

Other Editors

U. S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT

Choosing A President

An editorial on this page on Jan. 11, 1960, expressed the view that the existing method of choosing a President was not satisfactory. At that time, opinion had not yet crystallized as to who the Democratic or Republican candidates would be. The analysis, therefore, concerned primarily the method used in choosing a President rather than national issues. The editorial said:

"Our present system of choosing candidates for the Presidency relies on luck and chance."

"America has been lucky, generally speaking, in her selection of Presidents, but the sad truth is that several Presidents have not been able to do in their first term as good a job as in their second term."

"This is because the first term is often taken up largely with learning procedures and the background of national and international problems. . . ."

"Some of our Presidents, of course, have had legislative experience in Congress, but it is unfortunately true that no man who has been leader of his party in either House or the Senate has been nominated for the Presidency in the last half-century. . . ."

"Wouldn't it be much better if we had a modified form of the parliamentary system, wherein a Prime Minister must earn his spurs in years of legislative combat? In most countries, like England and Canada, this means a day-by-day interrogation and response on every kind of problem of executive administration."

"The two men in America who today are qualified for the Presidency by experience comparable to that of parliamentary leaders abroad are Vice President Richard Nixon, Republican and Senator Lyndon Johnson of Texas, Democrat. Mr. Nixon had served two terms in the House of Representatives and two years as a Senator when he was elected Vice President. He has been an unofficial spokesman of his party in Congress during the last seven years, identifying the role of the Vice Presidency more with party leadership than ever before. In addition, Mr. Nixon not only has had frequent opportunities to sit with the President and his Cabinet and executive organizations like the National Security Council, but he has served effectively as liaison between the White House and Congress."

"Senator Johnson has shown the kind of skill and masterful knowl-

edge in handling controversial legislation that is exhibited by the parliamentary leaders in other countries. No one else being prominently mentioned today for the Democratic nomination has had similar training. Mr. Johnson, to be sure, lacks administrative experience, but, if America had adopted some form of parliamentary government, a Senate leader like Mr. Johnson would have had plenty of opportunity to become familiar with executive problems."

This country is lucky again, President Johnson today brings to the White House many years of leadership experience in Congress.

But who would succeed him in an emergency? There is no Vice President now. Nobody is giving his full time to the Cabinet meetings and conferences such as those which Mr. Johnson attended.

A constitutional amendment is needed to require that Congress in joint session shall immediately elect a Vice President when a vacancy occurs in that office. He should be chosen not from the Cabinet but from the membership of Congress itself. He should be a man trained in a leadership position.

Sooner or later, as Woodrow Wilson wrote in his letter to Congress a few days before he was inaugurated as President in 1913, the American people must consider some change in their system whereby a President is "made answerable to opinion in a somewhat more informal and intimate fashion—answerable, it may be, to the houses whom he seeks to lead, either personally or through a Cabinet, as well as to the people for whom they speak." Mr. Wilson added:

"But that is a matter to be worked out—as it inevitably will be—in some natural American way which we cannot yet even predict."

The time is ripe for a fundamental change. While Congress is elected by the people, Cabinet officers are not. We have, moreover, in recent years suffered from a divided government. There are four blocs in Congress rather than two parties.

It is necessary to establish party responsibility. This can be done by eliminating the fixed dates of elections and giving the people an opportunity to vote into power a new President or a new Congress whenever a two-thirds majority in Congress declares that an impasse between the executive and legislative branch has occurred. It is then that

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MERIDEN (Conn.) MORNING RECORD

A Wise Decision

Sitting in Wallingford, Circuit Court Judge George Wise decided this week to send a 16-year-old boy to jail . . . not to stay, but to visit the alcoholic ward.

"I want you to observe what you are headed for," the judge told the youth . . .

Judge Wise also imposed a \$15 fine after finding the defendant

an election by the people should be held. The people shouldn't be asked to wait two or three years to record their decision on a major issue.

This is a rapidly moving age, and the people should always have instant control over the public officials who are chosen to govern them.

guilty of intoxication, but he indicated he expected what the boy will see at New Haven to have a much greater impact.

The judge made clear that he will be harsh on anyone convicted of providing liquor to minors. While he didn't say so, perhaps he intends to send these people to jail

. . . not to visit the alcoholic ward, but as guests to the state.

With so many youths now appearing in courts because of drinking, Judge Wise's decision is of particular interest as it concerns both the youths and those who supply them with liquor.

