

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.

Senatorial Race and Federal Economy

Some of the candidates in the race for the United States Senate are commenting rather freely on the subject of federal spending. It is well that this is the case. It is one of the most important issues before the American people today. It is a popular subject, one which touches all of us in a vital spot—the pocketbook.

People are interested in getting the views of senatorial candidates on federal spending policies because they know the federal government can not spend a thin dime without prior authorization and approval by Congress.

When the president—be he a Democrat or a Republican—sends his budget to Congress each January it is nothing more than an itemized statement of what the president thinks the government should spend in the fiscal year starting the following July 1. It is, in effect, a request that Congress authorize the various activities mentioned in the budget and appropriate the money to carry them out.

Congress can either comply with the request or refuse to do so, as it deems best. If a request is turned down, that is the end of it; the money is not appropriated and it is not spent. If a request is granted, it must be approved by a majority of the 435 members of the House and then by a majority of the 96 members of the Senate.

The responsibility for all federal spending thus is on Congress, and on Congress alone. This makes pertinent anything said on the subject by the senatorial candidates. Just what have they been saying?

George Peddy and former Governor Stevenson have been discussing the subject in broad, general terms. Both have taken bold, forthright stands in favor of governmental economy, which is about as safe a limb as any candidate for any political office can crawl out on. It is tantamount to a preacher mounting his pulpit and taking a bold, forthright stand against sin.

It is fairly obvious that Messrs. Stevenson and Peddy are trying to use their economy planks to discredit one of the other candidates in the senatorial race, Representative Lyndon Johnson. As a member of the House from the 10th Texas district for the past 11½ years, Mr. Johnson has voted for a great many appropriation bills.

The first vote Lyndon Johnson cast when he went to Congress in 1937 was for an appropriation of a billion and a half dollars for relief of victims of the depression.

The vote on that bill, like a great many other appropriation bills subsequently passed, was a record vote; that is, individual members are recorded as being for or against it. Anyone who cares to do so may refer to the *Congressional Record*, which is available in nearly all public libraries, and find out how Lyndon Johnson voted on any appropriation bill since 1937.

It is reasonably certain that both Messrs. Stevenson and Peddy have gone through the *Congressional Record* with a fine-tooth comb looking for votes cast by Lyndon Johnson for which he could be assailed.

It is significant that neither of Mr. Johnson's opponents has attacked him for voting for any specific appropriation bill in all the years he has been in Congress. In his speech at Victoria recently Mr. Peddy is quoted as having said: "For 11½ years this candidate (an obvious reference to Lyndon Johnson) has been voting to spend other people's money, your money, with reckless abandon."

In order that the people may know exactly where he stands, Mr. Peddy should be more specific. He should tell the people what particular appropriation bill, or bills, Mr. Johnson has voted for

that he (Peddy) would have voted against, had he been a member of Congress.

As noted before, Lyndon Johnson's first vote in Congress was for an appropriation of \$1,500,000,000 for relief purposes. Would Mr. Peddy have voted against that?

On March 28, 1939, Lyndon Johnson voted for an appropriation for the Department of Agriculture which included an item of \$250,000,000 for parity payments to farmers. Would Mr. Peddy have voted against that?

The record is replete with votes cast by Lyndon Johnson before, during and since the war in favor of appropriations for national defense. Would Mr. Peddy have voted against any of those bills?

There are a number of votes cast by Lyndon Johnson in favor of appropriations for federal highway aid to the states. Would Mr. Peddy have voted against a single one of those bills?

Lyndon Johnson also has been consistent in his support of appropriations for rural electrification, soil and water conservation, and numerous other activities in which the federal government has been engaged in the past 11 years.

From Mr. Peddy's remarks at Victoria he seems to think some of these activities have involved "spending other people's money with reckless abandon." He may be right. A great many billions of dollars have been spent, some of them perhaps needlessly. But the people have a right to know exactly which federal activities Mr. Peddy considers necessary and which ones he thinks are needless.

He has said a meat ax should be used on federal appropriations. Perhaps it should be, but the people have a right to know precisely where he thinks the ax should fall.

Governor Stevenson has been even more vague than Mr. Peddy on the subject of federal spending, if that is possible. He has merely said that an awful lot of money is being spent and declared his "firm determination to do something about the cost of the federal government." Such generalization is not enough. Why not tell the people, Governor, precisely what you propose to do about the cost of the federal government?

The Ray Verdict

The jury verdict of death in the William R. Ray rape case at Corsicana Thursday was an authentic expression of sober, informed public sentiment in a democracy which functions through law and courts. Stern, retributive justice, not revenge, prevailed in this instance.

