

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Tuesday, January 7, 1964

The Education Bill

The aid to higher education bill passed recently by Congress was the only bill the Roman Catholic Church would allow to pass, and is therefore a victory for that church.

The bill allows federal, public money to go to church colleges (of all denominations). It is subterfuge, in clear violation of the letter and spirit of the U. S. Constitution.

Because the Supreme Court can wink at the violation, perhaps in view of the social cli-

mate and the great strength of Catholic opposition to public school aid only, sponsors, backers and churches who want federal money hope they have an important victory.

Congress passed this bill in spite of the opposition of many Protestant and Jewish churches and church spokesmen, who testified that giving state monies to the schools of churches was a clear violation of the constitutional principle of separation of church and state.

Arlington Cemetery

There is an effort underway among some government officials to find and buy more land for Arlington National Cemetery. This would mean tearing down buildings and moving government installations.

Representative Charles Bennett (D-Fla.) thinks such a move would be a mistake. We agree. Bennett says instead of spreading the national cemetery over the hills of the Potomac, we should reserve half the remaining space for decorated Americans, who were honorably discharged from service.

Though many Americans do

not realize it, it is not particularly difficult for the family of a serviceman to have him buried in Arlington National Cemetery, regardless of his record.

Bennett tried two recent cases which emphasized this point. One man recently buried there was a former serviceman who was killed trying to escape from prison and another involved a man who had allegedly sold military secrets to Russia.

The suggestion is almost certainly in the interest of maintaining the dignity and atmosphere of the national cemetery.

The Military Cuts

President Lyndon Johnson, master politician that he is, is taking on a sure political headache in closing military installations.

Two results are certain from the beginning. The citizens who profit from the bases and local mayors and delegations will protest loudly, as will senators and congressmen from the states affected. This will not help in the presidential effort to gain influence with Congress.

Secondly, votes could be lost in the areas affected, and memories will not be so short that closings will be forgotten by election time in 1964--only

after most of the bases and naval yards are to be closed.

Nevertheless, after a look at the budget, President Johnson quickly decided the cuts must be made. He did not hesitate and he put the situation in the proper perspective when he called upon the Pentagon to cooperate with his decision.

The President says he will not cut combat efficiency or strength but only the fat, the excessive administrative monster, the rear echelon baggage train gang. Some of these free-loaders will now have to go to work.

The Top Men

Immediately after President John F. Kennedy's death there were widespread reports in the newspapers that many of the late President's closest aides, and some members of the cabinet, would resign.

Several of the personal aides at the White House, it was "reliably" reported, could not possibly stay on--so great had been their attachment to the late President. And then there were the storeis telling us of the new team President Lyndon Johnson would bring into the White House.

Names were named and the team was widely expected to begin taking over. But none of these inside stories proved very prophetic. The President kept

the Kennedy team almost to the last man--and probably should have.

If President Lyndon Johnson is elected next November, he will probably feel freer about replacing this man or that man, or this cabinet officer or that cabinet officer.

And as for the resignations, and all the talk and rumor about resignations, all the top men were ready enough to stay on. All the President had to do was ask them. The truth is that most of them probably feared getting the boot, initially, and spoke boldly about resignation as a possible graceful route, for themselves and the President.

The Best In 1963

Newspaper readers in recent and current days have been and are exposed to the votes of various groups as to who was the best in this or that in 1963. We have been told who the best athletes were, who the best dressed were, etc., etc.

It is safe, at the beginning, to throw out all serious consideration of about 90 per cent of this publicity. In the remaining 10 per cent are many sports votes, as to athletes. While there is some following of the crowd in this field, there is not much arranging, except in All-American football lists, where there is definitely some.

The main point to keep in mind through it all (and it will pass on after January for the most part) is that the selections are not necessarily what they are represented to be. They represent selection-groups.

The best college footballer, the best dressed man or woman, might be some little-known chap or housewife in Podunk,

the sweetness wasting itself on the desert air, that individual never to be discovered or even appreciated.

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THE HARDER YOU PULL...THE TIGHTER IT BINDS. 1 F



Report From Washington

Home's Chance For England--His Personal Views--Barry's Revolution--First Since 1932

Washington, D. C. -- Lord Home holds in his hands what may be the last chance to bring about vigorous free-enterprise expansion and competition to English economic life. Because of this, he may prove a far tougher opponent of Labor than former Prime Minister Harold Macmillan would have.

Harold Wilson of the Labor Party may now suspect he has tackled quite an opponent. It is not because Wilson has so quickly leaped to the attack (he attacks every time the press wants a statement), but because of the line of his attack.

