

The one great rule
of composition is to
speak the truth.
—Thoreau

The Texas Observer

An Weekly Newspaper

We will serve no
group or party but
will hew hard to
the truth as we find
it and the right as
we see it.

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No. 2

Loyalist Democrats Regain Control

(See related stories, pages 3 and 5)

AUSTIN

Loyal Democrats have regained full control of the Democratic Party of Texas for the first time since 1944.

In Washington Senator Lyndon Johnson claimed a five-to-one victory in 200 of the 254 counties over Governor Allan Shivers. An AP tabulation showed loyalists had won at least 1,149 of the 1,898 votes in the state convention, compared to 66 for Governor Shivers, with 224 votes in dispute and 64 uninstructed.

Mrs. Kahleen Voigt, secretary of the Democratic Advisory Council, told the Observer that loyalists had 1,500 convention votes Monday and will probably have between 1,600 and 1,800 at the state convention in Dallas May 22 because of switches and bandwagon pressure on uninstructed delegates. "I don't think the convention's going to be any fun," she said.

Democratic National Chairman Paul Butler was among 1,000 people who greeted Johnson and Speaker Rayburn upon their return to Washington. He said the victory in Texas was the most significant thing that has happened to Democrats in the last 50 years and launches an alignment of forces which will achieve a new solid South.

Adlai Stevenson wired Mrs. Voigt, "What wonderful news from Texas." Former national Democratic chairman Stephen Mitchell wired: "Congratulations on redemption of Democratic Party in Texas."

Johnson Claims a 5-to-1 Edge; Paul Butler Sees a Solid South

Sharp differences may yet develop on the complexion of the Texas delegation to Chicago. Johnson qualifies his willingness to abide by the delegate selections of the district caucuses with the proviso, "other things being equal," and the condition that delegation members be willing "to work in harness with me."

With liberals firmly in control of Harris County's 270 votes, the convention in Houston did not pledge to Johnson, demanded that Johnson-backed national committeeman Ben Ramsey be replaced by "a full-time Democrat," and put forward Mrs. R. D. Randolph, a leader of the Harris County Democrats and a Yarborough supporter, as a candidate for national committeewoman from Texas.

Bell County endorsed Byron Skelton of Temple, chairman of the D. A. C., for national committeeman, and Guadalupe County endorsed the present national committeewoman, Mrs. H. H. Weinert of Seguin, a Shivers backer who voted for Adlai Stevenson in 1952.

Loyalists captured all the big-city conventions except in Dallas. The conventions in San Antonio, Fort Worth, Austin, and El Paso endorsed Johnson for delegation chairman and Texas favorite son, as did the rumping Dallas loyalists (who marched out of the appointed convention hall behind a band playing Dixie) and virtually all the loyalist-held rural counties.

Johnson said the people had heard "the voice of the demagogue" and "voted for the path of moderation."

Shivers, conceding he had taken a licking—the first of his career and one which drops his political stock precipitously—said that he is willing to let time determine who is the demagogue.

Shivers said Johnson's combining his forces "with the radical element" in the Democratic Party "made the difference." But he said he might support Johnson for president if this "element" does not prevail at Dallas.

"In key precincts in the key cities the effectively organized forces of union labor carried the day. I congratulate them upon a superior piece of organizational work and upon their victory." Shivers said—provoking a hot retort from Johnson that the statewide nature of the returns proved no section or occupational group had been decisive.

Johnson told an Observer reporter at Johnson City that he will not seek delegates from other states in the presidential sweepstakes. The reporter remarked that he had judged from news stories that Johnson did not regard his candidacy as serious. Replied Johnson:

Now let's get it straight. I didn't say that. I said I wasn't seeking delegates from any other state, and you'll have to draw your own conclusion.

Blanco County unanimously endorsed Johnson for president, pledging to him "unless and until" released by the senator. His remark at the conclusion of the convention also bears on his intent:

I would like to call attention to the unanimity of this delegation. I hope it's just a forerunner of what we can expect out of the Texas delegation at the Chicago convention.

He also told reporters in Houston that his favorite candidate for president is Lyndon Johnson but that he will support whomever the Democrats nominate.

In Washington, Sen. Walter George (D.-Fla.) said the great majority of "most helpful to the party and Sen. Johnson's prospects for 1956." Sen. Allen Ellender (D.-La.) said Johnson is now a strong darkhorse for the nomination. Sen. Byrd (D.-Va.) said it gives Johnson a big boost if he wants the nomination. Sen. Holland (D.-Fla.) said the great majority of Democrats in Florida prefer Johnson to Stevenson or Estes Kefauver.