Law enforcement came through well. The Fort Worth police department, with impressive public collaboration, was able to run down a mass of clues, detect the guilty one and make an arrest, after the offender to all appearance had made a clean getaway. The state had its evidence so well prepared that the defense was limited to a plea of alleged intoxication, offered only in mitigation of punishment, and that the state easily refuted on rebuttal.

The defendant was accorded every right provided by law, including that of counsel and change of venue and now will be accorded the right of appeal. His attorney did as well with the case as possible in the circumstances. Maudlin sympathy, so common in capital cases, was absent. The trial was conducted with dispatch and dignity. Respect for law and the courts has been enhanced. All who made it possible deserve commendation.

JUST FOLKS by Edgar A. Guest

THE PEACEFUL HAUNTS.
When you weary of bickering men
And the hatreds that keep us apart,
Get out in the sunshine again,
Away from the foundry or mart,
Where the traffic of commerce is stilled,
Spring, summer or winter or fall,
And see how the world has been filled
With beauty and charm for us all.

No doubt of it! Go where you may,
There are splendor and mystery near;
Some path that will lead you away
From hatred, suspicion and fear.
When the body of drudgery tires,
There's always a spot you can find
With the tonic the spirit requires
And the calm that is good for the mind.

I'm sure the good Lord must have known
Before man had journeyed life's length
There'd be times when discouraged he'd
grown
He'd need something more than his
strength.
So, with beauty the world He arrayed
And He set it with splendors aglow,
That wherever man ventured or strayed,
His love for us all he should know.

BUILDING FOR 1952

by Marquis Childs

WASHINGTON. — One of the tough jobs confronting those who are trying to bring about Mr. Truman's nomination with as little damage as possible to party harmony is the selection of a vice presidential candidate. Under normal circumstances a sufficient number of eligible seekers are out for the office so that some kind of compromise ultimately can be worked out.

But these are not normal circumstances for the Democrats, and the office is today seeking the man. In fact, it may be a hot chase through the highways and byways of Philadelphia before the individual who is tapped can be persuaded to say yes.

As of the present moment, the most likely choice is Senator Joseph C. O'Mahoney of Wyoming. There are many reasons, related both to the campaign this year and to 1952, why O'Mahoney should be selected.

To begin with, he is the ablest and the best-informed spokesman of the basic philosophy of the New Deal that has widest acceptance within the Democratic Party; this is, opposition to monopoly-cartel controls and in favor of competition for small business.

The senator from Wyoming conducted the impressive Temporary National Economic Committee inquiry into the way in which big business has absorbed a greater and greater share of the American economy. Moreover, he knows how to translate the facts into language the ordinary person can understand, showing how, if big business takes over entirely, the next step will be complete control by the state with all the evils that means.

O'Mahoney voted against the Taft-Hartley act and he has consistently fought for price controls. Organized labor would approve of his selection.

At the same time he would be accepted by those who look with dark suspicion on the labor-liberal wing. O'Mahoney is of the Roman Catholic faith, but it is not believed that the prejudice prevailing in some parts of the South would work against him in this connection. His religion might well be a positive political factor in Northern cities where the Catholic vote, if such a vote can be said to exist, is important.

But the primary consideration is that O'Mahoney would conduct a forceful and intelligent campaign, helping to lay down a direction and a goal for the party after the expected defeat in November. He would help to hold together as many of the dissident elements as possible.

While the absurdities and the follies of the stop-Truman campaign have gained the headlines, a group of political realists here in Washington never have been deceived by these noisy antics. They knew that so long as General Eisenhower was certain to refuse a draft and so long as the president was determined on re-nomination, it would be impossible to substitute another candidate.

These men are not necessarily pro-Truman. They are not taken in by the strange and rosy clouds of optimism that the president manages to generate around his person. But they do recognize the harsh imperative of the facts, knowing that the more the party is torn to pieces now, the more difficult it will be to form ranks to fight again.

They also are aware of certain realities behind the move to shunt the president onto a siding. The drive to supplant him with Justice William O. Douglas does not have the active support, in spite of rumors to the contrary, of Thomas G. Corcoran, the No. 1 New Deal spark plug.

Four years ago Corcoran was the behind-scenes director of the attempt to obtain the vice presidential nomination for Douglas. That drive might have succeeded if it had not been for the adamant opposition of bosses, such as Frank Hague of New Jersey, who are now trying desperately to ditch Mr. Truman.