Wilson is trying to split the electorate along class lines, branding Home as representative of the aristocracy. He knows there are many more working men than titled, traditional families. But this tactic might not be appropriate for Home.

Home was selected by Macmillan because he makes few enemies and had a very broad general popularity among party faithful. That same talent, and his appeal for action and economic expansion may win him added support.

Moreover, he is dynamic and will conduct a fighting, vigorous campaign. He has proved, in his post of Foreign Secretary, that his initial critics were wrong about him and in fact, he turned out to be the outstanding recent addition to Macmillan cabinets--though his choice originally caused mis-

givings.

The key to Home's appeal is his contrast with more socialism. He tells British business it must be willing to gamble for expansion, and tells Labor the old cliches they are using are outdated, were appropriate in the thirties. He appeals to join him and expand the economy with traditional free enterprise vigor and creativeness.

As the days and weeks pass, it becomes apparent why Macmillan himself gambled on Home, with the Conservative Party in a critical position. Home is not personally ambitious but most energetic. If he loses to Labor in next year's elections he will lose after a fierce, tireless campaign.

Senator Barry Goldwater's chances for the G.O.P. nomination continue to increase and it is becoming more and more obvious that he is the first conservative who is not being lured into major compromises in years.

He is sticking to his conservative philosophy and what he says shocks many Republicans. In short, what he is really offering the American people is a social revolution. It would be--if he wins in 1964 or 1968--a greater social revolution than any which has crossed the U. S. scene since 1932.

Goldwater would sell TVA, he would be tougher with the communists in both word and deed, with them and deal with them and he would not endlessly talk--for better or worse. He would cut the size of the federal bureaucracy and curtail some social services. He would, in other words, rudely check the trend toward bigger and bigger government, which has been in progress for decades. He would rely on states' rights to a great extent.

It would be a rude shock for many--thus the howls. Goldwater is too conservative for others, who would violently oppose him. But he represents a mass of people who have long thought the trend to the left has gone long enough, or who are red-hot for him today. And Goldwater, like so many other candidates of recent times, sticks to his surprisingly conservative position in the face of all sorts of pressure from within his party and without.

The growing suspicion is that even if Goldwater loses in 1964, running against a Democratic President, he will be in position to control much of the party, and perhaps win an election in 1968. For he does not betray his conservative supporters and they feel they have

in him the first dependable conservative champion since the late Robert Taft of Ohio.

Senator Sam Says

Washington--The enormous burdens of the Presidency and the current vacancy in the office of Vice President have focused attention again on the problem of Presidential succession.

Prior to 1947 members of the Cabinet were next in line of succession after the Vice President. That method enacted into law in 1886 started the order of succession with the Secretary of State and went through the individual members of the Cabinet. Justification for that approach was that it was the best way to achieve continuity in government. Proponents argued that the vacancy ought to be filled by a cabinet member having similar political views to those of the President.

In 1947 the "cabinet method" was changed by an Act of Congress which designated the Speaker of the House of Representatives to act as President in the event of "death, resignation, removal from office, inability, or failure to qualify" where there is neither a President or Vice President "to discharge the powers and duties of the office of President." This change came about largely as a result of the recommendation of President Truman who felt that Congress ought to put an elected official as next in the line of succession rather than continue the old system of succession by appointive Cabinet members.

Although I think that the 1947 law now governing the order of succession was a move in the right direction, it seems to me that Congress could devise a better system than either the old or the present method. The weakness of the

present system is that for practical purposes it restricts the choice to the members of the House of Representatives and permits only House members to vote for his election. This is true, except in the most unlikely circumstances, because the House votes for the Speaker of the House, and should he become President then it would choose a new Speaker who would again be next in the line of Presidential succession. Moreover, a judgment on who would make the best Speaker of the House of Representatives might differ from a judgment on who would make the best Presidential successor.

I favor a new system which would be based upon the premise that Congress should choose the best man for the office of President at the precise time when the potential need for succession takes place. This could be done by a statutory law allowing the entire Congress to elect the successor either by a joint-ballot of all Sators and Representatives, or by a joint-ballot granting each state's representation one vote, or by allowing the House to nominate the candidate for this position and the Senate to confirm the nominee. The person so elected should be designated as the Acting Vice President and would have all the powers and emoluments of that office.

Since this matter is of concern to the country, I am hopeful that I can put my thoughts into a bill during the Congressional recess, and introduce such a measure for the consideration of the Congress.

It's a good idea to take some time off for recreation, provided you don't take so much time off you overlook your work.

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