

WASHINGTON OBSERVER

NEWSLETTER

"They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety"

—BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

NUMBER 23

AUGUST 1, 1966

VIRGINIA PRIMARIES - MYTH & REALITY

Few electoral exercises in recent years have produced more nonsensical myths than has the recently concluded Democratic Primary in Virginia. Among the more prominent myths is that most widely promulgated by the press and which concerns the demise of the so-called "Byrd Machine." This canard comes under the myth heading simply because there has never been such a thing as a "Byrd Machine." Harry Flood Byrd, who now lies dying and deep in a coma, was Virginia's most respected figure. As such he was a moral force with great influence in the affairs of his state, as indeed he was in the affairs of the nation. But to allege that he ran anything so sordid as a political "machine" with all of the inferences of corruption and scandal which attach themselves to the word is to slander both the man and the State.

Myth number two concerns George Rawlings, Jr., the extremely wealthy, extremely liberal and extremely opportunistic young Fredericksburg attorney who beat "Judge" Howard Worth Smith, long-time Chairman of the House Rules Committee, in a race that went down to the wire and resulted in a whisker-thin margin (some 600 votes) for Rawlings. It has been widely reported that Rawlings' victory was an expression of voter discontent with Smith's conservatism and that it means that Virginia is now turning liberal. It means no such thing.

In 1963 Rawlings won a tightly contested primary for the State House of Delegates. His platform consisted of promises to bring to reality a local dam—the Salem Church Dam) which has been proposed and rejected numberless times. The promise was sheer demagogery since Rawlings knew that this Dam had no chance of ever being built, being unnecessary and largely a boondoggle. But the issue had voter appeal since the dam would be an economic boon to the area, and Rawlings made the most of it.

After his election to the House of Delegates, Rawlings went on to Richmond where he quickly won for himself a reputation of being the most far-left member of the House of Delegates.

Earlier this year Big Labor began casting about for a candidate to oppose "Judge" Smith who it had decided to make an all-out effort to unseat. Rawlings was their boy. But another candidate was in the wings and he threatened to take enough voters away from Rawlings

in his own backyard to give Smith a decisive edge (he would have, considering Rawlings almost non-existent plurality). This candidate, a Fredericksburg druggist, was therefore approached and offered a key spot—and a well-paying one—in the Rawlings campaign organization. He then withdrew as a serious candidate.

With the way cleared Rawlings then proceeded to conduct a razzle-dazzle campaign devoid of any discussion of issues that would tag him as the left-winger he is. He also did his best, for reasons not known, to conceal his personal wealth from the voters. Being nearly half the age of "Judge" Smith, Rawlings was able to cover the vast 8th Congressional District like a blanket. With heavy union financing he was also able to get his name before the voters and keep it there.

The real reason for Rawlings' victory, however, lay in the fact that the Congressional District had been re-districted with part of suburban, and largely liberal, Fairfax County added to it. This made the difference. Without this liberal territory added Smith would have won handily. Moreover, Conservatives and Republicans did their best to either keep conservative Democrats from the polls or to have them vote for Rawlings. Thus Smith's defeat had nothing to do with the conservative vs. liberal issue in Virginia.

Rawlings' Republican opponent, William Scott, is a proven vote-getter. He is given a good chance of defeating Rawlings in November. *If conservatives—Republican and Democrat—work together, he will.*

CONCEALED WEAPONS OR CONCEALED REPORTS?

It is not widely known here but last year investigators from Sen. Tom Dodd's subcommittee studying gun-laws were sent into the Watts area following the riots there. The investigators submitted a report said to be loaded with dynamite. The report, however, was never released. Reason? *White House orders.*

"JET" SET GOSSIP

Jet magazine's "Paris Scratchpad" column, in the July 7, 1966 issue, contained a couple of items which merit mention outside the parochial circulation of that publication.

Scratchpad's writer, Charles L. Sanders, scathed critics of the late Dr. W. E. B. DuBois with invective about

Joe McCarthy and John Birchites. Sanders then retorted: "Well, Dr. DuBois might've turned 'Red' when he was 90 years old, but during all those other years he was among the 'Blackest' of all those who fought to make 'Blackness' the beautiful thing that everybody's saying it is today."

"Might've" turned Red? DuBois publicly joined the Communist Party, U.S.A., shortly before he died in self-imposed exile in Ghana as the guest of the Red dictator, Kwame Nkrumah. This was heralded on the front page of *The Worker*, in what seemed to be a betrayal of the liberal friends who had vouched for his sincere liberalism for decades. But this publicized joining of the Party at age 90 actually served to preclude investigation of the Red connections of DuBois—which would reveal testimony that he was a covert member of the CPUSA for many years. Further, DuBois was a member of the Socialist Party before the Communist Party came into existence in this country.

