

The Star-Telegram is an independent Democratic newspaper, supporting what it believes to be right and opposing what it believes to be wrong, regardless of party politics, publishing the news fairly and impartially at all times.

Wm. Randolph Hearst, Publishing Titan

William Randolph Hearst, publisher who died Tuesday at the age of 88 at his home in Los Angeles, was an almost legendary figure in the newspaper business to which he devoted more than half a century of his life. He was, figuratively, the Paul Bunyan of the Fourth Estate, building the largest "publishing empire" in history and extending his interests into many other fields. He exerted a profound influence on the newspaper business of this country, and blazed the trail for modern journalism.

All that Mr. Hearst did was on the grand scale. His fabulous San Simeon Ranch in California exemplified that idea, as did the \$15 million Hearst art collection, which included complete castles and churches brought from Europe. Even his critics referred to him as "The Imperial Hearst." In those respects, the late publisher-capitalist was in scale with vast America to which he was devoted and around which he built his creed of Americanism. He served two terms in the lower house of Congress from New York State from 1903 to 1907.

The achievements of the late publisher were all the more noteworthy since he was the only child of wealthy parents, Phoebe and George Hearst, one-time U. S. senator. They left their son an estate of \$25 million. With extensive interests in mining, railroads, ranching and banks, the young Hearst started his career in 1887 with the *San Francisco Examiner*, a "broken-down, money losing" newspaper with only 5,000 circulation. It was not long before the *Examiner* was a thriving paper and its patron was moving into other fields in New York, later elsewhere. The Hearst empire, at his death, embraced a nationwide chain of important newspapers, including the *San Antonio Light*, many magazines of national circulation, motion picture interests, wire and photo services, newspaper syndicates, ranch and mining interests.

Mr. Hearst prided himself most on being a newspaperman. He knew every detail of his business, wrote many editorials that were carried throughout the Hearst chain, and until his last illness

directed the editorial policy of his newspapers. He was a relentless crusader for his convictions and they were deep-seated. Always a controversial figure, Mr. Hearst never failed to let the people know where he stood.

His critics at times were bitter in their censure and his champions were equally zealous in his behalf. He crusaded for public ownership of utilities, for woman's suffrage, the eight-hour day, direct election of United States senators. He fought governments, highly placed individuals and "criminal corporations" impartially and with equal vigor. In foreign affairs, Mr. Hearst campaigned for war with Spain near the close of the last century but subsequently became committed to isolationism, though supporting the war effort in the last two wars. Democratic and Republican Presidents alike felt the force of his criticism. Many of the causes he was most bitterly assailed for espousing later became national policy. He was among the first to see and warn against the danger to this country in the rising militarism in Japan. He was an early advocate of the use of greater air power and a staunch defender of the late Gen. Billy Mitchell.

One of the most appropriate tributes was paid by a fellow publisher, Senator Arthur Capper of Kansas, in 1947: "Through it all (Hearst's publishing record) I find a human factor that especially marks him. Nothing engages his sympathy so quickly as the helpless on earth; nothing inflames his anger as much as wrong to those helpless."

The verdict on this exceptional man, who was a rare success in his chosen field, may be divided as to the ultimate effect upon a free people and nation. But all will agree that William Randolph Hearst was a titan among those of his generation who built America and had a decisive hand in fashioning the present from the past. It is rare for a man not only to have such conviction and to fight for it irrespective of the cost. In that respect and in his staunch Americanism, William Randolph Hearst has set a pattern for all loyal Americans.

IT SMACKS OF 'M'CARTHYISM'

by David Lawrence

WASHINGTON. — Nobody around here — certainly nobody except some of us liberals — seems to be disturbed about a new outburst of what appears to come dangerously near to "McCarthyism." It happens to be directed against William M. Boyle Jr., chairman of the Democratic National Committee.

Here is a man who is being accused of wrongdoing even after the loyalty board—or rather, in this case, the morality board headed by the President himself—has cleared him of any disloyalty to the administration and in fact of any wrongdoing whatsoever.

Why is it that when as high an official as the President clears the chairman of the Democratic National Committee, the critics will not stay silent?

Mr. Boyle certainly has a right to be protected against smears and innuendoes. It may seem inconsequential to some observers to argue that he failed only in the matter of ethics, and this is not to be compared with the serious accusations which the Wisconsin senator, for instance, levels at State Department employes from his allegedly safe position on the floor of the Senate.

But, after all, it is important to protect the reputation a man is given in the public prints in any respect, especially if he is innocent of any unlawful conduct.

No Immunity Problem.

There is, moreover, no problem here of congressional immunity. Nobody in the Senate cast the first stone. It came from a newspaper in St. Louis—the *Post-Dispatch*—which has made its own investigation. It means, to be sure, that if the *Post-Dispatch* was misled or didn't have all the facts, Mr. Boyle can challenge them in his own way.

But should that be necessary, especially since Mr. Boyle now has been given a presidential clearance in a formal statement issued from the White House? Why then do the charges persist? It resembles to some extent what happens when the boards clear State Department employes and Mr. McCarthy simply doesn't let the matter rest.

Editorial after editorial of criticism has appeared in the press since Mr. Truman issued his statement of clearance and absolution. The impression is conveyed that maybe Mr. Truman didn't have all the facts. One editorial states that, after

by their postwar tactics have forfeited any right to take part in any peace con-

Soviet Co-operation