

# Battalion

## Editorials

MONDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1951

### *Forgotten Battle?*

BETTER THAN a year has passed since the conflict in Korea started. The conflict started with much ado and the characteristic American optimism.

Now, better than a year later we are gradually drifting back to business as usual. Most of us, perhaps with the exception of those who have very close friends or loved ones over there, are thinking less and less of the men over there and more and more of our little everyday, petty problems.

If you have been watching the newspapers, you have probably noticed that the Korean news has been getting less and less coverage and more and more of the least favorable spots in the paper.

As long as American men are fighting and dying we are at war whether it is declared or not. All the reports coming in from the battle areas state that the fighting is worse than a great majority of that which was engaged in during World War II.

Rather than a slacking of interest and effort, this should be a time of redoubled efforts. There are countless ways that we back here can make it a little better for those guys who are finding out what Hell is really like.

The government is sponsoring more bond drives, the Red Cross is asking for more blood donations, the Crusade for Freedom is asking for funds to help man a Radio Free Asia station, and last but far from least in this short list is those ever important letters.

These are just a few ways we can renew faith with those men who are giving every thing.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Battalion's Comments on Magazine Article Questioned by History Prof

Editor, The Battalion:

For two days last week I held my breath while waiting for your editorial comments on William Huie's recent attempt to discredit the teachers and scholars in our colleges and universities. Friday's half-hearted denunciation was neither effective nor very satisfactory; it did a disservice to your paper and a gross injustice to a fearless editorial writer, H. L. Mencken.

Your commentator seemed to experience difficulty in distinguishing between "good information" and opinions which he has probably entertained since he first picked them up at his fourth grade teacher's knee. There was precious little information in Huie's article, and even that was not to be found in what Mr. Rountree labeled "the brighter spots."

#### Typical of Inquisitors

Rather Huie's innuendoes, his vague allusions, and not so subtle implications are more typical of our modern inquisitors who employ unconstitutional means to preserve the Constitution, who resort to lawless and disorderly defenses of law and order, who serve democracy by negating it, who, behind the fig-leaf of Americanism and individualism, would eliminate all that is worthy of those terms.

That we need more honesty and responsibility in our public officials is not denied; that it will be brought about by Huie's intellectual dishonesty and irresponsible journalism is. Besides, corruption and incompetence are not peculiar to government; they are simply a reflection of the confused state of our social values and an inadequate preparation for adult life in general.

In a business society, as Lincoln Steffens told us years ago, politicians do not corrupt good business

men: the exact opposite is more often the case. That college campuses have not been immune to this contagion has been demonstrated by recent development in the "business" of football, to say nothing of basketball.

Your editorial reminded me of the nearsighted man who threw his glasses away because they made his home and friends look ugly. Let us hope that the editors of The Battalion are not planning to cure their intellectual myopia and thereby remove the eyesores of modern social and political problems by discarding their journalistic spectacles.

As for the Mercury under Mencken's editorship, it was the com-

plete antithesis of the current American Mercury, in more ways than one. Here I refer primarily to the forceful and courageous critical pieces by Mencken himself. No innuendoes or allusions for him. When he wanted to take a crack at Woodrow Wilson, he made no snide remarks about the President's second wife as so many did in those days. No, Mencken tagged Wilson himself for what he was: "The self-hamboozled Presbyterian, the right thinker, the great moral statesman, the perfect model of a Christian cad."

The terms are a bit extreme perhaps, but nevertheless a fair appraisal of Wilson's character. Mencken was one of the few hon-

## US Planes Unable To Attack Target

A U. S. Air Force Base in Japan, Oct. 22.—Crews of nine B-29 Superforts glumly returned tonight without having reached a "very special" target in North Korea. They unloaded their bombs—144, one-hundred pounders in each plane—on hail facilities at often-bombed Hamhung instead.

Lack of fighter cover was given as the reason the bombers turned back when 30 minutes from the target. By radio it was learned a runway accident at a fighter strip in Korea delayed takeoffs until it was too late to make the rendezvous.

One fighter pilot was burned, but not fatally, in a crackup that halted use of the runway for precious minutes, it was learned after landing.