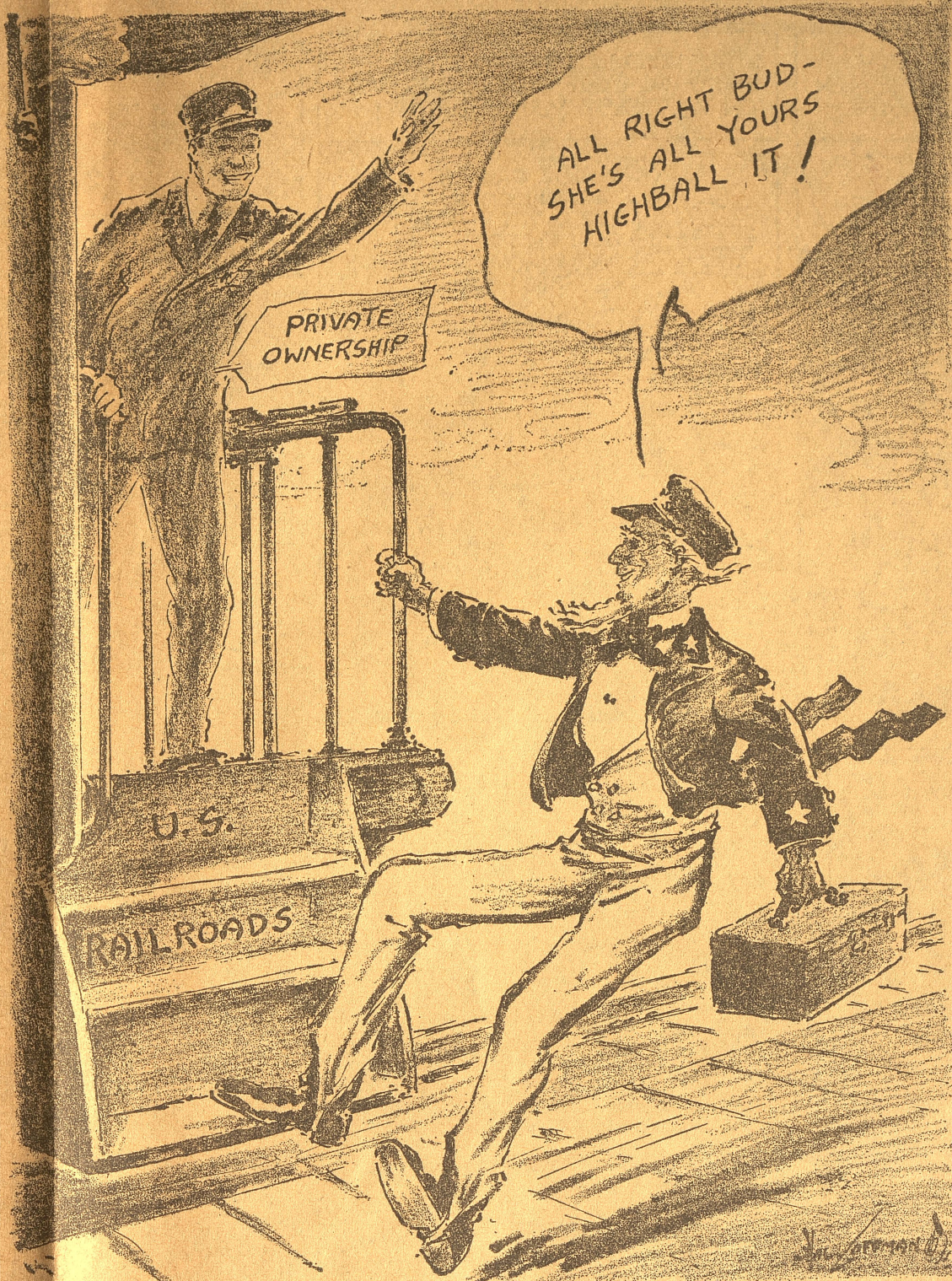
Now, however, Corcoran is said to feel that Justice Douglas should save himself for 1952 since a substitute—short of Eisenhower—would have only a slightly greater chance of winning than the president. In the 1940 convention Douglas got three votes, in 1944 four votes. A recent Gallup poll of Democrats showed that only 2 per cent favored him over Truman.

If the kicking and the biting at Philadelphia become too general, then 1952 may mean as little to the Democrats as 1948 seems to mean at this writing. That is the dominant thought in the group trying to steer the president, a cheerfully determined candidate, through the shoals and the eddies of party strife.

A cosmic commentator finds us teetering between the cold war and a cold peace. This would seem to call for a new all-purpose weapon—say a jet-propelled dove.—Christian Science Monitor.

BACK ON THEIR OWN

by Hal Coffman



Hal Coffman's Cartoons Appear Exclusively in the Star-Telegram.

