

# Dwight D. Eisenhower—a Great American

An Editorial

Back on Feb. 10, 1952, the Star-Telegram editorially outlined the specifications it believed the next President must fulfill in order to measure up to the needs of the country and the challenge of the times. What is needed in the presidency, said that editorial, is the kind of trusted and trustworthy leadership behind which the nation can rally in unity, a man capable of healing differences instead of aggravating them and creating new ones, a man able to appeal to and represent all the American people.

We wrote that what was needed in the presidential race, then still some months ahead, was a man who could conduct a campaign not hewing to the lines of narrow partisanship but so regardful of the interests of the nation as a whole that it truly could be called a "campaign for America."

Having laid down these minimum requirements, we continued:

"Without reflection upon any who are now or who may become active aspirants for the presidency, we believe the man who best fits these specifications is Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower."

That was at a time when the presidential movement for General Eisenhower was only in its beginning. It was two months before the general, then in Europe as supreme commander of the Allied defense forces, asked to be relieved of his military assignment so he could come home, take off his uniform and be available for the Republican nomination.

## Belief in Eisenhower Grows.

Nothing that has happened since that time, either in his successful quest for the nomination or in the developing campaign for his election, has caused us to revise our original estimate. In fact, the unfolding events of the campaign have served only to confirm and strengthen our belief that General Eisenhower is the candidate best fitted for the role of President.

In keeping with the words of our Feb. 10 editorial, this can be said without decrying the Democratic nominee. Governor Stevenson we regard as a man of extremely high caliber—one who, in ordinary times and under ordinary circumstances, might make a good President.

But the times and the circumstances are not ordinary. The Democrats have been in power for 20 years, and there exists that thing which even Governor Stevenson himself has referred to as "the mess in Washington." In reality it is two messes. One is the corruption in government that has been revealed, typified by mink coats, the five per centers, home freezers, income tax favoritism, Justice Department scandals, and extravagance, waste and confusion. This the administration has sought to hide when it could, and to minimize and excuse when it couldn't. The other is the mess in foreign affairs, which, among other things, has plunged the nation into a war in Korea that the administration has no apparent will to win and no plan to end.

## Stevenson Offers Little Change.

Cleaning up the domestic mess requires more than merely the new face in the White House that Governor Stevenson would supply. Both candidates, it is safe to say, are honestly against dishonesty or even incompetence in public office. Neither of them condones corruption. Yet Governor Stevenson would be under the handicap of being the inheritor of an administration in which corruption has flourished and in which it has every appearance of being deep-seated. It is too much to expect of Governor Stevenson that he could eradicate the ugly growths while retaining root and branch of the administration that produced them. No matter how earnestly he might desire his administration to be clean and successful, Governor Stevenson would be fighting on the one hand to make it so and on the other to prevent being dominated by the entrenched forces which now are responsible for both the moral tone and the policies of the government.

Whereas the election of Governor Stevenson would mean more the appearance than the actuality of change, on the other hand the election of General Eisenhower would mean complete and automatic change. It would mean a change in the whole atmosphere in Washington. General Eisenhower owes no binding obligation to any political bosses or pressure groups. He is under debt to no racial, religious or economic group. He can be counted as neither pro-labor nor pro-business. He is free to be simply pro-American.

To the solution of the foreign policy mess, the difficult problems created by Korea and the cold war, General Eisenhower would bring the qualities of vigor, wisdom, skill and experience. That would

mean purposeful attention to these critical problems, even if the precise means are not spelled out now. Who can doubt that General Eisenhower, with the broad background of his profound military knowledge and intimate participation in momentous world undertakings, would be better able to solve the problems of foreign affairs than one whose experience has been wholly with civil government, and on a limited scale at that? Who had not rather entrust foreign policy to a man who has been on terms of close friendship with many of the world leaders with whom he would have to deal, and who has exhibited a great talent for winning the cooperation of men of clashing personalities and diverse views?

## Military Knowledge Invaluable.

As we said in that earlier editorial, the paramount question before the American people is that of war or peace, and the building up of the defensive strength that will be a deterrent to war and the safeguard of peace. The correlative problem is that of maintaining the solvency of the nation while girding for defense.

Who better than General Eisenhower, with his thorough knowledge of the demands of defense, would be able to pass on the expenditures proposed for that purpose by the Pentagon military planners? Who better than a man who has led mighty armies to victory and has organized large-scale defenses would be able to tell whether proposed armament outlays will buy their money's worth in security? Who better would be able to balance our requirements for defense against our economic capabilities than a President with General Eisenhower's keen, alert civilian mind and superb military training—a man who can appraise military need with an eye to the civilian dollar?

On a matter of special interest to Texas and its school children, though it involves a principle of vital if largely unrecognized import to the whole nation, General Eisenhower stands in a much sounder position than his opponent. That issue is the attempted federal grab of the tidelands which from the beginning of the United States have been considered to belong to the states bordering the coast. Governor Stevenson blindly regards it as a "giveaway" of federal property to restore to the states what has always been theirs and what the federal government has never owned. General Eisenhower has stated his position in language anybody can understand. He says that the offshore lands belong to the states and that if Congress again passes a bill restoring title to the states he would sign it. This Congress twice has done and twice the President has defeated the action with his veto.

## Qualities of Leadership.

One of the considerations which drew us—and we think many other Americans—to the general before his nomination was that he was not a politician. He still is not a politician in the commonly accepted sense of that word, although of necessity he is fast learning some of the lessons and techniques of practical politics. He has, in fact, shown during the campaign an adaptability, an ability to adjust to new situations, which in the presidency would stand him and the American people in good stead.

At the same time, his forthrightness, his evident sincerity, his refusal to compromise principle even when tactics have to be changed, have made General Eisenhower's campaign a breath of fresh air in politics. Though at first a reluctant candidate, yielding only to what he considered a "call to higher duty," once he was in the campaign he showed the fighting determination that made him a great military leader. It can not be doubted that this same quality would make him an outstanding civilian leader.

Our espousal of General Eisenhower for the presidency is not based upon worship of a military hero. Rather it springs from recognition in him of the qualities which we believe will be the nation's great need in the years ahead—character, integrity, deep sense of patriotic duty, regard for the rugged virtues which have been the basis of America's greatness, the capacity for decisive leadership behind which the country can close ranks. We have learned over the years to put more dependence upon the character of men than upon the shifting beliefs of parties and the vote-luring declarations of political platforms.

In General Eisenhower we have faith—faith that as President the constant guide to his actions would be the rule he has laid down for himself: "What is good for America—all America."