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"In taking over The Pilot no changes are contemplated. We will try to keep this a good paper. We will try to make a little money for all concerned. Where there seems to be an occasion to use our influence for the public good we will try to do it. And we will treat everybody alike."
—James Boyd, May 23, 1941.

Was He Right?

Were it not for the deep sympathy that must be evoked by the contemplation of a man wrestling with his soul in the face of a stupendous decision, it would be enough to point out that the picture of Governor Adlai Stevenson, as he sought to make up his mind whether or not to be a candidate for the Democratic nomination, may be classed, without doubt, as one of the most absorbingly interesting in our political history.

But there is the man, the human being, torn by doubts, worried by commitments, only too well aware of the gravity of the alternatives, and so deeply anxious to do the thing that is right. Sympathy outweighs all else.

In an adjoining column we print Governor Stevenson's statement of his reasons for refusing the call of his party. It makes impressive reading. Particularly telling, we submit, is his reference to the need for good government and good men on the lower political levels. The governorship of a great state can hardly be so classed, except in comparison with the highest office, but Governor Stevenson was clearly intending his comment to apply all the way down the line.

It is very true that if we had good government at the grass roots, many of our problems would be solved, and good government at the top would be not only more certain but less important. Automatically, it would seem, the whole thing would start to click. Stevenson's remarks will raise the spirits of all public servants as they feel the ennobling responsibility that is theirs. But, nevertheless, there must be a man at the top who can assume the top responsibility; especially is that true today. There remains the question: should the call to this duty not supersede all others?

Whether one thinks that Stevenson was right or wrong, one cannot but honor him for his decision. It was based on a philosophy of government that is valid; it was reinforced by a profound sense of duty to the state that had chosen him and to those whom he had persuaded to work with him; beyond that, was his affectionate consideration for his family and, beyond that again, an exciting modesty, rarer than pearls. Perhaps these should not have prevailed against the call to lead his party in the possible peril of an isolationist Republican leadership; perhaps Governor Stevenson was wrong, but, if he was, he was wrong for the rightest reasons imaginable.

Time will show and it is just possible that time will play a more active role. For it is conceivable that if there is a deadlock at the convention and if, meanwhile, the nation is threatened by the wrong sort of Republican victory, there may be a sudden re-emergence of the man from Illinois. It is more than likely that the state itself, and those people and forces who played such a part in the Governor's decision not to run, would refuse to allow their needs to obstruct a higher call. It is conceivable that a draft in such force as to be irresistible may yet come to this man whose refusal of the honor has only shown more clearly how fitted he is to receive it.

STEVENSON'S STATEMENT

"I have been urged to announce my candidacy for the Democratic nomination for President, but I am a candidate for Governor of Illinois and I cannot run for two offices at the same time. Moreover, my duties as Governor do not presently afford the time to campaign for the nomination even if I wanted it.

"Others have asked me merely to say that I would accept a nomination which I did not seek. To state my position now on a prospect so remote in time and probability seems to me a little presumptuous. But I would rather presume than embarrass or mislead.

"In these somber years the hopes of mankind dwell with the President of the United States. From such dread responsibility one does not shrink in fear, self-interest or humility. But great political parties, like great nations, have no indispensable man, and last January, before I was ever considered for the Presidency, I announced that I would seek re-election as Governor of Illinois. Last week I was nominated in the Democratic primary. It is the highest office within the gift of the citizens of Illinois, and its power for good or ill over their lives is correspondingly great. No one should lightly aspire to it or lightly abandon the quest once begun.

"Hence, I have repeatedly said that I was a candidate for Governor of Illinois and had no other ambition. To this I must now add that in view of my prior commitment to run for Governor and my desire and the desire of many who have given me their help and confidence in our unfinished work in Illinois, I could not accept the nomination for any other office this sum-

mer.

"Better state government is the only sound foundation for our Federal system, and I am proud and content to stand on my commitment to ask the people of Illinois to allow me to continue for another four years in my present post.

"I cannot hope that my situation will be universally understood or my conclusions unanimously approved.

"I can hope that friends with larger ambitions for me will not think ill of me. They have paid me the greatest compliment within their gift, and they have my utmost gratitude."

The Floods Again

Sympathy for the victims of the floods now raging over a large section of the middle west is almost obscured by a feeling of angry frustration. Why should this thing happen year after year? Why can't we manage things better? Who is responsible?