ET TU, CAESAR?

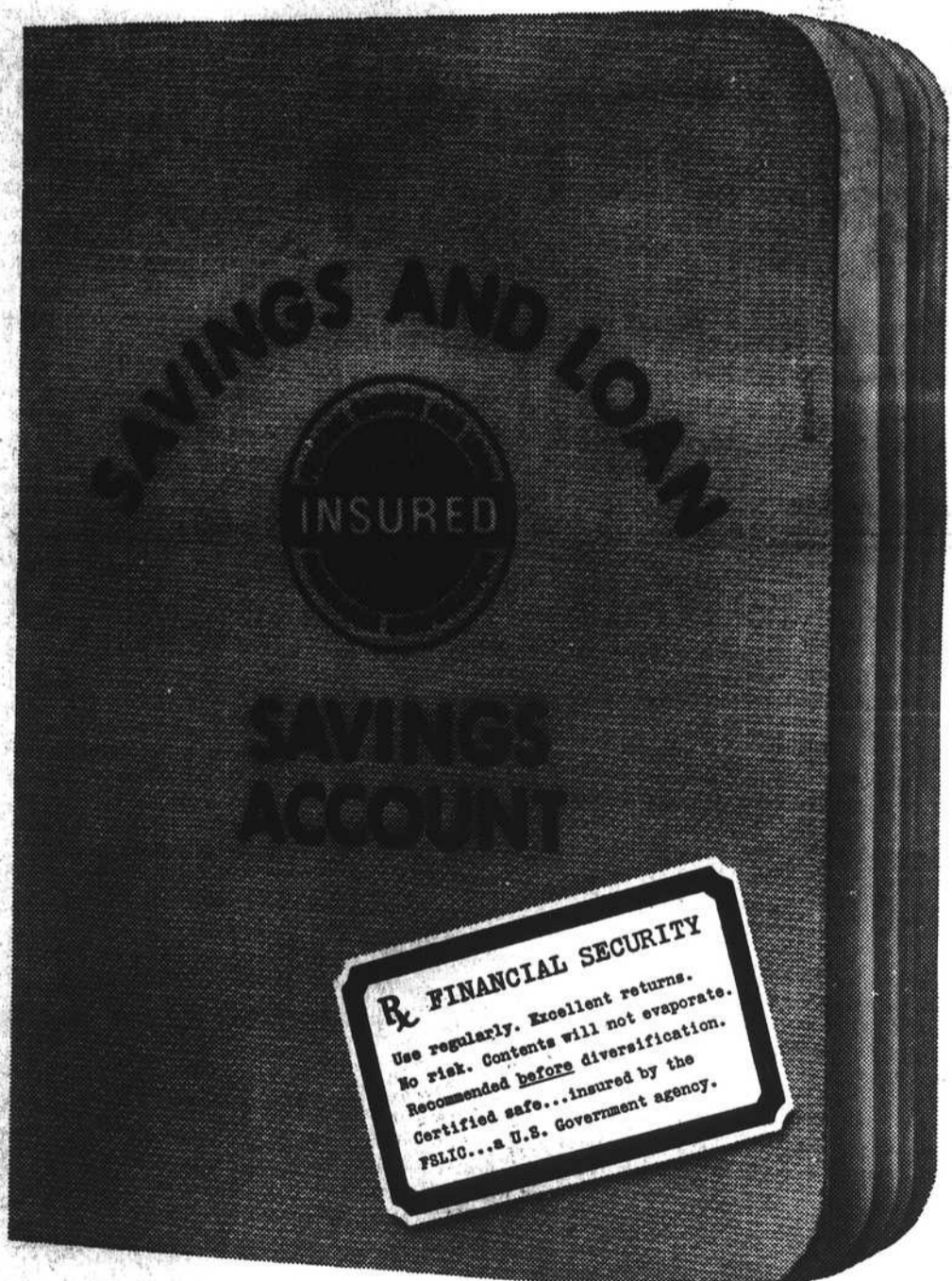
Last week Kinston police charged a Camp Lejeune Marine with driving without a license and driving an improperly licensed vehicle. His name was Julius Caesar Jr.

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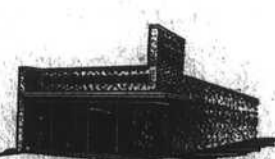
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