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and

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Election Postscript

THERE are almost as many explanations for the surprising results of last week's election as there were voters. Nearly everyone has his own pet theory of just what happened, and why it happened.

And in many cases those (of both parties) who were surest, before the election, that Dewey would win, and who were most insistent that they knew exactly which states would go Republican, and why, were the first to recover from the shock of the election, and to insist with equal emphasis that theirs was the one and only explanation for what happened November 2!

Well, that's a good American custom.

And, after all, why shouldn't the layman indulge in it, so long as the expert does? For the experts, almost without exception, dogmatically asserted that Dewey's election was a foregone conclusion. They proved themselves no better than the layman, perhaps not so good—and most of them have been explaining ever since last Wednesday.

The organized labor vote elected Truman, some say; and the cynics are inclined to add that Truman bought the Presidency with his promises to labor.

Organized labor certainly helped to elect him, but the cynics overlook the fact that organized labor was badly split. To John L. Lewis, whose word still carries great weight with the miners, Truman was anathema; and some of the other union leaders damned him with almost equal emphasis.

Furthermore, examine the vote. Dewey, not Truman, carried the industrial states of Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Michigan, the last name being perhaps the most highly industrialized state in the Union and a stronghold of the CIO, whose leaders favored and worked for Mr. Truman. The vote in those states is sufficient proof that all labor didn't vote Democratic, but that many workers cast their votes—as they should have—according to their individual consciences as citizens. Truman, therefore, does not owe his victory to a few labor leaders, or even to organized labor as whole.

The farm vote, say others; and again the cynics are ready with the suggestion that Mr. Truman bought a four-year lease on the White House from the farmers. But again look at the vote. Dewey, not Truman, carried four of the states most predominantly agricultural—Kansas, Nebraska, and the two Dakotas.

And here is something else for the cynics to ponder. Hardly any measure could have had a greater appeal to the purely selfish interests of a large number of voters than the 1947 act which reduced income taxes by \$5,000,000,000. That bill was passed by the Republican congress, over the veto of President Truman. Yet the voters repudiated that congress, defeating, among others, Rep. Knutson, who wrote the tax reduction bill, and whose chief claim to fame is his advocacy of tax reduction.

If Mr. Truman won his election on issues, the record of the 80th congress probably was the most important one. That congress not only drastically reduced taxes at what was perhaps the most inopportune time in American history, but it failed to do anything substantial about such pressing problems as inflation and housing.

From one end of the country to the other, the Democratic nominee damned the 80th congress as the "second worst" the United States ever had. He apparently convinced the voters that it was just that; for they not only elected him, but overturned Republican majorities in both senate and house. To the voters, the 80th congress represented the Republican party, and the voters ap-

pear to have felt that if congress, organized by the G. O. P., could not do a job, the party should not be trusted with the Presidency.

As a matter of fact, however, there is considerable evidence that issues were not the primary consideration of the voters; for there really was not a great deal of difference between the programs proposed by Mr. Truman and Mr. Dewey. A major factor in the election undoubtedly was the characters and personalities of the two men.

To many voters, Dewey appeared to be so efficient that he seemed more machine than human; he gave the impression of being not only cold, but somewhat artificial; and his failure to put himself on record except in the most general terms suggested either that he had no deep-seated convictions or that he didn't trust the people's intelligence enough to tell them what he proposed to do, and how he proposed to do it. Whether those conclusions in the popular mind were justified is beside the point; justified or not, they affected the result.

Truman, on the other hand, appears to be first of all a likable human being. He certainly is not brilliant; he probably is not great; and he has made many mistakes, some of them first-rate blunders. But those very mistakes appear to have convinced the American voter that the man in the White House had convictions, and was trying; that he was doing just about what the average man, were he himself President, would do.

His proposal to send Chief Justice Vinson to a conference with Stalin, for example, was inept, to say the least. Yet that mistake probably helped to elect Truman—the average man considered it proof that the President was going to leave no stone unturned, no matter how foolish it might make him look, in trying to find a way to peace.

Then, too, the American people love a scrapper, and Truman proved himself a fighter—against odds that would have discouraged most men to the point of quitting; Americans always are inclined to pull for the game underdog.

That probably swayed many voters who were unenthusiastic about either of the two major candidates.

An important by-product of the election is the almost unprecedented opportunity it presents President Truman.

When he takes office next January, both houses of congress will be in control of the party he heads. His election, since it was primarily a personal rather than a party victory, gives him such prestige that any congress would be inclined to listen to his recommendations. And he will start the term as President-in-his-own-right with a freedom such as no President, with the possible exception of Washington, has enjoyed. For it is a fairly safe assumption that the only promises by which he is bound are those public promises he made during the campaign. He can't owe a very big debt to any individual or group, for the very good reason that about the only person who campaigned for Harry S. Truman was Harry S. Truman.

He owes his election, therefore, not to organized labor alone, nor to the farmers alone, nor to any other group alone. He is President by the grace of the American people, of all classes and groups. That makes him free to devote all his energies to the interests of the nation as a whole.

There are a lot of things about the election in which all good Americans can take pride.

First of all, is the size of the vote. It was not up to the 1940 or the 1944 total, it is true. But when 47,000,000 people go to the polls in an election year when the result appears to be a foregone conclusion, it's a pretty healthy sign that democracy is still functioning. That phase of the election must have been a blow to the hopes of the men in the Kremlin.

Quite as healthy is the overwhelming way the American people vetoed the decision of the expert forecasters. These men who sample public opinion were perhaps never so sure of themselves. Dewey was certain to be elected, they said—and they convinced nearly everybody that they knew what they were talking about. Yet the American voters 47,000,000 of them, went to the polls, and elected Truman!