Sen. John Sparkman (D.-Ala.) said he believes Johnson's statement that "it is not his purpose to become a candidate," and Sen. Mansfield (D.-Mont.)—discounting Johnson as a candidate this year—said he will have "enough strength behind him in the convention to have strong influence on the ultimate selection of the nominee."

Big-city returns, followed by other county returns:

DALLAS

A thousand or so loyalists were led out of the Dallas County convention by W. O. Cooper, loyalist leader, and a band playing Dixie. Loyalists had contested 13 precinct results the day before and allege they were unfairly dealt with by a credentials committee of five pro-Shivers members. After the bolt, conservatives recorded a 937 to 0 vote of confidence in county Democratic chairman Ed Drake, this figure being 125 higher than necessary to control the county convention.

The conservatives adopted a resolution urging states' rights and opposition to "federal control" of schools, natural resources production, subversives, and the right to hold employment, and to socialized medicine. They criticized the Supreme Court's "abuse of judicial power." The invocation at the regular convention was given by Dr. W. A. Criswell, pastor of the First Baptist Church, whose pro-segregation sentiments caused a stir recently (Observer, Feb. 29).

Meeting at a pre-arranged site, loyalists heard speakers proclaim "the death knell of an ugly era" and "a new day in Texas politics." The convention endorsed Johnson for favorite son and delegation leader and bound its delegates by the unit rule. Wright Matthews was elected chairman.

A number of Negroes who attended joined the loyalist bolt, which came off seven minutes after the regular convention opened. Cooper said it was obvious to his forces that "we will not be accorded a fair and legal hearing at this convention," and off they went.

The day before the credentials committee had heard contests based on claims that people were allowed to participate at precinct meetings illegally. Loyalist lawyer Bill Price said oilman H. L. Hunt, among others, illegally took part in Precinct 149's meeting in the Lakewood area. Loyalist spokesmen for Precinct 230 said the Shivers

NEIGHBORS' ESTEEM

THE SENATOR AT HIS PRECINCT

JOHNSON CITY

It is a long, rough, devious road from Johnson City, Texas, to the White House in Washington, D. C.

Almost without fanfare, but with considered determination, Lyndon B. Johnson started up that road Saturday. Only time and the decision of Democratic voters can say where he will stop.

There was no outward excitement in this sleepy, unseasonably hot little ranching community (population 648) over the prospect that its number one citizen might one day become the nation's number one citizen. No brass band, no proud banners. One man on main street didn't even know where the convention was to be held.

But in Blanco County's stone courthouse, where the senator participated in his first precinct convention since he's been in politics, the voters balloted to a man in favor of Johnson for President, as well as to head the delegation. Only 39 persons attended, including Johnson, his wife, and mother. Looking deadly serious, the Johnsons sat on the front-row bench of the large, dimly-lit second-floor courtroom.

The first order of business was the unanimous election of the tall, lean rancher-politician as precinct chairman. He took the chair, and dropping any semblance of a politician seeking the highest office in the land, he simply stated, "I'd rather have the confidence and goodwill of my neighbors than any public office." He spoke briefly, thanking voters for their past and present support and for attending the convention.

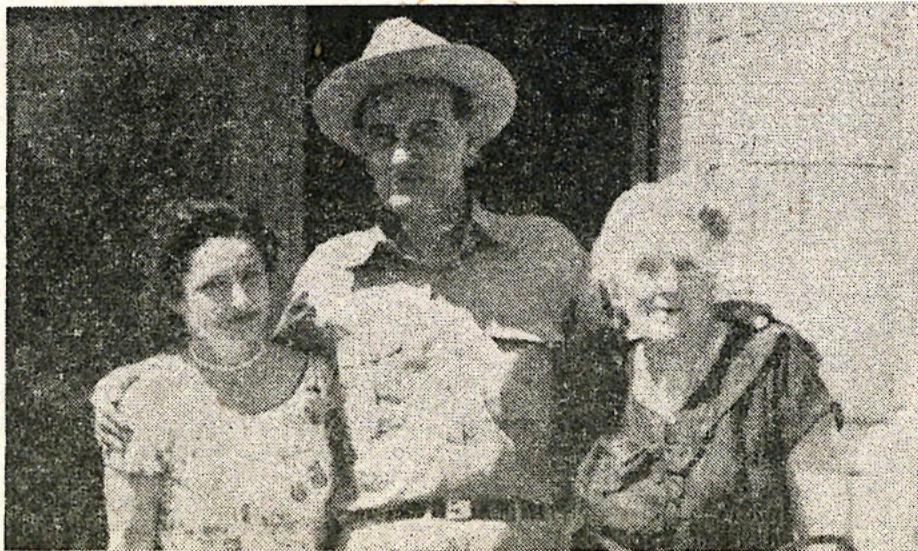
The resolution, introduced by a longtime friend, Robert Knox, said, in part: "Whereas, the people of Blanco County are justly proud of their favorite son, U.S. Senator Lyndon B. Johnson, and regard him with deep affection ... be it resolved that Precinct 5 delegates ... vote for (him) as chairman of the Texas delegation and as favorite son candidate for the Democratic nomination for the office of President of the United States."

