

**T** "A straight line is the shortest distance between two points."  
—Euclid.

# THINKING OUT LOUD

By LYNN LANDRUM

---

## *Baron of Bonham*

Something is in the wind at Washington. There have been too many balloons going up, if President Truman is not to run for President. There is the suggestion that Chief Justice Vinson could perhaps be persuaded to step down from the Supreme Court and have a try at the Democratic nomination. And the latest is that the Baron of Bonham might be nominated.

It may be that the White House expects by permitting a multitude of local sons to be mentioned that the field will be left open for Truman. But the truth is that neither Vinson nor Rayburn could carry Texas against Eisenhower on the Republican ticket. In fact, Harry Byrd of Virginia is about the only Southern Democrat of presidential size who could hold the support of the revolting "reactionaries" in Texas.



## *Hard Sledding*

In particular, Sam Rayburn, nominated on a civil-rights and take-the-Tidelands platform, would have mighty hard sledding in Texas. The fact is that Sam Rayburn has served his own district well at the bitter expense of the State of Texas as a whole. Texas owes him little gratitude on his program of "going along to get along" at Washington.

Mr. Rayburn has tremendous power as Speaker of the House. He has great influence in both the House and the Senate. He surely has some influence at the White House. But the Tidelands, as things now stand, are lost to Texas unless somebody in authority at Washington gets something done to save them to the state. Mr. Rayburn in the White House would still go along. Texas is very tired of going along, if anybody should ask you.



## *Gains*

From Mr. Rayburn's own standpoint, his policy of going along has richly rewarded him. He can get any lake, domiciliary hospital or housing project that he asks for—so long as he goes along for any rattle-brained project that the Queer Deal undertakes elsewhere.

In public life, of course, a man sets up his own ideals. He figures out his own goals. In that sense, he sets his price—what he will sacrifice for what he wants. Public life is a compromise of something for something else. Mr. Rayburn can prove to the people who vote for him in his district that he has enriched them by his stay in Washington. But Texas is poorer in consequence.

In other words, as Speaker of the House of the Congress of the United States of America, Mr. Rayburn has made a successful congressman from his district. But his platform on national, international and party issues is simple:

"To get along up here, you have to go along."



## *Mr. Taft*

Because Vinson is on the Supreme Court and because Rayburn is Speaker of the House, neither man has been called upon to stand up very often and be counted on the vital issues that affect the whole people of the country. Neither of them could expect to be very effective against Taft.

Truman undoubtedly knows this and counts upon it. He is shrewd enough to know that he would have a better chance against Taft than any Democrat (other than himself) who can get the nomination. Truman would quite possibly carry a larger vote in Texas than either Vinson or Rayburn, no matter whom the Republicans name.