

SEES TRUMAN AS PARTY'S NOMINEE WHETHER 'BOLTERS' LIKE IT OR NOT

(By R. F. Beasley, in Moore County News)

Don't put all your money on the defeat of Mr. Truman for the Democratic nomination. His election is another question. Opponents of his nomination are raising a lot of smoke just now. Where there is much smoke there is some fire. But in my opinion

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there is not enough fire to burn up his chances of nomination. Leaders in Mississippi and Arkansas have called a conference of all people interested in the preservation of states rights to meet in Jackson, Miss., on May 10. States rights in this instance means opposition to Mr. Truman. Leaders in some of the big city organizations have come out against him, and a "Draft Eisenhower" movement has been started. Two sons of the late President Roosevelt issued statements opposed to Mr. Truman on the same day, one from Chicago and one from Hyde Park. Senator Olin Johnson of South Carolina led off with the call for Eisenhower. They apparently think that since General MacArthur is running in spite of what General Eisenhower said about its being undesirable that a military man should be president or even run for the office, they think that they can change the general's mind although he said in most emphatic terms when he was being talked for the Republican nomination that he would not accept. If he would not accept the nomination tendered

him by the Republicans, who have a much better chance of winning, it is not likely that he would accept a nomination by the Democrats.

And that presents one of the main reasons why you need not too much discount the nomination of Mr. Truman. If General Eisenhower were to say he would accept the nomination doubtless he could get it. Mr. Truman's chances of being elected, if nominated, are too slim, and there is too much hostility to him, for him to control enough delegates for his nomination. In this matter the southern revolt, if it be a revolt, would count. The southern leaders would be glad to have the chance to vote for the nomination of a man who not only offered better hope of election but who at least so far had not aroused their hostility. But without General Eisenhower there is not a man in the offering who could unite the party factions and at the same time be of so commanding a force as to attract the widespread public influence necessary for election. When the dissatisfied Democrats who are now anti-Truman finish going to the political cupboard and finding it bare of possible candidates, they will have to fall in behind Mr. Truman in order to keep the party government intact and their hands on the throttle. In politics it is not the man that runs away who may live to fight another day. It is the fellow that stands by the party and when the political whirligig again turns round is right at the old stand waiting to welcome the return of the voters and the change in public sentiment. The history of the two-party system for a hundred years indicates that neither of the old parties ever gets down so far that it may not be on top again. We have all seen the Democratic party so low that it was considered only a minus sign, and then after the Hoover debacle it looked as if the Republican party had shut up shop forever.

Though Mr. Truman is now the target of any nincompoop who wishes to shoot and the target of the wild men like Wallace who are operating on gronches or motives even less worthy, Mr. Truman has not lost the respect of the sensible people of the country. He is undergoing what every president has who encountered a situation in which the country found itself in conflict and every irreconcilable difference. The viols of wrath were poured upon the heads of Taft, Harding and Hoover among the Republican presidents. And Grover Cleveland and Woodrow Wilson among the Democrats ended their terms below the level of convicts if judged by the criticisms heaped upon them. That a man should become president at all may be considered a stroke of good luck as in Mr. Truman's case. But if it was good luck, the gods that preside over the distribution of luck have no record for consistency. With the left hand they grudgingly throw out a little good luck and then with the right hand turn loose a cyclone of bad luck. Mr. Truman's bad luck was that he became president when he did.

The conflicting elements in the Democratic primary which the genius and skill of Franklin D. Roosevelt welded into a conquering platoon for so long was due to break up after the war, even had he lived. But his death took away the syrupy glue that held them together and in due time all the pieces fell upon the head of Mr. Truman. Trying to carry out the policies generally of Roosevelt, he found it as difficult as President Taft did when he had the idea first of carrying out those of Theodore Roosevelt. David tried on the armour of Saul and found that it didn't fit. Taft tried on the armour of Teddy and found it galling. Truman tried on the armour of Franklin and found that armour bearers were not willing for him to use it. They immediately began to quarrel about how it should be done. He tried to get along easy with Russia and found that there was an Achan in his own camp in the person of Wallace. Wallace while a member of the cabinet made a speech stabbing in the back another member of the cabinet, Mr. Byrnes, then trying to negotiate with the Russians, and Mr. Truman was compelled to dismiss him or call Byrnes home. Wallace started a third party and to head him off Mr. Truman's advisers pushed him into the civil rights campaign. That caused him not only to lose the South but what was more important in politics, made him too weak to hold the allegiance of the city machines.

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