These questions persistently reassert their sharp demand as we read the stories of destruction and loss and see the pictures in the papers of flooded towns, crumbling levees, and the desperate, exhausting struggle to stem the tide. They are pictures and stories that are monotonously familiar. They were in our papers last year and the year before and the years before that. They will keep on appearing, as the waters rise each spring, until the time comes when those who can bring order out of this chaos, are able to set in motion the wheels to stop and stem and control the flooding Missouri and its tributaries, until somebody—perhaps we should say: all of us decide that the job is going to be done.

What is wrong? Why hasn't something been done before? There seem to be a good many things to blame. Authority is vested in several bureaus, none of whom agree on the remedy. The Army Engineers, the Department of the Interior and other government agencies have big fingers in the pie. Then there is Congress and the individual congressmen who are out after their own pet projects or sections and against the other fellow's. Nobody wants to give up any of his prerogatives: nobody is willing to back down in favor of someone else. But back of all this is perhaps a larger stumbling block. This is the bog of socialism. Every time it looks as if an overall plan might be possible, somebody raises the cry of "socialism!"

The Missouri Valley Authority, modelled on the Tennessee Valley flood-control system, has a plan to harness the Muddy Mo. It would seem that with the evidence before us of the extraordinary success of TVA in saving thousands of acres of farmlands and also furnishing the current to carry out the production miracles of today, not otherwise possible, this example would be immediately followed. No private companies could have created TVA and none could create an MVA, stretching over many states and draining the lands of many more. Yet, because of this unrealistic fear of socialism, nothing is done and the floods go on.

This is not sensible. It is insanely wasteful to go on and on letting half our country wash away, losing millions of dollars worth of crops and livestock and homes and plants. More, the moral effect, in the face of the world need, let alone our own, is destructive of confidence in our ability and in our good sense. The picture of the U. S. A., spread over the world by Russia: that we are a wasteful, uncontrolled, immature and decadent country is given too solid a foundation against the background of the Missouri floods.

Surely it is time to stop fighting amongst ourselves over who is to do this work of control, and to stop scaring ourselves out of what must be done by needless nightmares. It is time to get to work and get results. Let the floods be stopped: may 1952 see the last crest moving down over the famished, flooded countryside.

They're Saying

Eisenhower's victory in New Jersey was important on two counts:

1. In that heavily industrialized state he won over Taft by a larger margin than in New Hampshire;

2. Although Taft captured 40 per cent of the Republican votes cast, bad weather cut the voter turnout and most observers expected Taft to run best under "small turnout" conditions.

Eisenhower's strong support in New Jersey focuses attention on a decision the general announced last week. He will not, he said, completely shed his military uniform before his Republican brethren decide whether to drape him out in their regal robes this Summer.

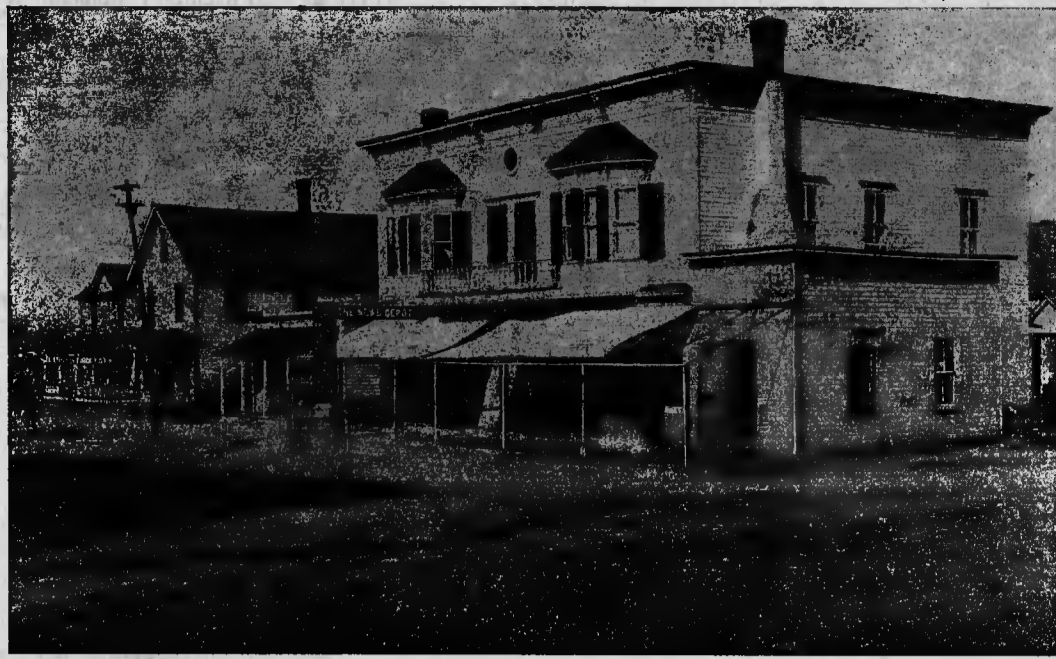
The wisdom of this move is questionable. If, in so doing, Eisenhower also decides wearing the uniform restricts his activities as a candidate or limits his expression of opinion between the time he hits home shore and the July convention, then it may be very unwise.