At the close of the session, Johnson still was reticent to state firmly that he was making a concerted drive for the presidency. Asked if he now considered himself a serious contender, he

replied: "I said I wasn't seeking delegates from any other state, and you'll have to draw your own conclusion."

He then turned to renewing old friendships, shaking hands with other Johnson City area residents. Clad in a brown, western cut sport shirt, tan pants, brown boots, and a tan Stetson, he blended perfectly in the small crowd of well-wishers.

An attendant in a nearby service station probably sized up Johnson's position as well as anyone has. "No one can tell what'll happen next," he said, "but he seems as likely a candidate as anyone kicking around right now." B.B.



Staff Photo

Mrs. Lyndon Johnson, the Senator, and His Mother
They emerge from the Johnson City Courthouse after a Convention

(Continued on Page 2)

The Work Ahead

The Democratic Party of Texas is back in the hands of the Democrats. Governor Shivers takes his place in history alongside other discredited demagogues. The cup of liberalism in Texas is brimming—and, as is the way with brimming cups, it tips the easier and spills the more.

A toast, first! To Speaker Rayburn and Senator Johnson; they came back and fought when the stakes were large. To liberals and Democrats who have worked for many years to end corruption and reaction in Austin. To Ralph Yarborough, only gubernatorial candidate who took a wholehearted stand against Shivers in this fight, and who, more than anyone else, deserves the credit for the education of the people to the corruption that has been rampant in Austin. To Texans everywhere who had a hand in this decisive triumph!

Senator Johnson's candidacy was helpful in the rural areas and in the silk-stocking urban districts. He did not have a decisive effect on loyalist areas—the Houston Democrats won their precincts without endorsing him—but no one would deny him full credit for his part.

Something new may develop out of the victory—a spurt in liberal political organization in the cities that will help assure liberals a permanent claim to the Democratic Party of Texas. That is part of the urgent work ahead.

It will be good if Senator Johnson's candidacy helps keep the South in the Democratic Party without influencing the Democrats to sacrifice the party's liberal inspiration—the inspiration which has given it stature with the people and whose abandonment causes its defeat.

On the other hand, Senator Johnson's actual nomination would considerably weaken the Democrats' national case. We believe delegates to the state convention should consider carefully the conditions under which Texas should be heard at Chicago.

In the first place, if democracy is practice as well as theory, the district caucuses—the meetings of the delegates elected by the people—should pick the delegation to Chicago. It is the convention that will be honoring Johnson if he is given the favorite son nomination, and the delegates to Dallas should name the delegates to Chicago.

In the second place, the delegates to Dallas should not give up to Johnson their policy-making powers. Johnson is not to be confused with liberals on several issues, such as

civil rights and the oil and gas industry, and Texans would do Texas and the nation a disservice if they defaulted their own policy function at Chicago.

Third, the delegates should not, we feel, give anybody a blank check. A first-ballot nomination, after which the delegates would be released to vote for whomever they chose—Johnson or anybody else—would be preferable to a delegation pledged to Johnson "unless and until" he releases it, which his own Blanco County convention urges.

Fourth, Ben Ramsey, chief Shivers "enforcer" as president of the Senate, should resign or be replaced as national committeeman, as should Mrs. Weinert, a Shivers backer, gracefully retire from the committeewoman'ship. Surely the people's feelings about Shivers and his sympathizers are clear enough now.

The battle has just begun, of course. Price Daniel is carrying the Shivers-special interest flag into the summer fray, and the July primaries will tell more about the actual governing of Texas in the next few years than the conventions just over. But on that point's counterpoint, a final toast—to the people!

