

The "Yes Man" Charge

Is Lyndon Johnson a "yes man"?

Here is what he himself says:

"I make no apology for my long and continuing support of the greatest humanitarian president America has ever had.

"I make no apologies because I say, 'Yes, Mr. President, we're going to follow your leadership to end the reign of Hitlerism in the world, and to keep it away from our shores, by giving England all the aid we can—and getting that to her.'"

"I say, 'Yes, Mr. President, we're going to give our boys in our American camps the guns and ammunition and machines they need to defend themselves with, and to train to be the best soldiers in the world.'"

"I say, 'Yes, Mr. President, we're going to stand up to capital and labor, and say: "Our boys are drafted and you are drafted, too. No lockouts in this national emergency. No strikes in the days and nights of our peril.'"

"I say, 'Yes, Mr. President, I'm going to work with you to save our American way of life.'"

His opponents will have to go farther than the "yes man" charge to harm him with the people of Texas.

It is hard to find a better argument than the candidate's own words to support his position.

He does not belong with that group that is willing to take credit for being supporters of the president but is skeptical about what the president does; that group which is willing to collect on the fine loyalty which Texans have to the president, but is not willing to commit itself to the course in this crisis recommended by the president.

Mr. Johnson has cast his lot with President Roosevelt, and asserts it on all occasions, for which The Chronicle commends him.

Straying From the Issues

If crowds are any test of public interest in a candidate, then Governor O'Daniel can not congratulate himself on the showing he made in Houston. Well-trained observers could account for less than 5000 at his rally, about half the group he pulled the last time he spoke here.

Perhaps, the public listening to the governor over the radio felt convinced that he would have little additional to add to what he has been saying. Perhaps, the fact that no new acts were advertised for the governor's "circus" may have kept the gate receipts down.

As far as gate receipts go, the governor hit upon a natural in the old system made famous by Billy Sunday of taking up in dramatic fashion of a collection to pay for the rally. It apparently has been providing the necessary funds and it has had an additional psychological effect. The man who gives, even as little as a quarter, to a candidate's campaign, feels that he has a stake in that campaign.

In this particular campaign, the governor has gotten away to a late start. And, more than that, it seems to many analysts that he has strayed far from the actual issues involved. The race is the race for the United States senate. Yet, anyone who heard the governor's talk here, or who listens frequently to his voice over the radio, must feel that he is devoting his time almost entirely to a defense of his record as governor. Those even greater issues which face the United States senate have hardly been touched upon at all. Or, when touched upon, in a most casual manner.

The governor did indicate distrust of the rising national debt. He did not commit himself as to specific steps to reduce it. He did admit, however, that he would seek larger social security allotments for Texas. Part of the reason for the large national debt is the social security program which this national administration took on at the behest of the people of America.

The governor did mention here the need for preparedness. He succeeded in leaving the impression that we are almost totally unprepared. Coupled with that, he left the impression that the reason for this total unpreparedness is because of strikes and that national adoption of his strike bill would settle all of that at once.

The truth of the matter, of course, is that we are not entirely unprepared. Great steps forward have been taken. The first year's report of the Office of Production Management was heartening to all Americans. While we have not yet done enough, we have done much. We have come a long way in a short time.

It is true that strikes have slowed down some production. It is likewise true that steps have been taken, and are being taken now, both by congress and by the executive, to deal with this problem. It is not necessarily true that the adoption of the governor's so-called anti-strike bill would answer all the questions involved in those national strikes.

Other than these references, the governor was lamentably silent on many of the great questions before the nation. As United States senator he would be called upon to deal with vast problems, on a vast scale. He would be called upon to side with, or against, the national administration.

He said one kind word for President Roosevelt, our leader in this time of trouble, but he couldn't do much for the "crowd" that surrounds the president.

He had a lot to say about Texas lawmakers. Mostly about their shortcomings until he swung a big stick over them.

But, there was a sound of repetition about most of his speech. We've heard it all before, and now we have something vastly more important before us.

We have the issue of our national security, the issue of the part we must play in a world in which mad dictators seek to rule or ruin.

