

Post article

Today and Tomorrow . . . By Walter Lippmann

LAST WEEK Sen. Goldwater went campaigning in the South. His purpose, it appears, was not so much to win this election but to inaugurate the so-called Southern strategy in order to lay the foundations for a radically new Republican Party.



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This was made plain by the exuberant welcome he extended to Sen. Strom Thurmond who has now joined the Republican Party. This new Republican Party, which was born in San Francisco, is to be built upon a Goldwater-Thurmond alliance; it is to be a white man's party and not conservative at all, but radically reactionary.

The formation of the Goldwater-Thurmond alliance explains what is otherwise madly inexplicable about Sen. Goldwater's campaign speeches during the past week. There was to begin with his almost total silence about the Civil Rights Act, though opposition to it is by all odds the main reason for his strength in the South. There was no need for him to mention civil rights or to take notice of the existence of a large Negro population when he could consort publicly with Sen. Strom Thurmond. Sen. Thurmond is the most extreme segregationist and the most extreme reactionary in the United States Senate.

Sen. Goldwater may now go on trying to confuse the Northerners by talking about desegregating the

Arizona National Guard and the airport dining room in Phoenix. But for all Southerners, black or white, his embrace of Strom Thurmond places him squarely with the extreme racists.

Since there was nothing further to be said on the race issue, Sen Goldwater devoted himself to the one thing still needed to clinch the kind of Southern vote represented by Thurmond. This was to be so boldly and extravagantly reactionary on other issues that there could be no doubt that he was wholly free of the taint of any of that progressivism which is the tradition of the West. This was, I believe, why he chose in Florida, where there are so many elderly people, to attack medicare, why he chose in Tennessee to renew his proposal to sell the TVA, and why he went to West Virginia to attack the poor. Some have wondered whether these are symptoms of a "suicide complex". I think they are the result of a decision to make over the Republican Party in the image of Barry Goldwater and Strom Thurmond.

HERE AGAIN, as in his demands for a weaker government but stronger policies, we see that the Senator is enclosed, as in an envelope, in his private dream world. One of his persistent fantasies is that since the poor are a minority, a great political result can be had by arousing the rich against the poor. We all know of the demagogues and agitators who arouse the poor against the rich. But in Barry Gold-

water we have a demagogue who dreams of arousing the rich against the poor.

FOR THE proof of this, we must look to his speech in Charleston, West Virginia on Friday, September 18—omitting the wild ad lib remarks which were reported in the newspapers and using only the official text given out by the Republican National Committee. This speech was an attack on the Administration's "war on poverty". The Senator said that the Kennedy-Johnson objective is that "no one is to be permitted to fall below the average". This is obviously sheer gibberish, since there cannot be an "average" if no one is below it.

What Sen. Goldwater was trying to talk about is the fact that the Administration regards as "poor" a non-farm family of four who have an annual income of less than \$3,000. This figure is not an average". It is an amount of money which permits a family of four to spend about 70 cents a day per person for food, to spend \$800 a year for housing which covers rent or mortgage payments, utilities and heat. After food and housing, there is left in this budget \$1,200 or \$25 a week for the whole family to pay for clothing, transportation, school supplies and books, home furnishings and supplies, medical care, personal care, recreation, insurance, and everything else.

SEN. GOLDWATER sneered at this budget as luxurious. And he went on to declare, emphasizing his

words by underlining them in the text, that "a society in which no one is to be permitted to fall below the average (sic) is one in which no one can be permitted to rise above it". This sentence must be described as total nonsense. In his confusion, he seems to think that the \$3,000 budget is the "average" and that President Johnson is plotting to prevent anyone from earning more than \$3,000! Or what, in the name of sanity does he mean?

The more closely one examines the actual texts of the Goldwater speeches, the more apparent is the divorce between what he thinks and says and what actually exists in the real world. His feet are not on the ground. His head is in some kind of private cloud. It is truly alarming to think that the fate of this country and of the world could be in his hands.

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