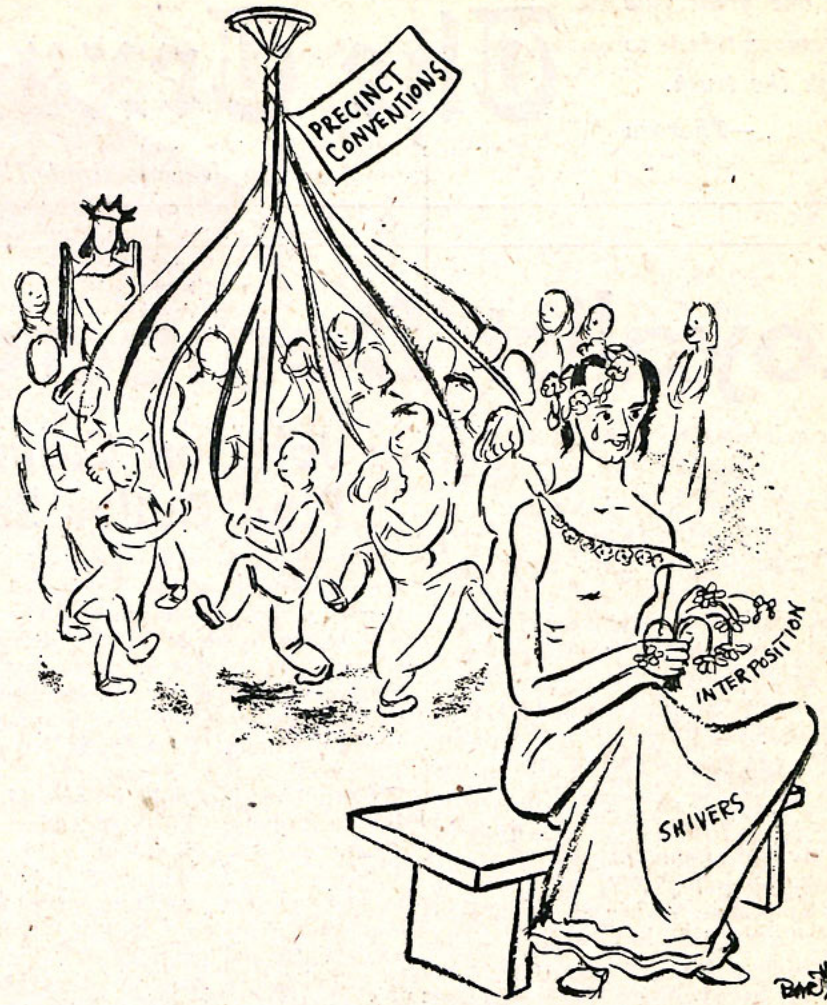
Last Gasp

The outgoing Attorney General, John Ben Shepperd, betrayed an almost unbelievable littleness by his anti-Negro outburst the day before the precinct conventions. He said he heard that Negroes were going to East Texas precinct conventions in mass—as though this would be an offense in a democratic society—and then talked vaguely of reports of "threatened violence" in these precincts. He refused to say who gave him the reports (though the Citizens' Councils were saying the same thing in East Texas newspapers), and he failed to alert local officials, just passing it along to the papers, instead. As he must have known, the net effect was to arouse racial animosities among the whites and frighten Negroes away from the precinct meetings. It was as cheap a display as we have seen in some time.

Spring

A perennially loyalist Austin politician said the other day: "My, my, sun's shinin', sure is a pretty day outside. Sure has changed things—I uz walkin' down the street this mornin' an' everybody spoke to me." People are sorry creatures.

'I Was To Be Queen of the May'



Bartlett Appears Exclusively in The Texas Observer

Loyalists Prevail

(Continued from page 1)
group met separately at an illegal time. Loyalists are optimistic they will be seated at Dallas, and Drake and Jess Hassell, the conservatives' temporary chairman, conceded they are probably correct.

FORT WORTH

Liberals firmly in control in Tarrant County convention (the test vote was 681 to 432) endorsed Johnson for favorite son and chairman but did not instruct their delegates to vote for him, binding them only to vote by unit rule. Liberals identified with the local Democratic Organizing Committee drew most of the committee assignments. In suggesting what resolutions precinct leaders might propose, the Tarrant D.O.C. sent out three alternative resolutions on the Johnson matter—endorsing Johnson for favorite son and chairman, for chairman only, and merely commending him.

County Democratic chairman Tom Ward was elected temporary convention chairman over W. M. Brown, Tarrant County leader for Shivers. In nominating Brown, lawyer Ward Bailey aroused boos and applause when he said Johnson is in office "because they stole an election" and said Texas should be represented "by somebody who will not sell out." Bailey also referred to Johnson's agreement that he is "against forced integration," which brought boos from Negro delegates.

The test vote showed 90 precincts in the loyalist camp, 50 in the Shivers camp, and four split.