## The Battalion

Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions  
"Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman"

The Battalion, official newspaper of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, is published by students five times a week during the regular school year. During the summer terms, The Battalion is published four times a week, and during examinations and vacation periods twice a week. Days of publication are Monday through Friday for the regular school year, Tuesday through Friday during the summer term, and Tuesday and Thursday during vacation and examination periods. Subscription rates \$6.00 per year or \$6.00 per month. Advertising rates furnished on request.

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### THE BOY STOOD ON THE BURNING DECK



## Dixie Democrats Pool Votes

## Anti-Truman Fight Starts

(Editor's note: Associated Press writer Don Whitehead traveled through seven southern states and talked to people from all parts of the south to find out what is brewing in next year's presidential campaign below the Mason-Dixon line. The following story is one of a series of surveys by AP reporters of the American political scene.)

By DON WHITEHEAD

Washington, Oct. 22.—(AP)—A "beat Truman" movement led by powerful Dixie Democrats already is gaining headway throughout the southland even though President Truman has given no hint he will seek another term.

This political uprising can hardly be written off as just another "Dixiecrat" rebellion with no more steam behind it than the one which cost Mr. Truman 39 electoral votes in the 1948 election.

This time the fires of political

revolt are being tended by men who have not only great influence through the south—but men whose names are known across the nation. Whether it could achieve greater results than the 138 State-Rights is a question for the future.

Even though the Democratic National Convention is nine months distant, the south's anti-Truman forces are groping toward a way either to deny Mr. Truman the party nomination, or—failing that—to block him in winning another term.

These are facts and conclusions drawn from a trip through seven southern states and talks with senators, governors, political leaders, editors, businessmen and others from all walks of life.

This "beat Truman" movement has not yet developed a solid organization. Neither is the strategy clearly defined. But the direction is clear and the effort already is underway to pull the various state parties into a whole.

#### Success Still Questioned

Whether it will ever succeed is a point of dispute even among southern leaders. So far, the pro-Truman forces for the most part are sitting on the sidelines waiting to see what happens but determined to keep the south on the side of the party nominee.

The "anti" leadership is coming from Senator Harry Byrd of Virginia and Gov. James F. Byrnes of South Carolina, both bitter political foes of the President. They are in close touch with other leaders in the South who are looking to them to call the signals.

Next month prominent southerners are being invited to Selma,

Ala., on Nov. 1, where Byrd is scheduled to address an Alabama farm group. This meeting has taken on growing importance, with some signs it may be the kick-off in the "beat Truman" drive.

The picture is likely to become clearer, too, after the southern governor's conference in mid-November at Hot Springs, Ark.

#### Lost Southern Votes

Three years ago, Mr. Truman lost all the electoral votes of Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and South Carolina, plus one vote from Tennessee. The voters went to the State's Rights presidential candidate J. Strom Thurmond of South Carolina.

The 1948 State's Rights rebels lacked the support of the south's top-ranking political leaders. But indications at this time are that there will be no such lack next year—if Mr. Truman is Democratic flag bearer.

This is being made clear by southern democratic leaders in Washington and others in Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, Tennessee and Florida—most of whom expect Mr. Truman to run again.

The new strategy of anti-Truman forces may be an effort to capture control of the south's national convention delegations and to step up machinery to carry out the revolt within the framework of the state democratic parties.

#### Possible Strategy Plan

Here is a plan of possible strategy being discussed in Washington and among political leaders in other southern states, based on the assumption that Mr. Truman will be the democratic presidential

candidate and that Senator Taft of Ohio will win the GOP nominations.

Southern delegations to the national convention would notify the convention in advance of their opposition to Mr. Truman as a candidate and their intention of opposing him if nominated.

Then if Mr. Truman were nominated over the south's objections (and Dixie leaders concede they couldn't block it), the southerners would call a convention to nominate a candidate of their own choice.

#### Russell Mentioned

The name most frequently mentioned for this nomination is Senator Richard B. Russell of Georgia, who polled 263 convention votes three years ago.

With electors instructed for Russell, some of these strategists figure the south might deny Mr. Truman from 73 to 93 electoral votes and throw the presidential election into the House of Representatives for lack of a majority by any of the candidates.