Scratchpad writer Sanders also noted that he had received a postcard from Madrid, from Langston Hughes, "who's ended a trans-Africa tour for Lyndon and now heads back to his typewriter in New York." Hughes apparently desires maximum publicity exposure in the Negro press, for in this same issue of *Jet*, in the "New York Beat" column, one learns that "Playwright-poet Langston Hughes reports from Africa that the continent is really swinging these days."

Evidently Hughes desires no exposure of his activities outside this friendly segment of the press, however, for we find no such items planted in regular news channels. This is understandable, since other readers might be appalled to find that this long-time Communist has been on an official "trans-Africa tour for Lyndon."

The Committee on Un-American Activities reported to the House of Representatives, while Lyndon was a member of that body, that Langston Hughes was a "publicly avowed member" of the Communist Party. Hughes, whose so-called poem, "Goodbye, Christ," is a classic of Black Bolshevik "literature," was blatantly pro-Soviet long before the civil rights movement reached its present level of audacity.

That Lyndon would send a top-rung Communist to tour Africa in behalf of the United States is not incongruous with the "style" of the Great Society.

One wonders, however, why the anti-Communist government of Spain would issue a visa to Hughes, who was a leader of the anti-Franco agitation in America during the Spanish Civil War, in behalf of the Red monarchy.

FLY NOW PAY NEVER

Here's how travel is sometimes arranged in the Great Society, so that persons who otherwise might not be able to afford a trip to Washington to attend one of those national conferences with the sponsorship of the White House may suddenly get a ticket and sometimes have hotel bills and meals all

paid for.

Asked about reports of her personal solicitation of funds from big business for delegates' transportation expenses to the recent National Youth Conference on Natural Beauty and Conservation, Mrs. Diana MacArthur, niece of Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson, told how she amassed \$250,000.

Mrs. MacArthur said she told the firms which she was soliciting that their contribution would be made to the conference but their checks should be made out to the Girl Scouts of America, which was the organization that had been given the responsibility for management of this conference. The GSA was one of the cooperating organizations. Mrs. MacArthur said she was serving in this effort while on annual leave from her regular job as director of the Division of Private and International Organizations for the Peace Corps. She said she collected the funds as a member of the national public relations committee of the Girl Scouts. She is extremely interested in this organization and in youth. She has a daughter in the GSA and a son in Boy Scouts.

The conference fitted into the campaign for beauty and conservation which Mrs. Johnson as First Lady of the Land has been conducting with widespread results throughout the Nation.

Mrs. MacArthur said the firms from which she collected could charge their contribution off in compiling income taxes. At least one of those firms, U.S. Steel Corporation, when contacted about this, said they had not yet determined if they could charge this off.

"Who asked you to pay part of the travel expenses of delegates to the conference?" an official of the corporation was asked.

"Mrs. Diana MacArthur," he replied.

"Did you know who she was?" "Of course we did," he rejoined.

Other firms in the big business world from whom Mrs. MacArthur obtained funds for this purpose were, according to her, Campbell Soup, Coca Cola, Eastman Kodak, Hoover Foundation (Hoover vacuum cleaners), Texaco, Inc., Xerox Corporation.

Several of these firms have contracts with the Department of Defense where Mrs. MacArthur's husband, Dr. Donald MacArthur, is deputy director of Defense Research and Engineering for Chemistry and Materials.

Dr. and Mrs. Donald MacArthur together organized scientists and engineers for Johnson during the last presidential campaign.

Mrs. MacArthur said that part of the money she collected went to pay for delegates' transportation and part for the salary of a coordinator. Some of the money which was left over from the conference will go to pay the salary of another coordinator who will soon start on her duties in carrying out the purposes of the conference.

Other large corporations recently helped defray the expenses of impoverished delegates and others to at-

tend the White House Conference, "To Fulfill These Rights," held here June 1 and 2. There many of the delegates to the civil rights conference, whose bills at the Sheraton Park Hotel in Washington were paid, merely signed their names to the bill on leaving. Several contacted then said they did pay \$25 for meals. Among the big firms contributing to those costs were Textron, International Business Machines, Lockheed, Time, Inc. Not all of the contributions came from management alone. United Steel Workers and the AFL-CIO also contributed.

ESCALATION - -

LBJ STYLE

It is the consensus of the top-most insiders of the Nation that the U.S. will be at war with Red China within two years. The top insiders are not only the ranking politicians, military leaders and high civilian government officials, but VIP's in the private sector who are members of the National Defense Executive Reserve who have designated war-time responsibilities; this elite corps consists of bankers, industrialists, economists, scientists, engineers and professional management experts.