AUSTIN

Austin loyalists gave Johnson a whopping endorsement from 66 of 69 precincts voting.

They had a big day, the highlight of which was an exchange with Dan Moody, Jr., son of the former governor and a Shivers man. Moody, fighting a loyalty pledge advanced by Creekmore Fath (and adopted by the convention), asked the convention, "Would you support Walter Reuther (if the Demo nominee)?" The audience roared back "yes" with applause. He asked next if they would back Negro Congressman William Dawson of Chicago. After a pause they shouted back "yes." There was some indecision, however, when he asked about Henry Wallace.

Ralph Yarborough congratulated

Johnson for "returning the Democratic Party to the people of Texas." John White, commissioner of Agriculture, said: "This is an end of the Republican era of the Democratic Party of Texas." He paid tribute to Johnson and Rayburn "for coming back when we needed them most."

SAN ANTONIO

San Antonio Democrats carried the Bexar convention for Johnson by more than four-to-one. It was strictly no contest. The convention endorsed Johnson, lauded Rayburn and John Nance Garner, and selected Jimmy Knight as convention chairman and Mrs. Voigt as chairman of the delegation.

The convention resolutions committee considered and defeated Mrs. Minnie Fisher Cunningham's candidacy for favorite daughter and delegation chairman.

Other rump county convention reports: About 50 pro-Johnson delegates bolted at Wharton County; the pro-Shivers group rumped in Robertson County; the Johnsonites bolted at Anderson County after a disputed 50 1/3-to-48 2/3 vote; Shivers people controlled the Harrison County convention at Marshall, and Johnson backers walked; in Smith County, the chairman refused to recognize ex-Rep. Bill Kugle, who led a loyalist bolt; Shivers backers proposed an eight-five pro-Shivers delegation vote split in Cameron County, and the Johnson group bolted.

The Shivers forces in control of the Harrison and Titus conventions backed Shivers for delegation chairman and Johnson for favorite son. This plan had been heralded as a potential ground for compromise by several dailies.

Other counties whose Democratic conventions Tuesday pledged to Johnson for favorite son and delegation chairman:

El Paso, Cherokee, Washington, Leon, Brazos, Trinity, Houston, Karnes, Calhoun, San Augustine, Angelina, Nacogdoches, Bastrop, Gonzales, Victoria, Shelby, Jackson, DeWitt, Hardin, Grimes, Nolan, Hunt, Coleman, McCullough, Montague, Palo Pinto, Baylor, Jack, Cottle, Comanche, McLennan, Hockley, Navarro, Williamson, Grayson, Hale, Hays, Lamar, Lubbock, Brown, Brazos, Victoria, Bowie, Tom Green, Ward, Falls, Wichita, Fayette, Madison.

Other counties whose conventions pledged to Shivers as delegation chairman:

Montgomery, Colorado, San Jacinto, Polk, Fort Bend, Waller, Matagorda, Panola.

Other county convention results: Pro- (Continued on Page 8)

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We will serve no group or party but will how hard to the truth as we find it and the right as we see it. We are dedicated to the whole truth, to human values above all interests, to the rights of man as the foundation of democracy; we will take orders from none but our own conscience, and never will we overlook or misrepresent the truth to serve the interests of the powerful or cater to the ignoble in the human spirit.

Staff correspondents: Bob Bray, Gulf Coast; Ramon Garces, Laredo; Clyde Johnson, Corsicana; Mike Mistovich, Bryan; Jules Loh, Central Texas; Jack Morgan, Fort Arthur; Dan Strawn, Kenedy; and reporters in San Antonio, Dallas, El Paso, and Big Spring.

Staff contributors: Franklin Jones, Marshall; Minnie Fisher Cunningham, New Waverly; Robert G. Spivak, Washington, D.C.; John Igo, San Antonio; Edwin Sue Goree, Burnet; J. Henry Martindale, Lockhart; and others.

Staff cartoonist: Don Bartlett, Austin. Cartoonists: Bob Eckhardt, Houston; Etta Hulme, Houston.

MAILING ADDRESS: 504 West 24th St., Austin, Texas.

EDITORIAL AND BUSINESS OFFICE: 504 West 24th St., Austin, Texas.

TELEPHONE IN AUSTIN: Greenwood 7-0746.

HOUSTON OFFICE: 2501 Crawford St., Houston, Mrs. R. D. Randolph, treasurer.

THE ISSUE: WHO SHALL CONTROL

(Robert C. Eckhardt, Houston lawyer, cartoonist for the late lamented Texas Spectator, occasional cartoonist for the Observer, keynoted the Harris County convention. His remarks are here excerpted.—Ed.)

