

Was Dorm 8 Election Legal?

Editor's Note—The following two articles are intended to sum up the two viewpoints of the recent Student Senator election. The Battalion asked Mr. Carter to express the viewpoint of the men in writer consulting the other's article before preparation.)

Yes...

HERE IS the true story of the much publicized election of student senator for Dormitory 8. This story is based upon facts, not assumptions or former experiences. And it is about real people; not to be confused with fairies, princes, or villains.

The coming election was announced and one person, a sophomore, filed his candidacy. Through oversight, no one else filed. Then, when the filings were closed, a few people in the dormitory became aware that there was only one candidate.

This situation was discussed by people throughout the dormitory, and it was generally felt that another man, a junior or senior, would be better qualified to represent the dormitory. Three men, all seniors, said that they would like to represent the dorm in the student senate. The feeling among all the people who wanted a write-in candidate was that any one of the three would be satisfactory.

Therefore, since there was no overwhelming favorite, a coin was flipped to see which man would be our candidate. All persons in the dormitory were informed that there was a write-in candidate, and were told his name. In two company meetings, men told that there was a write-in candidate because we felt that the one candidate on the ballot was not sufficiently qualified to represent our dorm.

The men were also told that they were free to vote for anyone whom they chose, but that if they did not have reasons for voting for the duly registered candidate, we (the seniors) would like for them to vote for our candidate.

There was no coercion, there were no directives, there were no threats. There was only explanation.

That our recommendations of our candidate influenced some of the underclassmen is quite possible. It is only natural for people to have some respect for the judgment of their elders or superiors. But the fact remains that it is the right and duty of every person to hear opinions, consider evidence, and make his own decisions, and that this right was not infringed upon in any way.

As a summary of my feelings toward elections and voting, I submit this anecdote:

John Q: Anyone who doesn't vote as I do is a fool.
Friend: How do you vote?
John Q: Just as I please.

By John D. Carter

...No

THERE IS some question on the methods involved in the senatorial election in Dormitory 8. We feel that the election was illegal.

However, it was not illegal in the usual sense of the word in that it did not violate any of the laws of the college. But as far as that goes, there is nothing in the rules to prohibit the fixing of an election.

According to the admission of one of the company commanders, a company meeting was called to discuss the Student Senate election. He told his men that if they did not have any specific reason for voting for the man on the ballot he wished they would vote for the write in candidate put up by the seniors in the dormitory.

This action was not right for two reasons.

● A senior who is a company commander was using his position and rank to influence the voting of the men in the company. This we feel is unfair support of a candidate.

● A senior at A&M has a great deal of power over the underclassmen and is in a position to direct their actions. This direction or order may either be given as a command or a wish.

Also, by admission of some of the men involved, a rather unique method of selecting the man who was to become the dormitory student senator was used.

According to a story, labeled as true, the seniors in the dormitory were asked who wanted to become the senator. Several of the men expressed their desire to have the position on the student governing organization.

So to keep everything on a fair basis, the men decided to flip a coin and let the winner of the coin flip be the seniors nominee. One thing in their behalf, it was not just a simple flip, it was a process very similar to "King Bee."

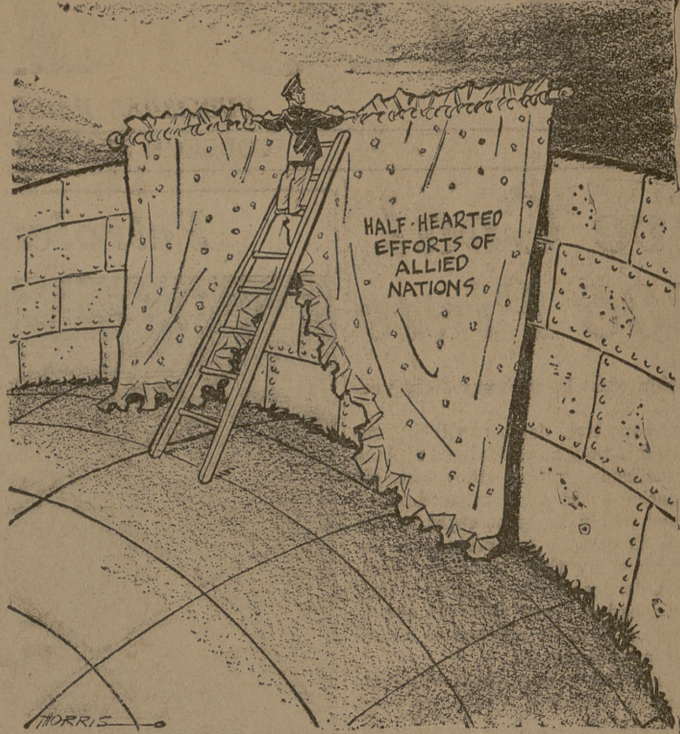
Assuming the men telling the story are honest and knew what they were talking about—one said he flipped—the entire attitude is wrong, we think.