A reappraisal of the Asian situation by the Pentagon and the intelligence services has resulted in augmenting the personnel of the Executive Reserve from 3,430 to 5,151 members since the first of this year and reorienting war preparations plans to fight a five-year war instead of a three-year war on an all-out basis.

As a result of Defense Secretary Robert McNamara's cutback policies the national stockpile of strategic and critical war materials has been woefully depleted below essential requirements to fight even a three-year war let alone a five-year war. The General Services Administration is now attempting to rapidly beef up its inventories by competing in the open market in a booming economy, thus adding to the spiraling inflation that will inevitably lead to wage-price controls within six months, according to planning experts who have testified in closed-door sessions of the Senate-House Joint Defense Production Committee.

There is currently a series of secret briefings of the Executive Reserve officials and experts, and many of the Executive Reserve members presently serving "warm up" tours of active duty in their designated war-time jobs; these civilian reservists fill newly created war-time jobs but replace military personnel in procurement and other administrative functions in a big-scale war now in the advance planning stage. For example, a certain Army general now in charge of procurement branch, who has an outstanding record as a combat regimental commander in World War II and as a combat divisional commander in the Korean war, is designated as a combat corps commander in the upcoming Sino-American war. His wartime civilian replacement is already serving as his assistant at \$27,000 per year—no more "dollar-a-year men!"

ALL THE PROPAGANDA FIT TO PRINT

The Senate Internal Security Subcommittee is now conducting a very hush-hush investigation to determine whether the *New York Times* is being used as a propaganda outlet by Red China in consonance with Canadian peace feelers in Hanoi.

Seymour Topping, the Times' correspondent in Hong Kong, has been filing stories minimizing the danger of war with Red China while his wife is currently in Peking and his father-in-law is in Hanoi.

Topping's father-in-law is Chester Ronning, Canada's special emissary to Hanoi on a mission to end hostilities. The 71-year-old China-born retired diplomat, Ronning, reported to Assistant Secretary of State William Bundy that Communist China has no plans to intervene in Vietnam despite recent threats. Ronning met with Bundy recently in Ottawa.

The Chinese-speaking former diplomat was charge d'affaires in Peking when the Reds took over in 1949. He told Bundy that he plans to join his daughter, Audrey, wife of newsman Topping; she still has her Canadian citizenship and is presently touring China, although her husband cannot. She is welcomed by Red Chinese officials; she will write a series of articles for the *New York Times* when she returns, emphasizing the crucial need to bring Red China into the United Nations organization. And her father, Chester Ronning, is not new to the business of trying to act as a catalyst between Red China and the U.S. Last year Ronning introduced Chinese Foreign Minister Chen Yi to U.S. Ambassador Averell Harriman at Geneva. Ronning is a life-long socialist, which in itself would be enough to make him acceptable to Peking; he is in constant direct communication with Chen Yi whom he has known for many years. He told Bundy that the Vietnam war must be brought to a halt with all possible speed to ameliorate the tension between Peking and Washington. He has been on two peace-feeling missions to the North Vietnamese capital of Hanoi at the request of Canadian External Affairs Minister Paul Martin. Topping's dispatches from Hong Kong reflect the thinking of his wife and father-in-law, according to the Senate probers, who know from previous investigations that Communist leaders have used the *New York Times* as a propaganda vehicle at crucial moments of decision-making by the U.S.

FINED \$1 MILLION FOR CONTEMPT

Lyndon Johnson, on Tuesday afternoon, July 12, 1960, lured Jack and Bobby Kennedy into a Los Angeles hotel room which was packed with a Johnson cheering section, and treated the stunned youngsters to the wickedest verbal rawhiding either of them ever publicly suffered. Liberal columnist Murray Kempton reported: "Flogged and whimpering, Kennedy bit it off and departed. . . . The Kennedy boys are essentially punks."

Thought you would be interested in this article

On Wednesday night, July 13, 1960, the elder of the same two Kennedy "punks" was declared to be the presidential nominee of the Democratic Party.

Papa Joe Kennedy, who was a hard-nosed old rawhider in his own right, immediately called Johnson to notify him in language LBJ could understand that if he wanted the No. 2 spot on the ticket, he would have to move fast. Then he coldly informed LBJ of exactly what he would have to do, and why, if he wished to get the Kennedy nod. Old Joe vengefully set the terms so high that he really did not expect the mean-tempered Texan to be able to meet them.