PULL UP AN EASY CHAIR

by Neal O'Hara

The old order changeth: Up to the war's end, so sacred was the emperor of Japan, the descendant of the Sun Goddess, regarded that no one was permitted directly to touch his body. Even the court physician, when feeling his pulse, had to wear gloves for the chore.

To obtain a \$40 to \$50 a week job with the public library of Boston, one must take an examination testing his knowledge of literature, music, fine arts, history, science, philosophy, technology, religion and the social sciences. (It's better to stick to bricklaying, mates.) We might add that radio's Fred Allen once was an employe of the Boston Public Library—and it wouldn't surprise us if he passed such a stiff exam, he's that bright.

A guaranty company's survey of 1,000 cases showed that 98 per cent of those embezzlers remained on the job after their speculations, doctoring the account books until they were caught. . . . Today's favorite gag: A Yankee, as he struggled along a muddy lane on a walking tour of Scotland, met a Highlander and said plaintively, "I guess I'm lost." Inquired the Scot, "Is there any reward for you?" The answer was "No." "Weel," replied the Scot, "ye're still lost." . . . Pre-rogative: For his office in Washington, each congressman rates 53 different articles of furniture, supplied free by Uncle Sam.

It seems incredible in these days, but a half dozen women of Nantucket Island, off the coast of Massachusetts, complained to the island's board of assessors that their ages, as given in the annual poll tax listing, were four to six years too young! . . . Since the war's end, 1,100 movie theaters throughout the nation have either been abandoned or sold at a loss by their operators, all due to poor business. And a sad commentary is that a good percentage of those who failed in the business were GIs.

Beautiful though American girls are, the texture of their hair is inferior to that of almost any race of European women, as any wig maker will attest. . . . Country editor speaking: "Maybe it would have been more useful if, instead of inventing a telescope that will 'see' past a billion light years they produced one that could see through the Iron Curtain."

Sideline: Alexander Hamilton, one-time (and tested by many as our greatest) secretary of the treasury, was famous in his day for his extra-marital amours and sweeties. (Which may explain why he HAD to be a great secretary of the treasury.) . . . Quick, now, what's the difference between benzine and benzene? And if you give up, benzine in its earlier stages comes from the distillation of petroleum and asphalt oil. Benzene is obtained chiefly from a distillation of coal tar.

The butter you daub on your toast travels an average of 927 miles by rail or truck before it reaches your table. . . . When it was first discovered in South America, platinum was regarded as a nuisance by silver miners, who rated it as an inferior metal, hardly worth bothering with. The Russians likewise held platinum lightly in its early days and even fashioned kitchen utensils from it. . . . A philosopher observes: "The optimist says his glass is half full; the pessimist says his is half empty." . . . The word "Eskimo," derived from the Chipewewa Indian language, means "eater of raw fish."

Just to show how times have changed: It was only a quarter century ago that New York City's police let down the bars and permitted chorus girls in burlesque shows to dance with bare legs. . . . Parlor trick: Think of a number. Double it. Add one. Multiply by five. Add five. Multiply by 10. Subtract 100. Strike off the last two digits—and if leaves the number you thought of. . . . A decision of the Bermuda Supreme Court has declared that a woman is not a "person." But the jurists didn't go on from there and describe what a woman is.

LOOKING AT LIFE

by Erich Brandeis

"When are we ever going to return to normalcy?"

It has been asked that question a number of times of late, and I daresay that the same question has come up in your conversations.

Until the tenure of the late President Warren Harding, the word "normalcy" had not been part of the average American's vocabulary.

He popularized it when he said in a speech at Boston in May 1920: "America's present need is not heroics but healing; not nostrums but normalcy."

What is normalcy? When are things normal?

According to my dictionary, normal means "according to an established norm, rule, principle, standard."

When have our standards ever been "established"?

When have things ever been permanent, regular—normal?

Apparently things weren't normal in 1920, or Harding would not have made that speech.

Let us look at the record.

In 1920 we were suffering greatly from the effects of the first world war. People were kicking about high prices. Prohibition had become effective the year before and, as a result, crime was rampant, drunkenness increasing day by day. It was the era of the "flapper" and parents were complaining bitterly about the waywardness of the younger generation. Only it was not called juvenile delinquency in those days.

Also in 1920 Frederick Parmenter, a shoe factory paymaster, was robbed and shot to death. It was the crime for which Sacco and Vanzetti were put to death. Only in those days we were not nearly

as communism-conscious as we are today.

"Well," you may say, "those certainly were not normal days."

All right, I'll agree. What then were normal days?

We are having a lot of labor troubles. Abnormal? New?

