

**MAN WANTED**

**JOHN J. SYNON**

On August 19, the voters of the State of Virginia laid the ghost of what once was the 20th Century's finest, almost-noble, American political organization: The Byrd Machine.

On that day, and for the first time in a generation, the Democratic voters of the Old Dominion chose as their gubernatorial nominee someone other than a Byrd-Organization candidate.

Of the two men who contended for the nomination, one was a big-mouthed, demagogic, labor-lawyer type. The other, a political swaddling whose only claim to recognition is dubious: He was a personal friend of Jack Kennedy.

And what of the Byrd-man? He wasn't. The August 19 election was but a run-off, really. In the June primary, the "Byrd" candidate — talking out of both

sides of his mouth — ran a miserable third.

Thus, what once was the very kernel of Southern character is no more; the philistines have overrun the citadel.

Eight years ago, a political analyst wrote out the situation as it then existed in Virginia politics and predicted, unless the organization came back to principle, it would collapse.

There was reason for the analysis. It had been little noticed by the press, but a shift of two per cent in that year's (1961) gubernatorial election would have seen the defeat of the Byrd candidate. Subsequently, in 1965, the now-outgoing Mills Godwin won the seat even handily, with a minority of the votes cast.

In any event, the analysis was

presented to Senator Byrd, in 1962, while he sat as an honored guest and at ease in the governor's mansion on Virginia's Inauguration Morning; the morning Albertus Harrison, the two-per-cent governor, was sworn in. Besides the Old Senator, the gathering included the governor-elect (who, having business on the capital steps, soon left to preen; Young Harry (now U. S. Senator Harry F. Byrd, Jr.); the then-chairman of the Third (Richmond) District Democratic Central Committee; and the analyst. The five of them.

Typically, Harry Byrd saw the validity of the arguments made and offered to personally underwrite the effort needed to stem the flow of things. Having made his offer, the tired old man took off for the festivities. On leaving, he said: "Young Harry will work out the details."

And that was the end of that; nothing ever came of it.

The Byrd Organization, along with the wind, has gone. What happened?

It is simple enough. At its best, the organization was both a temporal and spiritual thing. Its spirit was the will of the people of Virginia as embodied in the Old Senator. Its temporal power came from monied individuals — "business leaders", as they like to be called. For 40 years, working in tandem, the two gave Virginia such a government as was the envy of every other State.

Then, one day in 1956, some 29 of these "business leaders" came in a group to tell their leader they would no longer support him if he persisted in his policy of Massive Resistance To Racial Integration. To that ultimatum, Byrd replied: "I can't do it alone."

The Byrd Organization (as opposed to Harry Byrd, himself)

**SENATOR SAM ERVIN SAYS**



With so many problems which press for attention, Congress is not prone to give serious consideration to any measure establishing the legal machinery to deal with a Constitutional Convention until it must. That time, however, seems near at hand.

On May 1, Iowa became the 33rd state to request a convention to amend the Constitution. With several of the remaining 17 State legislatures still in session, and Delaware's legislature scheduled to convene in October, there is a possibility that the 34th State may call for such a convention soon. Congress will then be faced with the necessity of carrying out the provisions of the Constitution in respect to a never-before-used amendment process.

began to die that day.

In 1964, the Noble Roman made his last bid for a seat in the United States Senate. He carried every county in the state. This past June, in contrast, the gubernatorial candidate who shouldered Byrd Machine's tattered gonfalon, polled but one sixteenth of the potential vote, about six per cent (actually, 23 per cent of those who voted.)

That, it seems to me, should be a lesson for political aspirants with guts, youth, and adherence to the principles the Old Senator espoused. The people have not changed.

There is a job open.

Recognizing that the need for the establishment of orderly procedures relating to such a call might be needed, I introduced a bill in the 90th Congress to provide rules governing the call and operating of such a national convention.

No action was taken on my measure that session. Again on a prolonged debate to delay or ignore such a call. This, in my judgment, could weaken the doctrine of "separation of powers" by thwarting the mandate of the Constitution which permits two methods of amending the Constitution. These unequal methods are by amendments adopted by two-thirds of the members of Congress, and ratified by three-fourths of the States; and by application of the legislatures of two-thirds of the States to Congress which shall call a convention for proposing amendments and the ratification thereof by three-fourths of the States.

The impetus for the petitions by the States who now urge a constitutional convention appears to be the decisions of the Supreme Court rendered in the reapportionment cases and the subsequent controversy which these decisions prompted. Congress has thus far taken no action which assures that an amendment will be submitted to the States to overrule these reapportionment decisions, although the Senate came close to achieving the necessary two-thirds vote on the 1965 and 1966 resolutions offered on this subject. Now, 33 State legislatures have used the alternative method to call for amendment of the Constitution.

The measure which I have introduced in no way seeks to resolve the substantive aspects of apportionment of state legislatures. Instead, it deals with convention petitions, their effective period, their transmittal to Congress, their rescission, the Congressional call, the selection of delegates, the selection of the presiding officer, the manner of voting, the proposal of amendments, and the termination of such a body. My bill would establish an orderly procedure so that if Congress is faced with a convention call, it may deal with it by known procedures.

The enactment of such a bill, which has received careful committee study, would eliminate much of the procedural darkness which now surrounds any convention call.

**SHOULD HAVE STAYED**

Last Thursday at about 10:45 Henry Earl Stocks of 1405 Centennial Trail, Kinston, struck the parked car of Stanly Heath at 313 East Lenoir Street, inflicting on both cars damage estimated at only \$125, but he made the mistake of leaving, resulting in his indictment for drunken driving, reckless driving and leaving the scene of an accident.

**BAD WEEKEND FOR HUBERT**

Hubert Thompson of Deep Run route 1 was booked at the police station in Kinston over the weekend on charges of drunken driving and driving without a driver's license and at the sheriff's office he was booked on charge of assault with a deadly weapon.

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