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Sidelights On The Passing Show

Editorial

WHO LET THE CAT OUT OF THE BAG ?

The great "telegram" mystery of the Philadelphia convention that nominated Willkie for President seems to be solved.

And at the same moment there is another interesting discovery: That Mr. Willkie does not owe his nomination to Republicans, but to "Democrats."

Now is this so?

We are frank to say that we do not know, but it is left to you to decide that the signs are at least uncanny in their indications.

You know, it is this way: (We go back to get up a little history.)

C. T. Joyce, a former Stokes boy of comfortable fortune, fine character and excellent judgment, went to Winston-Salem a few years ago and engaged in business. He was successful. He became richer. He took the head of a tobacco company, a leaf handling concern. The company prospered, especially during the New Deal, after the depression had so sorely crippled the business men of Winston as well as other cities.

Mr. Joyce is now up in the money, and belongs in that rarefied stratum where the brackets are scrutinized closely for taxes to meet the exigencies of government. Indeed he estimates himself in that exclusive zone where dwell big shots like John W. Hanes and other Roosevelt haters.

Now, with this little digression, we return you to the glamorous Philadelphia convention.

It was generally understood, you remember, that the delegates were nearly all pledged to Dewey, Taft, Vandenberg, etc. Mr. Willkie enjoyed only a smattering of support, as the ballots were beginning to be taken.

Then suddenly something happened: Telegrams began pouring in by dozens, by hundreds and then by thousands. They read:

"Give us Willkie," "We want Willkie," "Vote for the People's Choice, Willkie," etc.

It was significant that each wire was about the same in length, and of practically the same phraseology.

The managers for the other candidates were at first surprised, then nonplussed, then amazed.

Possibly in their memories they then visualized the meaning of that carefully prepared propaganda that had crowded the columns of the big newspapers before the convention, which prophesied: Watch out for the dark horse to win. Willkie will begin with small support, then rapidly his star will rise like Mars at early dawn, and he will be nominated as the "People's Choice."

Now State after State began falling for the Indiana man, as the telegrams began to circulate in the systems of the delegates.

The ground swell for Willkie took away the breath of the country.

There were thousands of the wires calling for Willkie—one authority estimates more than 40,000.

The news leaks out in a story from Washington that one of the highest pressure advertising agencies of the country handled the coup.

Now the question naturally bobs up: Who paid this big advertising concern, and why?

Was it the rank and file Republicans who were "dying for Willkie?"

Nay, nay, Pauline, we hardly think so. The Republicans wanted Dewey or Taft or Vandenberg. They were not sold on the "late Democrat."

Then who?

CLAUDE PEPPER "HANGED ON A SOUR APPLE TREE."

Senator Claude Pepper of Florida, who has taken an active part in the preparedness legislation now before congress, was hanged in effigy by 100 women in Washington protesting against the conscription bill. The inscription read: "Claude (Benedict Arnold) Pepper."

After a policeman cut down the effigy, the ladies marched to the capitol singing "We'll hang Claude Pepper on a sour apple tree."

Conscription is the only way to raise the huge army that will be necessary when and if Hitler comes. It looks now more like "when" than "if."

And then one can imagine the still wrier faces of these dames when their men folks, rather than stuffed dummies, dangle at the end of Gestapo hemp.

Was the tornado of telegrams a blitzkrieg of big corporate interests that determined to put over "Our Man" by starting a "spontaneous demand" from the "Voice of the People?" Was the Liberty League again in action?

Else it is wondered if the sentiment "Give us Willkie or give us death" was so strong in the country, why in the hell didn't it evolve before the convention, so that Dewey, Taft, Vandenberg, Hoover, etc., could gracefully retire in deference to the nation's overwhelming preference and without being embarrassed.

Now don't ask us these questions—ask the shade of Sherlock Holmes, or, closer home, ask Mr. C. T. Joyce who is helping sponsor the telegram "blitz" with its sequel—the chain letter system.

To find out who is the "Voice of the People," maybe Mr. Joyce's cat, which has jumped out of the bag, can mew a clue.