Those are the problems which the senate will have to deal with, and those are the problems to which the governor should address himself.

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President Can Help by Clarifying Attitude in Texas Senatorial Race

AS THE campaign for the senatorship progresses in Texas, conflicting statements are being made by some of the 29 candidates over the attitude of President Roosevelt in the race.

The claim is being heard that the President is eager to see a certain candidate elected. Against this claim is the contention that the President really prefers another candidate. And against both of these assertions is the claim that the President is neutral.

The President's position needs to be clarified. It is important to himself and to the people of Texas that he be correctly represented in this matter.

The man, the people of Texas are to elect late this month to take the place of the late Morris Sheppard will take his seat in the Senate in one of the most critical periods of the Nation's history. He will have a voice in determining the course of the country in this crisis. The executive and legislative branches of the government are under obligation to work together in extraordinarily close fashion during this emergency, for the sake of the National defense. The late Morris Sheppard as chairman of the Senate military affairs committee gave himself unstintedly in cooperation with the President in preparing the country to withstand attack.

The President, naturally, hopes that the next senator from Texas will be a man who will work intelligently and effectively with his administration in advancing the defense program.

If the President has a choice among the candidates now offering for the Senate seat, he, therefore, ought to make his choice known openly and directly to the people of Texas. If he does not have any preference, it would be well for him to say so directly, in order that the people will not be under any misapprehension whatever when they go to vote.

At this juncture, when they are weighing the qualifications and claims of the several candidates, the people of the State would appreciate, The Post believes, an expression from the President as to his real attitude.

In view of all that is being said pro and con about his preference, the people of Texas are entitled to a frank statement from him.

The American Constitution links together life, liberty and property. Until the Constitution is changed in the manner therein prescribed, that man is a public enemy who does violence to life or liberty or property. That much is fundamental Americanism.

Who Is "Weakening" the President?

No one in the political history of Texas has been able to charm votes from the electorate by a radio campaign so well as has Governor W. Lee O'Daniel. And, once elected, his continued radio reports to the people of the state have been a potent force in holding his following together.

So, it was not unexpected that he should turn immediately to the microphone once he had announced for United States senator and begin an almost daily speech-making program that would take his views on current issues, and his reports on past achievements, to the voters.

The governor has covered a good deal of ground in his broadcasts but, it seems to us that he weakened his case by talking a little too much about the politicians. He has been so dramatically effective in lambasting the "professional politicians" of Texas for the last three years that the temptation to widen the field apparently was too strong and he permitted himself to broadcast charges that the more conservative are likely to consider a little wild.

For example, he declared in that first campaign speech that "Roosevelt is a great man, but regardless of how great a man he may be, he is weakened by being surrounded by a gang of pussyfooters who make politics their business and who could not manage a peanut wagon of their own successfully." He admitted that the president is surrounded by many good men, "but he needs more good men."

The governor was graceful enough not to name names, but we are inclined to believe that people would like to know at this point the names of the "pussyfooters" who are weakening the president.

Surely, he does not mean the Texas delegation in the congress. Does he refer, by any chance, to Sam Rayburn of Texas, the speaker of the house? Does he consider the brilliant secretary of state, Cordell Hull, a dangerous man around the president? Are the actions of the two military secretaries, Mr. Stimson and Mr. Knox, the acts of "pussyfooters?"

Would the charge go far enough to include the majority leaders in the senate and the house, who are consulted on matters of importance affecting legislation?

Would it, perhaps, include the Republican candidate for president, Wendell Willkie, who has had a lot to say at the White House in the last few months?

Surely not. Undoubtedly, the governor does not mean these men. But whom does he mean?

Or is it faintly possible that he found the charges leveled at state "pie-eaters," among the group of office-holders and would be office-holders, so successful as to induce him to apply the same technique in the larger field of the nation?

The governor has a great host of friends, a majority of whom were among the 85 per cent of Texans who voted for President Roosevelt at the 1940 election, and it is doubtful if they will believe that the president's chief advisers are "pussy-footing," "pie-eating" politicians.

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