That action gave the lie to the old theory that most Americans are band-wagon jumpers, regardless of their convictions.

It proved not only that the average American does his own thinking, but that that thinking isn't so superficial it can be read at a glance by a public opinion poll-taker.

And it did democracy a great service by taking the poll takers well out of the realm of omniscience. For when the public opinion experts can say with certainty, far in advance, how an election is going, why should the average citizen vote? Moreover, if the poll-takers were able to forecast an election result accurately, and if the American people were band-wagon jumpers, it would be quite simple for corrupt, or even merely prejudiced, public opinion survey organizations to swing an election whichever way they desired.

So, regardless of which of the two candidates you or I may think was the better man, as good Americans we can all thank God that no group of

experts can vote American citizens as though they were sheep.

We can be thankful, too, for our American political traditions and our American good sportsmanship that make us accept the result without question.

Because of that tradition and that good sportsmanship, we can all go forward from here—not as Democrats or Republicans, but as good Americans. And as good Americans we can all pray that the next four, difficult years may be characterized by that American unity that Mr. Dewey so patriotically and so generously wished for the administration of the man who defeated him.

LETTERS

BUT WE DON'T KNOW WHO THEY ARE

Dear Editor:

In the issue of November 4 of The Franklin Press I read where six people voted for Wallace. Why not get their pictures for the next issue of The Press?

Truly yours,
W. C. TAYLOR

Franklin, N. C.
Route 4
Nov. 5, 1948.

FLORIDIAN LIKES MACON COUNTY

Editor, The Press:

This is Autumn in the Mountains, and I wonder how many people appreciate the passing colors of the season. While I have lived in South Florida for a number of years, "among the palm trees" and year-round green foliage, I think it takes a change of season to make up really appreciate living and keep us on our toes.

Yes, Florida is a "dreamland of sunshine and flowers", and a wonderful place to retire. But who wants to retire?

Since being in this country, I have enjoyed working hard and playing in the branches more than I can express. It has been one long "vacation" for me, and I am still enjoying it.

This is God's big country, and so close to Nature! Many people who come here to spend a few weeks do not want to leave. There is something about this country that makes you feel it is "home", and you are satisfied to write your last "chapter" in the book here.

OWEN C. FURLOW

Franklin, N. C.
November 1, 1948.

LEGAL ADVERTISING

ADMINISTRATORS NOTICE

Having qualified as administrator of Mary Gaston Curtis deceased, late of Macon County, N. C., this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 5 day of October, 1949 or this notice will plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement.

This 5 day of October, 1948.
GILMER A. JONES
Administrator

O14-6tp-N18

NORTH CAROLINA
MACON COUNTY

Under and by virtue of the power of sale vested in the undersigned trustee by a deed of trust executed by David F. Morris and Fred J. Cannon, dated April 28, 1948, and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for Macon County, North Carolina, in Book No. 42, Page 132, said deed of trust having been executed to secure certain indebtedness therein set forth, and default in the payment of said indebtedness having been made, I will on Monday the 29th day of November, 1948, at 12 o'clock noon, at the Courthouse door in Franklin, North Carolina, sell to the highest bidder for cash the following described land:

BEGINNING at a stake in the West margin of U. S. Highway No. 64, a corner of the J. Q. Pierson Estate 22 acre tract; runs South 78 West 203 feet to a stake in the old run of Big Creek now submerged by the waters of Lake Sequoyah; then down said creek, South 25 degrees West 230 feet to a stake in the center of Cullasaja River now submerged by the waters of Lake Sequoyah; then South 37 degrees East with the meanders of said river 250 feet to a stake; then North 53 East 165 feet to a stake in the West margin of U. S. Highway No. 64; then with the West margin of said highway, North 8 degrees 30' West 300 feet to the BEGINNING.

Also all the contents, fixtures, furniture, equipment, etc., in the building located upon the land above described, known as the Dug-out.
This the 28th day of October, 1948.
R. B. JONES, TRUSTEE

N4-4tc-JJ-N25

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT

NORTH CAROLINA
MACON COUNTY

NOTICE

W. B. DOBSON, JR.
vs.
R. J. DOBSON, LILLIAN A. DOBSON, MARY LEE and husband Lee,
MARY ELIZABETH DOBSON and ETHEL ANN DOBSON
The defendants, R. J. Dobson, Lillian A. Dobson, Mary Lee and husband Lee, will

take notice that an action entitled as above has been commenced in the Superior Court of Macon County, North Carolina, for the foreclosure of a mortgage; and the said defendants will further take notice that they are required to appear at the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of said County in the Courthouse in Franklin, North Carolina, on the 15th day of November, 1948, and answer or demur to the complaint in said action, or the plaintiff will apply to the Court for the relief demanded in said complaint.

This 12th day of October, 1948.
J. CLINTON BROOKSHIRE,
Clerk of the Superior Court
Macon County, N. C.
O21-4tc-JJ-N11

EXECUTRIX NOTICE

Having qualified as executrix of J. E. Calloway, deceased, late Macon County, N. C., this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 26 day of October, 1949 or this notice will plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement.

This 26 day of October, 1948.
JULIA E. CALLOWAY
Executrix

O28-6tp-D2

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE

Having qualified as administrator of Nannie J. Mincey deceased late of Macon County, N. C., this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 11th day of October, 1949 or this notice will plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement.

This 11th day of October, 1948.
L. L. MINCEY,
Administrator
O21-6tp-N25

JOIN

Bryant Mutual
Burial Association

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in the County

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