If Mr. Joyce did not want the people to make embarrassing guesses, in his letter addressed to a carefully selected list, he should not have let his expression the "Voice of the People" be a quotation, which makes it sound like a shibboleth in the "scheme," as this is the same tune the wires to the convention played. Nor should he have acknowledged that "As we did in Philadelphia," etc.

Mr. Joyce's letter follows:

Winston-Salem, N. C.
August 16, 1940.

"Dear _____
"This letter concerns OUR next job: Chain letters such as this are now following convention chain telegrams to "GIVE US WILLKIE."

"Let's review the situation as it now stands. The "VOICE OF THE PEOPLE" nominated WILLKIE at Philadelphia. Immediately following Mr. Willkie stated he was in favor of the Hatch Bill . . . that he wanted SMALL contributions for his campaign, but lots of them, and remarked half-humorously and half seriously that if everybody who sent telegrams urging his nomination would contribute the cost of such a telegram, the Republicans would have enough money to finance his race. That's a PRACTICAL suggestion and typical "WILLKIE."

"Now, then, the Hatch Bill proposes prohibiting contributions over \$5,000. "WE, THE PEOPLE" through past experience understand its purpose only too well. So let us now prove, as we did in Philadelphia, that WE can provide ample funds required to finance the WILLKIE campaign by contributing the COST OF ONE TELEGRAM in place of BLANK CHECKS. Let the "VOICE OF THE PEOPLE" again be heard. Let's each of us again do our part by:

"1. Sending 25c to \$1.20 to Stanley Resor, Treasurer Willkie Campaign, Roosevelt Hotel, 45th St., and Madison Avenue, New York City.

"2. Sending this letter over your signature to 10 other good AMERICAN CITIZENS.

"Let's meet today's challenge by acting NOW.

"Sincerely yours,
"C. T. JOYCE"

STOKES COUNTY'S SPLENDID TEMPLE OF JUSTICE.

Every citizen of Stokes county is proud of our splendid court house that has recently been greatly enlarged and reconditioned.

Stokes county—so said a gentleman here Monday who has seen a large number of like buildings in the counties of the State—can now boast of the best court house in North Carolina, in proportion to our wealth and population.

And the pleasing and outstanding feature of the proposition is that our court house has been completed with its large and new addition of room and appointments, without raising the tax rate or issuing bonds. The expense has been entirely met without further debt.

All citizens, men and women, when visiting Danbury are cordially invited to inspect the building. A great deal more floor space is afforded, more extensive rooms for the convenience of the public and the public officers, and for the necessary accommodations of the State and federal agencies now so largely required. There are more toilet facilities for the use of the crowds attending court, both white and colored, or on business with the county, State or federal officials.

In addition, the outside walks and spaces surrounding the house and the square have been paved. It is now a place of beauty, of safety, of convenience and pleasure for those who use it.

The board of county commissioners, the county officials, the public spirited citizens of the county who endorsed and sponsored the improvements, and the tax-payers who own it, are to be heartily congratulated for their modern temple of justice.

SYMPATHY.

In the continued illness of Mrs. Carson, Prof. J. C. Carson, superintendent of our schools, has the sincere and deepest sympathy of the school personnel and patrons of Stokes county, of his host of friends and of the public in general.

It requires a religious fortitude, patience and comforting faith to witness the steady languishing of our loved ones. Mrs. Carson has been an invalid for sixteen years. For ten years she has not been of strength to take nourishment of her own efforts. For several days now she has not been equal in her failing vitality to even receive nourishment.

Only those who have been through these things can quite appreciate the poignant mental and heartfelt grief of those who must sustain them.

BORDER BELT OPENS

The Border Belt, composed of markets of South Carolina and Eastern North Carolina, opened Tuesday at an average of upwards from 20 cents.

In view of the bad export situation resulting from the European war, and last year's tremendous overproduction, a 20-cent average is quite encouraging to the farmers.

The reports indicate they were generally well pleased.

The war rages on with continuous bombing. England not yet invaded. The British seem to be taking the offensive. Italy and Greece about to go to war. Greece as pro-English. The Italians have heavily bombed Gibraltar. The British seem to be taking the offensive. The British seem to be taking the offensive. The British seem to be taking the offensive. The British seem to be taking the offensive.