But LBJ, as usual, had an ace in the hole: he had Bobby Baker. And Bobby Baker had just the contacts needed to save the Veep's post for "The Leader." He got on the phone and set some wheels in motion.

Things began to happen. Later that night, in New Orleans, a tough-looking hoodlum carrying a gun in an armpit holster and a small valise in his hand boarded a first-class jet for Los Angeles.

Arriving in L.A., the hood taxied straight to the Mauritania Apartment House, and then rode the fast elevator to the penthouse.

John F. Kennedy, the Democratic candidate, personally shot the bolts back and let him in. When the hood came out, with little time lost, he still had the armpit gun, but was no longer carrying the traveling bag.

Very shortly thereafter, this being Thursday morning, July 14, the Democratic candidate arrived at the Johnson suite in the Biltmore Hotel and formally offered the No. 2 spot on the Democratic presidential ticket to the rough-tongued bully who had publicly rawhided him in the same hotel on Tuesday afternoon. His offer was instantly and formally accepted.

Such is politics.

Much of this tale is fact, and is on the record. Some of it is political gossip, and is not susceptible to proof. But it all fits a pattern of probability, and thereby—while entertaining you—may at the same time serve to throw a belated light on a dark question: *How did Lyndon Johnson succeed overnight in purging himself of Kennedy hatred?*

The Washington insiders who whisper this story claim that the satchel from New Orleans contained \$1 million in big bills—gamblers' "casino-skim-off" money, acquired in Las Vegas and stashed away in New Orleans. Bobby Baker had known just who to call upon among his Mafia friends to meet the challenge of Old Joe's vindictive demand.

Pierre Salinger, a JFK confidant, is just now publishing his book about the martyred president. It will be called *With Kennedy*.

In his account and recital, Salinger says that a couple of days after the convention he personally tried to clear up the dark question of how Lyndon Baines Johnson came to be forgiven and included.

Salinger confidentially quizzed the Candidate, himself.

Kennedy's cryptic reply has puzzled Pierre ever since: "The whole story will never be known. And it's just as well that it won't be."

Crystal Ball



The Smithsonian Institution in Washington owns what is unquestionably the world's

largest and most valuable polished ball of flawless crystal in existence. Large as a beachball, this oriental gemcutter's masterpiece formerly was on display in the gallery devoted to gems and minerals. It was removed to make room for fresh exhibits, and now rests in one of the museum's storage vaults.

This Nation's destiny might be better served if the giant ball were to be dusted off and again be made available for official gazing by our leaders and policy makers. These bewildered gents seem badly to need a device which will enable them to focus on the broad picture. Especially do the guiders of our ship of state seem to lack a clear-window view into the future.

A recent example of the consternation which can be caused by clouded vision and official myopia was the flabbergasted dismay which in mid-July prevailed among the Nation's foreign policy solons. Our schemers stood aghast at the thunderclap decision of the World Court, which rejected a proposal of the United Nations designed to gain a moral cover for a long-planned U.N.-U.S. military crusade against the Republic of South Africa.

Even our own modest-sized crystal ball revealed that the U.N. would not find it quite so easy to control decisions of the World Court as it has had in dictating U.S. Supreme Court decisions in recent years.

* * * *

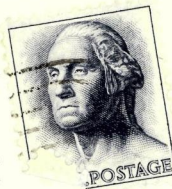
A showdown between Cuba and the U.S. over Guantanamo is in the offing. Preparations for attack have been underway there for several months. Fast and furious increased pace of missile-site construction ringing Gitmo suggests that Soviet showdown timing has been advanced.

Are we once again to have a replay of the '62 missile crisis, occurring just before our November elections? Castro has secretly visited Moscow, and has received his detailed instructions. Guantanamo shortly will become a word increasingly well known to war-worried and wearied Americans.

The WASHINGTON OBSERVER NEWSLETTER is published semi-monthly except March 1, June 1, September 1 and December 1 when subscribers receive the quarterly magazine, THE AMERICAN MERCURY. Subscription rate for the MERCURY/OBSERVER package: \$10 for one year, \$15 for two years, \$20 for three years. Extra copies of the OBSERVER, 10c each. Permission to quote granted provided the OBSERVER is given as the source. Editor, Lee Roberts, P.O. Box 9061, Washington, D. C. 20003. Send all business correspondence to P.O. Box 7213, Houston, Texas 77008.

Mrs. Steve Gavin
380 Argyle Avenue
Elmhurst, Illinois

[Handwritten scribble]



Mr. Sylvia Meagher
c/o Minority of One
P.O. Box 544
155 Pennington Ave.
Passaic
N. J.