

DREW PEARSON

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LBJ, Morse Show Friendly Rivalry

WASHINGTON—Two of the strongest-willed men in Washington are Lyndon B. Johnson of Texas and Wayne Morse of Oregon. They are men who disagree on a lot of things publicly but agree on even more things privately. They also have a lot of respect for each other.

When Morse was running for re-election 12 years ago,

Lyndon Johnson then majority leader of the Senate, attended a \$50 fund-raising luncheon for him and made a brief speech.

“When Wayne was a Republican,”

he said, “He came to Texas to campaign against me. He reminded Texans that under the constitution they were entitled to two representatives in the U. S. Senate, but had none.

“‘One of your Senators, Price Daniel,’ Wayne told them, ‘represents the oil companies. The other Senator, Lyndon Johnson,’ Wayne said, ‘represents only himself.’

“But I want Wayne to know that I’m willing to come to Oregon to campaign either for him or against him,” concluded Johnson, “whichever will help him most.”

Twelve years have passed since then and 24 years since Morse was elected to the Senate. Once again, he is up for renomination in a primary vote next week.

Since their differences of 12 years ago there have been more differences over the war in Vietnam, but with many agreements over labor problems and education. Johnson has called on Morse to act as mediator in five vitally important labor disputes, at least one of which earned Morse the bitter opposition of the machinists, though the respect of most other labor leaders.

The President has also called on Morse to pilot his education legislation—the most far-reaching in American his-



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tory—through the Senate.

Last December, after Morse passed the education bill by an overwhelming vote, the President called him to the White House to thank him.

“I want you to know,” he announced to assembled senators, “that I don’t engage in primaries. But I’m a Morse man. Out in Oregon they say there will always be Wayne Morse.”

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IF A COMMITTEE of Pulit-

zer Prize winners undertakes a scrutiny of big spending in elections, one book it should read is “Kennedy Campaigning” by Murray D. Levin, a professor of government at Boston University. We also recommend this to those who are interested in free elections.

It may be a difficult book to purchase. The Kennedy family almost succeeded in suppressing it altogether and there are only a few copies at the bookstores.

They threatened to sue the Beacon Press and brought terrific pressure through contributors to the Unitarian Universalist Church (which owns Beacon Press) to keep the book from being published.

“They threatened to sue if we published the book,” said Gobin Stair, director of Beacon Press. “We published the book anyway, and they did not sue.”

What Mr. Stair did not mention was that the Kennedy pressure was so intense for a time he went to the hospital. Nevertheless he stuck to his guns and “Kennedy Campaigning” was published, though quietly.

The book pertains to the miraculous manner in which a young man of only 29, Edward Kennedy, was able to overcome the handicap of age, lack of experience and being almost unknown to win election to the Senate. The chief secret was money and the manner in which it was spent. It reads like some of the accounts of brother Bobby’s current campaign and is worth reviewing today.

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IN BLATANT disregard of President Johnson’s plea to businessmen to curb overseas spending, the private power companies went on a buying spree last year in Europe.

They spent \$141,500,000 for turbine generators, almost triple the \$55,000,000 they had spent for foreign turbine generators in all prior years combined.

The private and public purchases combined added a staggering \$196,500,000 to the gold drain.