The states figuring in this speculation and their electoral votes are: Alabama (11), Arkansas (9), Georgia (12), Louisiana (10), Mississippi (9), South Carolina (8), Texas (23), and Virginia (11).

A presidential election in the House would give the south a strong position because each state has only one vote and Senator Russell is a powerful and highly respected figure in Congress.

In a three-way contest between Mr. Truman, Taft and Russell, some southerners figure Russell would win all the south's votes and pull enough votes from Taft (See ANTI-TRUMAN, Page 4)

## American, British Diplomats Still Question Red Sincerity

By WILLIAM L. RYAN  
AP Foreign Affairs Analyst

After all these years of broken agreements and studied provocations, it seems a little strange to read that diplomats in Washington or in London or in Paris are speculating whether the Soviet Union is "sincere" in its latest utterance.

But an elementary course in

Stalinism would convince them that "sincere" is an odd word to apply to the present rulers of Moscow.

#### Want Conference

Washington dispatches quote the diplomats as expressing hope that the latest Moscow pronouncement might be a four-power conference. Perhaps that is just what the

Moscow machinations mean. But is nothing to express hope about Moscow, they say, may now "agree" to a top-level meeting. There will be no four-power meeting unless the Kremlin considers that to its advantage. This will not be "agreeing" to anything. It will be a matter of tactics.

There are all sorts of reasons for supposing that a four-power meeting is right up Moscow's alley. It would throw a monkey wrench neatly into the rearmament works, so far as Western Germany is concerned, for one thing.

#### Propaganda Sounding Board

Moreover, a four-power meeting would be a ready-made sounding board for Moscow's propaganda.

The Russians have been intent upon carrying out a program aimed at cutting the United States off from the rest of the world. If a four-power meeting will carry this program a step further, they will "agree" to it.

Our ambassador to Moscow says the Russians will respect nothing but power: "We cannot negotiate with the Soviets when we are weak." This does not mean we should pure soft word and timidly hope Moscow will "agree" to a four-power meeting. From the experience of the past, it would seem that the only four-power meeting with any chance of doing any good would be the one that Moscow had to plead for.

#### Moscow Will Wait

The way the situation stands now, Moscow will wait for the proper moment, condescend to have a meeting, and once again foster the hope among strife-weary peoples that "the co-existence of two systems is possible." But by the very definition of Stalinist Communism, there can be no such thing as peaceful co-existence.

Stalinism thrives on strife, and with the shape the world is in today, Moscow surely must be chortling.

## Notes From Grad School

Candidates for graduation at the close of the first semester may clear their records for graduation now.

The Graduate School is now accepting "notices of intention to graduate". Graduate students must file such a notice with both the dean of the Graduate School and the registrar. Nov. 1 is the last in February.

Every student now should know whether he expects to complete his degree requirements at the end of this fall semester. If he does intend to complete them he should file these notices soon permitting a thorough check of his record to be sure that nothing has been overlooked.

The forms for declaring a candidate's intention to graduate are available in the office of the Dean of the Graduate School and in the office of the Registrar.

## Say, Men

"The time has come," the walrus said, "to speak of many things . . ." And so it has. But we have just one thing to speak of. We want to remind you of a request we made a few days ago. It's about that job that all you students should do.

## The Time Has Come

Yes, the time has come for you to invite your home town friends who are high school seniors, to come to Aggieland for a visit. And this weekend is a good time for them to come. They can see the game between A&M and Baylor, they can have chow with you in the mess hall, they can spend the night in the dorm. It would be only a taste of Aggie life, but it would give them an idea of what it means to be an Aggie.

## So Invite Them Down

Ask your friends to come to Aggieland this weekend. Show them around. Introduce them to your Aggie friends. Then tell your friends to come to school here this January, or June, when they graduate. If they do, you'll benefit, and A&M will benefit, and they will benefit.

#### LIL' ABNER Just Before The Battle, Mother!!



By Al Capp

## Philetic Society To Meet Tuesday

The Brycol Philatelic Society will meet Tuesday at 7 p. m. in room 21 of the Civil Engineering Building, announced S. R. Wright, secretary.