HOUSTON

We stand on the threshold of a new era of Democratic leadership in Texas just as Richard Coke and his compatriots stood in 1875.

That was at the close of the dark days of the last Republican regime in Texas—but one—when the carpetbaggers were thrown out. And it is necessary to go that far back in Texas history to find a parallel to the late Shivers regime.

Only in that period nearly a century ago now, did this state see such an era of corruption and exploitation of the very many by the very few. And we must also go that far back to find Republicans in power in Texas as they have been again in the last decade.

Those spiritual and political ancestors of Shivers and Giles and Chink Smith almost succeeded in giving away Texas to the International Railroad. Their modern counterparts nearly succeeded in giving it away to the bogus trusts, the phoney insurance companies, and the crooked land dealers.

This is a glorious day for Texas, because Allan Shivers has appealed to the basest instincts and to prejudices which he imagined would blind the minds of our people to his maladministration, and the people have rejected them.

The events of this past week-end must evoke in every liberal Texan a resurgence of pride in his native state and pride in its people. They have not been stampeded by race hatred or by frantic efforts to pit class against class. They have withstood at every point the furious flailings of a dying political dynasty.

THE COURSE of Texas history is a liberal one though there have been and are strong forces that have diverted it. In the years before the turn of the century these were the railroads. They evoked from Governor Hogg the following remarks which are good today:

They may howl and prate, distort the facts, malign the public, and abuse me at a distance, but the main question shall not be lost sight of. Two years ago I announced it; six months ago I announced it, and today I again announce it. The question is: shall the corporations or the state control?

Today the question is the same. The railroads are not now the dominant corporations. Today the major oil and gas companies assume that role. They are flanked by the less respectable and less important fly-by-night insurance and investment companies. Further down the ladder are the loan sharks and their associated credit insurance companies. And at the very bottom are the veterans land speculators.

Don't make the mistake of lumping all oil, insurance, banking and real estate interests in these categories. Most of the people in these businesses, being honest, are as badly injured by corrupt government as you and I.

Though there has been much out-and-out dishonesty in Texas government in the last few years, if we ourselves are honest, we must admit this is not the main issue. The issue is still what Governor Jim Hogg said it was:

Shall the corporations or the state control?

This means reasonably honest corporations as well as crooked ones. If the people's interests are to be protected they must be represented by politicians who are not primarily loyal to the major oil companies or any other organization of the few to control the many, no matter how honest that organization may be and no matter how honest that politician says he may be.

This is the issue upon which the two major parties divide. I know no better way to express the major objectives of the Democratic Party than by quoting from the Four Freedoms speech

The Victory's Meaning As Eckhardt Sees It

of 1941, by that great Democrat Franklin Delano Roosevelt. He said:

There is nothing mysterious about the foundations of a healthy and strong democracy. The basic things expected by our people of their political and economic system are simple. They are: equality of opportunity for youth and for others; jobs for those who can work; security for those who need it; the ending of special privilege for the few; the preservation of civil liberties for all; the enjoyment of the fruits of scientific progress in a wider and constantly rising standard of living.

THESE are the things we believe in, and I submit to you that Governor Shivers cannot accept these tenets. They run counter to everything that he has ever done or said. He does not believe in equality of opportunity for our Negro citizens, for instance. He is against giving the worker a fair deal as is shown by his sponsorship in

.... Signpost to adventure in the coffeshop window at the Aumont Hotel in Seguin: "Enjoy Life—EAT OUT MORE OFTEN!"

.... Perspective department: The San Antonio Express polled 131 Democratic county chairmen and came up with a pro-Johnson result, since a heavy majority of the counties were predicted for Johnson. Rewriting the poll, the Houston Press observed (as the Express mentioned in passing) that it gave Shivers a majority of delegate votes, interpreted it as a pro-Shivers result. Johnson had kind words for the Express Sunday.

.... Perspective department (2): For several weeks the Austin American and Statesman, strongly pro-Johnson, carried page-one stories quoting Central Texans on their reasons for backing Johnson. The stories never once quoted a pro-Shivers person nor anyone opposed to both of them.

.... Richard Morehead of the Dallas News writes Ralph Yarborough out of the gubernatorial runoff, suggesting a Daniel-vs.-O'Daniel finale.

.... But if the Shivers defeat Saturday helps any of the candidates, it will be Yarborough. Daniel is still linked with Shivers in the public mind.

.... Atty. Gen. John Ben Shepperd was in Washington for Supreme Court arguments on behalf of Nebraska and the state right-to-work laws. Shepperd wanted to join in the arguments but the court ruled him out.