In 1892—on July 6, to be precise—there was a terrific battle between 300 Pinkerton guards and thousands of strikers at the Homestead, Pa., steel mills. Seven guards and 11 strikers were shot to death, many wounded. The National Guard was called out and martial law was declared.

Normal?

An election is in the offing. The pot calls the kettle black, and vice versa.

Abnormal?

In July 1863 1,000 people were killed in draft riots in New York, many of them hanged by angry mobs. The property damage was two million dollars, a lot for those days.

My reference book remarks "It was asserted that the Republican officials in charge of the draft had stuffed the lists with names of Democrats."

When are we going to return to normalcy?

What a foolish question!

We are in the midst of normalcy right now.

Today is normal. Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow may never come—as thousands of cemetery crosses on Europe's battlefield can testify.

You can buy today's food, pay today's rent, live today's living at today's prices with today's wages. That's normal. That's standard. And that's enough.

SHORT SHOTS

by Robert Quillen

Isolationist Republican leaders, sure of victory, have everything they desire except another Harding.

A president doesn't make his times, anyway. The times make the president.

Most prejudice results from something that left a ranking sore spot.

Care for puzzles? Try to find the point of wordless magazine cartoons.

A few more years and people will be forced to fly to get anywhere. Not enough room on the highways.

In short, we'll keep out Europe's products and thus protect a few of us from competition; then we'll tax all of us to feed Europe.

It isn't hard to measure a man's usefulness to society. The ones who are very useful aren't paid much.

We are unhappy for want of things we wouldn't care a darn for if we lived where nobody could see them.

Success is largely luck. All it takes is being where you're needed, at the proper time, with the necessary know-how.

We don't choose our best man. We can only choose between two who were selected by political bosses without consulting us.

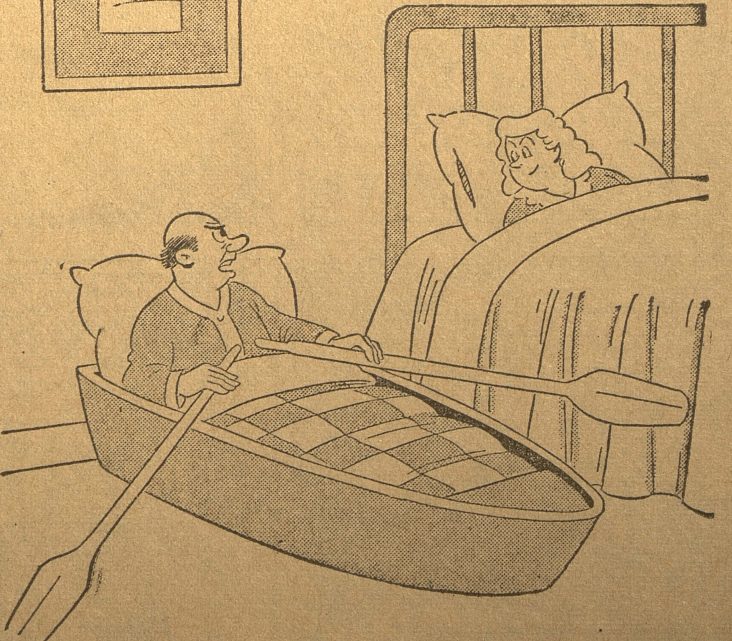
A man building a small house shopped around a 20-mile area for different materials; saved \$285. Explain that one.

The Constitution is the supreme law, but not the supreme authority. The Supreme Court may disregard the Constitution—and often has.

A dozen gifted reporters can explain Europe to us, but alas! they give us 12 different explanations.

OFF THE RECORD

by Ed Reed



"I don't care how foolish it looks—I almost drowned in last night's dream!"

FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM
Trademark Registered U. S. Patent Office.
MORNING—EVENING—SUNDAY
Combining the Fort Worth Star, established February 1, 1908; Fort Worth Telegram, purchased January 1, 1907; the Fort Worth Record, purchased November 1, 1925. Entered as second-class mail matter at the Postoffice at Fort Worth, Texas, January 1, 1909, under Act of March 3, 1879.
Amon G. Carter, President and Publisher.
Berl N. Hones, Vice Pres. and Gen. Mgr.
Harold V. Housh, Vice Pres., Circulation Dir.
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SUBSCRIPTION RATES—By carrier: One week, Evening only, 20c; Evening with Sunday, 30c; Morning, Evening and Sunday, 13 copies, 45c; Single Copies, Evening 5c, Morning 5c, Sunday 10c. By mail in Texas and Oklahoma, Daily and Sunday, per month, \$1.25; per year, \$15; States outside Texas and Oklahoma, per month \$1.50, per year \$18.