The people—and that includes Republicans, Democrats and independents—need very much to know what Eisenhower thinks. And they deserve to see and hear him say it in person. Some, like Senator Taft, want this for campaign purposes, others want to know before they adopt Eisenhower as a candidate.

They should know. The American tradition calls for the give and take of political campaigning in an election year. By standing too much aloof Eisenhower may not be playing fair with his own folks.

The general should doff his uniform and resign completely from the military when he leaves Europe next month. He has promised to do this if nominated. He should do it before in order to make himself free as a private citizen to speak up in the public forum with no strings attached. —Greensboro Daily News

No. 1—Do You Know Your "Old Southern Pines?"



Can you identify the picture above, and tell about when it was made? This is the first of a series of old copperplates The Pilot owns, used for advertising booklets long ago. We'll run one each week, asking old-timers to send in their information. Keep the pictures each week, so

you can check the identifications as they come in.

No. 1 should be easy, as it shows a sign, "The News Depot"—forerunner of which store in present-day Southern Pines?

Grains of Sand

We had so many favorable comments last week on the new one-way traffic—with practically none that were unfavorable—that we just couldn't print them all.

One of those which got crowded out was that of our friend "Red" Overton, who was one of the most enthusiastic of our commentators. Along with his enthusiasm for the new traffic pattern, Red had some good suggestions for additional improvement.

One of them was for signs to help drivers entering town from the south, wanting to go to Pinehurst or beyond. They could, he thought be directed from US Highway 1 to Bennett street south of town, and miss the downtown traffic, going directly to Pennsylvania avenue.

*This would ease the traffic load on Broad, and get the cars through to the Midland road in double-quick time.

Others who have expressed their pleasure in the new traffic arrangement include Herbert Cameron, Walter Harper (who noted that many more cars are already using Bennett street than before), Joe Warren, Remond Tyler and Bill Heller who frankly said he hadn't thought before that he would like it. When he saw how well it was working, he changed his mind.

He thinks it would be even better if people would learn to ease onto the side where they are planning to park, instead of abruptly moving over, for instance, from the curbside flow of traffic to park by the railroad.

Redmond Tyler wants an improvement, too. He thinks it should be settled now which has the right of way at intersections—the north-south traffic, or the east-west traffic. People are apt to think that the north-south has right of way, since it is through traffic—yet east-west people caught on the railroad track might find themselves in a dangerous position.

We agree with him that this is important, and hope a decision is made. Maybe it already is, and we just haven't heard. How about it, Mayor Chan?

Then comes another good suggestion, from another source—that the State, which is installing numerous highway improvements these days, be requested to build a truck route to divert this heavy traffic from US 1 through town. A truck route could branch off from the highway at Niagara, come along the old Niagara road into town and through the ravine between Southern Pines and West Southern Pines, straight on south to Aberdeen.

The originator of this plan lives on May street, which coincides with US Highway 1 in Southern Pines.

He said the constant pounding of the trucks is pretty frightful along that pretty thoroughfare, a residential street on which our schools are also located.

All of these plans and others some of our citizens are thinking and talking about, are in line with the modern idea of speeding through traffic through, and heavy traffic around, a town—keeping both of them clear of the local traffic, making driving easier in town and saving wear and tear on one or two particular streets.

A little girl who has just moved to Southern Pines is having her first experience at playing with other white children. Five-year-old Andrea Laura DeBruin recently arrived with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Gerard DeBruin, from the Virgin Islands, where for three years Andrea Laura was

shined up to the little girl right away and she to him. . . . When the time came to leave, she burst into loud wails, hung on tight and could hardly be pried loose!

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New Elections

Board Sworn In

New members of the Moore County board of elections were sworn in Saturday, April 12, by C. C. Kennedy, clerk of court. They are Sam C. Riddle of Carthage, Democrat and former board member; Hubert McCaskill of Pinehurst, alternate choice of the county Democratic committee, who was commissioned after W. Lamont Brown withdrew to file for solicitor of recorders court; and L. G. Thomas, new Republican member.

In an organization meeting, Mr. Riddle was re-elected chairman and Mr. McCaskill was elected secretary. The board named election officials for the Democratic primary in May, as reported in last week's paper.

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