

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, one 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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