It is a sad state of affairs when the senatorship of a dormitory is selected by a flip of a coin.

No, the election was not illegal by constitutional law. But it was illegal by all moral codes. This is the basis of our calling the election illegal.—

By John Whitmore

IRON CURTAIN VS. LACE CURTAIN



Coast Senators Blast Courts' Tideland Case

Washington, March 7—(AP)—Coast State senators urged yesterday rejection of legislation providing for federal leasing of oil-rich tidelands.

Sen. Long (D-La.) said the Supreme Court was "wrong" in its decisions that the federal government has paramount rights to the offshore submerged lands.

Sen. Connally (D-Tex.) said the term "paramount rights" is "just an elastic device created by the Supreme Court."

Both senators argued for enactment of a substitute proposal to give the states ownership and control of lands within the three-mile limit. The House has passed a similar bill.

Sen. Knowland (R-Calif.) asked the senate not to be intimidated by threats of a presidential veto of the state ownership proposal.

"We should discharge our responsibility by passing what we consider the soundest legislation," he asserted. "We should not let the fear that the President may not agree."

Long contended state titles to lands beneath inland navigable waters, not challenged by the federal government, have the same basis in law as "lands beneath tidelands." He said the American Bar Association shares his opinion.

Sen. Douglas (D-Ill.) asked if Long considers the American Bar Association the Supreme Court of the United States.

Douglas said nine senators will join him in proposing an amendment to the federal control legislation to surrender any federal claim to lands beneath bays, harbors, rivers, lakes and other inland waters.

Sen. Holland (D-Fla.) criticized Secretary of Interior Chapman for specifying an "arbitrary" line along the coast of Washington state and claiming anything seaward for federal jurisdiction.

Sen. Langer (R-Neb.), asserting "someone has to fix the line," said he believed Chapman was performing his duty in protecting public property when he told the state of Washington last month to quit lease off-shore lands.

Hawaiians Ask Connally To Retract Statement

Honolulu, March 7—(AP)—A group of indignant American veterans and a gold star mother plan to leave for Washington tomorrow to ask Senator Tom Connally (D-Tex.) to take back his words about Hawaii.

Opposing immediate consideration of the Hawaii statehood Connally said he was a better American than many people living in Hawaii where, he said, many "are not of American descent."

The remarks produced angry protests from veterans organizations, industrial and educational leaders, the Honolulu Chamber of Commerce and residents who have sought statehood since the turn of the century.

Within 48 hours, 839 mainland-born residents dispatched a radiogram of protest to Sen. William F. Knowland, (R-Calif.), statehood supporter, to be read into the congressional record.

Other letters and messages of protest were sent to President Truman, congressional leaders in Washington and Gov. Shivers of Texas.

Radio stations started a fund-raising campaign to pay the expenses of a Hawaii delegation to Washington, including some members of Hawaii's much-decorated 442nd Regiment who resented trapped elements of Texas' 36th Division in Italy during World War II.

As the campaign mounted, collection boxes appeared on downtown Honolulu street corners with signs calling for dollar donations.

Home Owners Volunteer Some 300-home-owners volunteered to act as collecting points for donations. Taxi companies offered to send a cab to any address in the city to pick up cash offerings.