.... Snapping back at the Harper's article criticizing Texas papers for publishing too much "provincial" news at the expense of national and international items, Express columnist Bill Reddell said people prefer to read home area news.

.... A person close to a leading loy-



Give 'Em Hell

To the Editor:

Give the crooked politicians hell, throw out all state office holders and most of the legislators I wish every voter in the state had one of your papers each week. If the people had both sides of a question they could vote intelligently.

SAM GRAYSON
San Angelo

1955 of Senate Bill 45 which will for many low paid Texas workers stifle the right to bargain collectively. As Lieutenant Governor he sidetracked and delayed the constitutional amendment to lift the old age pension ceiling.

Instead of ending special privilege, he has permitted it to flourish through block land deals and unabashed control by big lobbyists. The oil and gas companies are now in the saddle in Texas, and for the first time in history the Governor openly confers with their lobbyists before making important decisions.

Far from preserving civil liberties, he has sought to destroy them, and in special session in 1954 his friends and cronies introduced a bill which would have permitted a bureaucratic board to investigate and condemn without trial and without due process thousands of Texas citizens. In this he was defeated in the Texas Senate.

The great natural wealth of the State of Texas cannot be translated into a higher standard of living when the major oil and gas companies are permitted to drain it and ship it away without paying sufficient taxes to build

up the Texas economy against the time when these reserves are gone. While giving lip service to opposition to sales taxes, Shivers wanted to raise over 93 percent of the state's additional revenue in 1955 by sales taxes and less than 7 by increased resources taxes and other sources.

NOW, I have perhaps said too much about Allan Shivers, because he, by his own statement, is not seeking a public office. But what I have said about him is also applicable to all his ilk, all the political leaders, at every level, who have accepted party honors and turned on the party—who represent industries instead of people.

The spirit that the Governor represents is a sort of political Bridey Murphy. It is the same spirit that animated Clark, who ran against James Stephen Hogg. It is the spirit that was reincarnated in W. Lee O'Daniel—though that vehicle is now fortunately collapsed like the wonderful one-horse shay.

But, like Bridey Murphy's, the spirit of reaction that animated Davis's carpetbaggers, Clark's robber barons, and W. Lee O'Daniel's oil lords is a stubborn spirit and will appear reincarnated in this summer's primaries.

Texas at Large: Perspectives

alist candidate for state office is boosting James P. Hart for national Democratic committeeman from Texas.

.... Loyalists in Corpus were upset by the Observer report that more federal gambling tax stamps are paid in Corpus than anywhere else in the

Southern District of Texas, including Galveston. They state that the figures apply to the city, not Nueces County, and that the gambling operators concerned do not, therefore, come under the jurisdiction of loyalist Sheriff Odem Dolan.

CONFUSING CANDIDATES

AUSTIN

To any plain, interested observer, this blatant Allan vs. Lyndon battle for chairmanship of the Texas delegation is a bit confusing, to say the least.

What I mean to say is, all this hell for the party job was being raised by two men who apparently, at least at one time, really had no interest in having the position.

You take Allan. He had it once, but disliked it so much he joined the Republicans. And, as far as Lyndon is concerned, he frankly told folks he didn't want it until Sam Rayburn told him, "Son, you go back there to Texas and promote harmony among us Democrats."

Of course, Sam didn't really feel too harmonious. In fact, he had felt right unharmonious toward Allan ever since he (Allan) turned out to be a GOP.

This put Lyndon in a very embarrassing position, for up until Sam put his foot down, Lyndon had managed to maintain an amazing neutrality in the Loyalist-Shiverscratic fiasco. But, in Texas it sometimes happens that after 15 or 20 years in politics, a man has to take a stand. That's the breaks.

