

TEXAS Press Clipping Bureau

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TEXAS OPPOSITION TO GARNER

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Mayor Miller of Austin, one of the leaders of the Texas "draft-Roosevelt" movement, which has also been called the "knife-Garner-in-the-back" movement, said in a speech delivered in Fort Worth: "I do not believe that Texas Democrats want to give John Garner the 46 votes of Texas to use as political poker chips. It is to our own interest, the interest of thinking Americans, to see that the man who created the 'New Deal' continues to refine and carry out its best principles. I have no faith in other men handling it who are lacking in sympathy for it."

Mr. Garner's friends in Texas, who are much more numerous than Mayor Miller and Maury Maverick think they are, will take exception to at least two statements in the foregoing quotation. One is Mayor Miller's intimation that the vice president will use the votes of Texas, and presumably of any other state carried by him, as "political poker chips."

This is a reflection upon the sincerity of the vice president, who has said as plainly as a plain man knows how to say it that he is a serious contender for the Democratic presidential nomination. And he said it when other Democrats were afraid to open their mouths, for fear of displeasing the gentleman in the White House.

John Nance Garner has declared himself without any "if's" "and's" or "but's" a candidate for the presidency, and intends to stay in the fight regardless of whether or not Mr. Roosevelt runs again or accepts a third-term nomination offered him without his solicitation. To infer, as Mayor Miller does, that the vice president is playing shifty politics, carries the implication that Mr. Garner is neither truthful nor honest.

The other statement of Mayor Miller to which friends of the vice president will take exception is: "I have no faith in other men handling it (the 'New Deal') who are lacking in sympathy for it." The inference here is that Vice President Garner is not in sympathy with the "New Deal," although his record in congress proves him a liberal.

Senator Morris Sheppard, who has been associated for many years with John Nance Garner in congress, pronounces him a liberal. Senator Sheppard knows the vice president better than Mr. Miller does and is assuredly better acquainted with the vice president's record in congress, where he was responsible for the enactment of a good deal of the administration's legislative program.

In an editorial entitled "The Man the Times Call For," the Fort Worth Star-Telegram said recently:

Liberal minded Americans of every state can not be entitled to that designation unless they have carefully considered the implications of the various candidacies now in the field. Mr. Garner's distinction, adequately pointed out by Senator Sheppard, is that, as well as a liberal in politics, he is a practical man of affairs, an experienced public servant, a lifetime practitioner of "the American way." Such a man renders a great service to his country as a balance wheel against untoward digressions in a program of liberalism. Such a man in the president's chair is a vital need in the period we are facing in order to permit the permanent absorption into the American system of the essential advances made in the Roosevelt administration without disturbing the basic fabric of our democracy or endangering the cherished institutions of our freedom.

The people of Texas know Vice President Garner is an avowed, open-and-above-board candidate for the presidency. They do not know whether Mr. Roosevelt wants another term, whether he would accept a third nomination if offered. Then, why does the anti-Garner faction in Texas bestir itself to discredit the state's first citizen and prevent him from receiving the support of his own state as a presidential candidate? Every Texas politician who can count up to 10 knows the answer to this question.