The Honolulu Bus company instructed its drivers to stop and pick up donations from any waving passerby.

Even the Red Cross entered into the spirit of the protest. In what it described as an answer to Connally on Hawaii's "Americanism," the local A. R. C. chapter cited the recent case of an oriental woman who asked the Red Cross to notify her four sons that she was dying.

Ike-Taft

(Continued from Page 1)

cord Monitor have endorsed Eisenhower. The Manchester Union-Leader is supporting Taft.

The Union-Leader, Dover Democrat, and Laconia Citizen based their estimates on polls of their own.

As to the popular vote among Democrats, the lowest estimate, in Dover, gave Truman a 65-35 edge over Kefauver. The majority were 70-30 for the President, and two estimated 73-27 margins for him.

The managing editor of the Manchester Union-Leader said regarding the Republican contest, "it's at least 50-50 here, and everything depends on the impression Taft makes. He could easily win enough extra support in his appearances here to come out ahead in the popular vote."

Similarly, observers on the Laconia Citizen said Taft might move ahead of Eisenhower, before Tuesday, if he makes a favorable impression. The Ohioan drew the largest crowd of any candidate, or supporters of candidates, when he spoke yesterday at Laconia.

Estimates of the delegate races by the editors generally agreed. Most thought Eisenhower's slate would win at least 10 and possibly 12 of the 14 GOP seats. A majority thought the Truman slate would score a clean sweep.

Backward Glances

Memories of Past Years From the Files of The Battalion

20 Years Ago Today The Aggie rifle team won the National Intercollegiate rifle matches by a 28 point margin over their nearest competitor, the University of Washington. The team A&M squad amassed a total of 3,796 points out of a possible 4,000.

A possible plan of student government in which officers of the student body would be elected to replace the Student Welfare Committee was discussed at a meeting of the Press Club. The plan, if adopted, would not interfere with the authority of present class officers.

10 Years Ago Today Two hundred additional ROTC contracts were to be made available to A&M students at the beginning of the fall semester. One hundred of the advanced agreements were to be given corps students in the new Quartermaster and Ordnance branches.

Aggies were happy over the new development at the Guion Hall theater. A new and larger screen was installed, making it possible for the entire audience to see the complete projection of the movie.

The new screen was three feet wider than the old one.

Some of the popular song hits of the day among Aggies were Glenn Miller's "Moonlight Cocktail," and "String of Pearls." Other musical numbers which were growing in popularity were "Deep in the Heart of Texas," "White Cliffs of Dover," and "Blues in the Night."

5 Years Ago Today Boyce House, daily columnist for Texas newspapers, was scheduled to speak to the Class of 1949 at the annual Junior Banquet March 7.

Five College Station residents filed for positions on the City Council. Those filing were W. Howard Baggett, Ward I councilman; Lloyd G. Berryman, T. W. Leland and G. W. Black, councilman from Ward II; and F. B. Brown, councilman from Ward III.

The A&M Board of Directors were planning to meet March 7 to go over reorganization plans for the Board and elect new officers. The reorganization plan was necessary because of the governor's appointment to the board of two new members, Tyree L. Bell and C. C. Krueger.

1 Year Ago Today The Engineering students were planning a different type of dance; one which would not select a sweetheart, as was usually the custom for campus dances. Another feature of the dance was to be a 30 minute magician show by Bill Singleton.

A&M's basketball team traveled to Waco to face the TCU Horned Frogs on neutral ground, Baylor Gym, for the right to face TU in the conference sudden death playoff. The winner of the game with TU was to represent the Southwest Conference in the NCAA playoffs.

Manlove to Talk Before AF Grads

Major Manlove, of the Air Force Institute of Technology will speak to Air Force Students who will graduate prior to May 1, 1953 in the chemical lecture room 5:30 p. m. Tuesday.

His speech will concern both undergraduate and graduate training which is available under the USAFIT plan to Air Force ROTC graduates.

POGO



L'L ABNER Ask The Man Who Knows



L'L ABNER Member Of The Wedding



The Battalion

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

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