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## Truman Victory a Personal Triumph

The amazing President Truman lost all the pre-election public opinion polls but won the election. Counted out in advance by all the forecasters, "expert" and otherwise, he is in position in the wake of the voting to take supreme satisfaction in the old sports truism that it is the final score that counts. In view of the unanimity of pre-balloting forecasts in dooming him to defeat, his clear-cut political victory ranks as nothing less than phenomenal.

The surprising outcome of the election, in the absence of other definite factors to explain it, can be viewed in no other way than as a smashing personal victory for Mr. Truman—a victory achieved almost singlehandedly by a fighting candidate who refused to concede the possibility of defeat. Whether he truly felt the confidence he appeared to maintain throughout the campaign is a question which only Mr. Truman can answer. Certainly it was not shared by most of the Democratic leaders, who tried their best to shelve him before the nominating convention and whose forefeeling of defeat caused many of them to give him only lukewarm support in his campaign.

But the fight which Mr. Truman waged with vigor and unshrinking courage against what appeared to be insuperable odds won him not only the admiration of the American people but also their votes. The vote he received is evidence of the popular belief that he is a sincere, conscientious president, doing the best he can in an office into which he was plunged without choice and under circumstances that have proved increasingly difficult and trying.

The reaction of the voters to his campaign, which at times seemed to proceed on the basis of poor advice, also can be attributed to the appeal of Mr. Truman's natural, unassuming friendliness and the absence of any aura of greatness about him. If some of his campaign utterances seemed to be at variance with the Truman nature, their vote-getting results may indicate that appeals to class consciousness and the self-interest of minority groups of the nation had their effect.

Public sympathy also may have re-

sponded to the underdog, back-to-the-wall role in which circumstances cast him. Certainly one of the strongest psychological disadvantages he had to overcome to win was the general feeling, after 16 years of uninterrupted Democratic rule, that this was a "Republican year." The victory he achieved demonstrates to a certainty that, whatever other limitations may be possessed by Mr. Truman, he does not lack a fighting heart.

As much a part of the political upset as the presidential outcome were the major gains which promise to give Mr. Truman and the Democrats a working majority in both houses of Congress. The local factors that may have had a bearing on this result, as well as exerting possible influence in the presidential race, will have to await a clearer view of the outcome state by state before appraisal.

In the Republican camp, there must be plenty of room for bitter second guessing in regard to the type of campaign that was conducted. One cause of the Republican downfall undoubtedly was overconfidence. Governor Dewey conducted the campaign of an assured winner, refusing to condescend to match blow for blow with the slugging Mr. Truman. His speeches dealt only with generalities, as if there were no reason for specific explanation of his program with the election already within his grasp.

The voters, in re-electing Mr. Truman, showed their disregard and disdain for Henry A. Wallace, the self-styled progressive. They thereby did credit to their good sense and good Americanism.

What the result of the election may portend as to the course of the Democratic administration and Congress in the future scarcely can be divined at this moment. There was no convincing demonstration that the public wants undone any of the progressive acts either of the New Deal years or of the 80th Congress. In foreign affairs, the "danger period" between the election and inauguration, looked upon with foreboding both here and abroad, has been eliminated. The world is on notice that there will be no change, no interruption, in the firm, bipartisan approach to international problems.

## PULL UP AN EASY CHAIR

by Neal O'Hara

The true reason the White House was first painted white was to cover the smudges left on the structure after the British had tried to burn it down in the War of 1812 . . . The dangerous age: Single women who fall in love after they have passed 30 are warned by an eminent psycho-analyst to be extremely careful "lest this love which you experience, coming comparatively late in life, be motivated, without your suspecting it, by gratitude, by economic or other necessity, by fear of being left a spinster or by ego, so that you may prove to your friends that you, too, are wanted. Love is tricky.

A returned traveler relates that at a British seaside resort the past summer, he noted George Bernard Shaw engrossed for two hours in reading a book which, on closer inspection, proved to be—you guessed it!—one by George Bernard Shaw . . . Although this nation leads the world in dental care, a dental professor complains that "too many persons still use the toothache as their cue to visit their dentist" . . . Bravo for the official censor of the Republic of Honduras who refuses to O. K. any film he deems "bore some or trivial."

### Man for Mary.

Today's favorite gag: MRS. HILLBILLY—"What are you waitin' around the front gate for, young man?" SUITOR—"For Mary." MRS. HILLBILLY—"Then you'd better run along; you ain't the man we want for her. When her father was a-courtin' me and I didn't show up, he climbed the fence, strangled the watch dog, forced the window, locked the old man in his room, put the ring on my finger and told me we'd be married that evenin'. That's the kind of a man we want for Mary" . . . Paris butcher shops that sell horse meat (and many of them do) are required by law to have a gilded horse's head over the doorway . . . Although Vatican City has a small but ornate railway station, no pope has ridden in a train since Pius IX in 1859.

Cautious was Benjamin Franklin making his first experiment at capturing lightning with a kite and a key. Only his 22-year-old son knew his intentions, because Old Ben was so afraid of ridicule if his idea got around. And when he did get his kite up, during a thunderstorm, he took good care

## GOSH! WHAT A SCRAP!

by Hal Coffman



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

## DIVERSION IN PACIFIC

by George Weller

GUAM, (CDN).—Accepting Joseph Stalin's challenge, the American Navy has begun rolling up its 7,000-mile bridge to Asia for service on Berlin's 200-mile lifeline.

Straining its Pacific lines to one-third of their already weakened condition, the Navy today sent the first flight of eight planes eastward with triple crews of 24 men.

"It's like the old days of rolling forward against the Jap, except now we're advancing backwards," said one pilot.

Each flier was stripped to 65 pounds of baggage. Nevertheless, the R-5D transports—Navy language for C-54s—were 1,800 pounds overloaded and took to the air only by emergency permission.

Guam's VR-6 squadron, maintaining the only air link with America's Communist-surrounded naval base in Tsingtao, was informed last week that it would receive a long-range mission in three days. The following night they were ordered to be completely gone from Guam and all points west by this midweek.

### Soviet Strategy.

Planes being pulled in from Manila, Shanghai and Tsingtao leave America's naval forces in China without other than short-range two-motored C-46s. Flown by Marines to replace the 12 planes Berlin-bound, four heavy Marine transports landed here.

"If Stalin is aiming to weaken us in China to help the Chinese Communists and make use of Russia's new bases at Dairen and Port Arthur, he is succeeding," remarked one pilot soberly.

The Soviet offensive in Berlin is seen here as partly intended to throw the United States off balance in the Far East. Admiral Badger, commanding the Navy in the Yellow Sea, has already made vacation plans for Tsingtao which until the Berlin transfer included the taking out of women and children by air.

Lights have been burning late in the VR-6 quonset huts at Agana Field as pilots study flare paths and radio beacons into Berlin.

"We're reading every guide we can dig up, including newspaper descriptions," said Operational Officer Lt. Cmdr. P. M. Minor of Dallas.

## UNIFICATION

by Kenneth Dixon

WASHINGTON, Nov. 4 (INS). act. No more of that stuff. They

## CRACKS AT THE CROWD

by Florida Callan