy Luce, B.A. major from Tilden, plays the electric guitar and does the singing. Rex Glimp, of Van Horn, picks the guitar as well as the banjo. Jim Malone, agricultural education major of Wichita Falls, plays the violin, while "Tex" Fields, animal husbandry major from Henrietta, is known as the "hoe-down fiddler" for the group. Fields can play almost every instrument in the band.

The Ramblers have come out lately in new outfits to keep pace with their fast-climbing reputation. The outfits consist of pink slacks, colorful shirts and boots, but no ten-gallon hats.

In addition to their WTAW program, the Ramblers will continue to entertain local clubs as often as possible, Chambers says.

Moller Speaks To ASME Tonight

H. F. Moller, supervisor of Reed Roller Bit Company of Houston, will address the American Society of Mechanical Engineers tonight at 7:30 in the Mechanical Engineering Lecture Room. "The Engineer in a Supervisory Capacity." After the talk, members of the club will discuss plans for the student convention to be held in April.

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Trampling Out the Vintage . . .

Can A Mule Sit Down? Circus Says 'Yes' Swan Throws Horse For Loss On Gridiron

By LARRY GOODWYN

You may not be one of those interested in such things, but a mule CAN sit down.

This fact became known as a result of one of the scores of questions asked the Ringling Bros. and Barnum and Bailey circus during the "off" season in Florida.

The questions flow in every day, in batches from all over the country. Most of them are from circus fans, but some come from writers, lecturers and others seeking facts not found in books.

The one about the mule came from Mrs. Maud Crowley, of Marnehead, Mass. Of course, Mrs. Crowley's young son, David, asked her, but she didn't know and neither did any authorities she could think of, including Harvard University. Encyclopedias made no mention of a mule's sitting abilities.

Mrs. Crowley enclosed a sketch of a dog sitting, and asked if a mule can sit like that. Her inquiry brought a prompt reply from Roland Butler, general press representative, who wrote:

"Yes, a mule can sit down, like a dog. Mules often sit, to rest or from just plain curiosity."

So much for today's journey into the facts of life in a circus.

MILK SHORTAGE

There'll be no milk in MacClefield for the next week, all because a certain horse is no great shakes on the gridiron.

It all started when the milkman's horse met a swan, became scared and started running in the general direction of a nearby football field. The horse cleared the fence around the field in one bound with the swan in hot pursuit.

The horse roared the length of the field, depositing milk along the way, and galloped into the end zone.

NO FLAMES, NO CIDER

The yarn about the guy who doused his windshield by pouring a pint of whiskey over it has been topped—by several gallons.

When fire broke out in a gasoline engine used to pump water in Cortland, N. Y., farmer Frank Harris grabbed for the cider barrels near by.

"I hated to have it (the cider) go to waste," he said, "but I didn't want to lose my horse. It (the cider) was really good, too."

He said he used 70 gallons to douse the flames before a fire truck arrived. The house was saved but farmer Harris anticipates many a dry Saturday night.

"POTATOES" COSTLY

Using American slang may be considered keeping up with the times, but a Washington, D. C., furrier has decided its too expensive a habit to use indefinitely.

The furrier bought some radio time recently to advertise some of his stock. The radio announcer, finishing his commercial with a light touch, announced that a sheared beaver coat could be had "for 49¢ potatoes."

was held, at which cokes, doughnuts, cigars, and chewing gum were served.

Employees Dinner Club Sponsors Dance Thursday

The A&M Employees Dinner Club will sponsor a free dance for members of the club on Thursday night in Sbis Hall at 8, it was announced today.

There will be no dinner, but light refreshments will be served during the dance, the announcement stated.

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