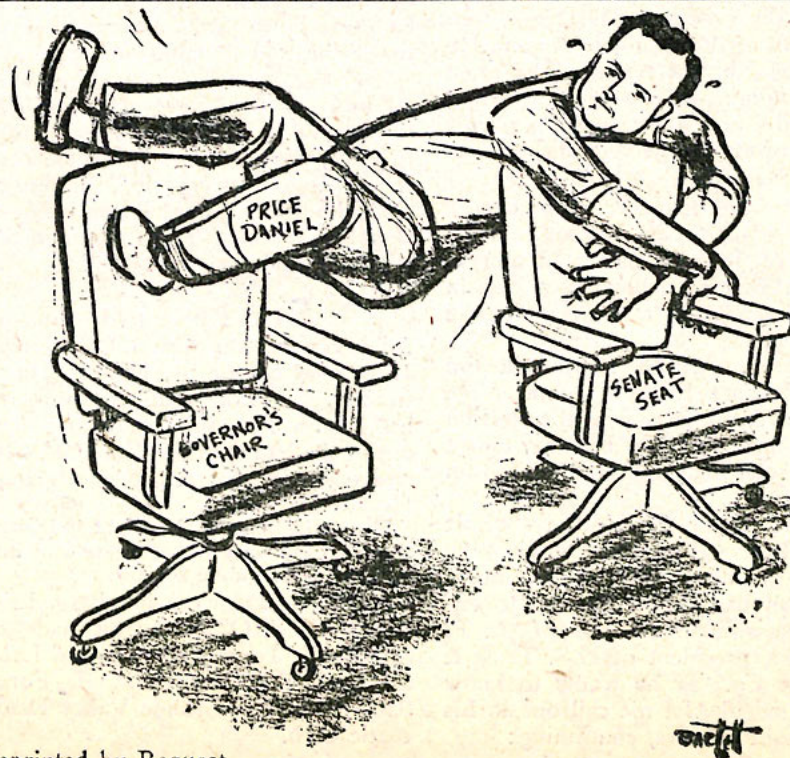
Anyhow, back to Texas came Lyndon and he and Allan began making divers trips across the state each declaring that the other was a bum, or worse. After a while, they grew angry.

Allan, who flew to Lubbock in a DC-3 belonging to the Tennessee Gas Company of Houston, according to no less a source than the Avalanche-Journal, charged that the CIO-UAW was financially contributing to Lyndon's campaign.

The accusation not only drew a denial from Lyndon, but also an apology from one Texas State Federation of Labor official. He explained that several years ago organized labor had paid Shivers's filing fee and he "apologized for having had a part in foisting this demagogue and his political machine" on the people.

As the atmosphere clears slightly this week following the county convention squabbles, I wonder how many Texas Democrats feel the Lyndon-Allan dogfight has really driven only one point home. Neither should be delegation chairman. B.B.

THE TEXAS OBSERVER
Page 3 May 9, 1956



Reprinted by Request

PARR HAS CHANCE AT DUVAL SHERIFF JOB

SAN DIEGO

George Parr is bidding again for the job he once used to put guns on the hips of his henchmen in Duval County.

Although he is under indictment for theft, perjury, income tax evasion, and falsifying and destroying bank records, Parr is running for sheriff of the domain he once ruled like a baron of old.

If he stays with it, he may win.

The early summer sun is beating down on shoddy San Diego once again, and pro- and anti-Parr forces align and re-align, bake and split and bake again. The dynasty is broken but the last of the reign must still be reckoned with.

He is abandoned by most of his old friends, but a few hold on. One of them is Nago Alaniz, the young lawyer who warned Parr foe Jake Floyd he was to be killed the night of September 8, 1952, shortly before an assassin mistook Floyd's son for his quarry and shot him through the heart. Alaniz is city attorney (at \$1 a year) of San Diego's city government, the last fragment of Parr's once multi-county empire.

Once before Parr did time for income tax evasion. Now he and a host of his associates are charged in counties all over the state with theft, perjury, falsifying records, and various other aspects of conspiracy to defraud Duval County of its funds. There are more than 260 active indictments in all.

He has filed for sheriff, but he has until May 19 to withdraw. Some wise heads—like Donato Serna, the meteoric county auditor who was forced on Duval County by the Texas Supreme Court—think he will withdraw and back one of his men. Others think he might figure that this is his last stand—that he, and he alone, carries the weight with Duval voters to restore his splintered machine to power.

County Judge Dan Tobin—himself under 26 indictments growing out of his activities when he was a Parr man—may merge his political supporters with those of the Freedom Party of Duval to defeat Parr. In school elections in San Diego and Benavides on April 7, Parr forces won by an average total vote of 2,107 to 2,014. Four days earlier in San Diego, he had 48 percent of the vote against the Freedom Party and Tobin's group in city races, with his candidate for mayor, C. G. Palacios, winning by 716 votes over S. H. Sanchez, Tobin-backed, with 687, and Manuel Sanchez, Freedom Party, 164.

Tobin and the Freedom Party are uneasily united now for the July primaries. If they split up before the elec-

tion, Parr is almost certain to return to his old job as sheriff. When he was sheriff last, he deputized 17 private citizens to carry guns—*pistoleros*, they were called—and who carries the guns makes a difference in the way people feel in Duval. As Sam Burris, the anti-Parr district attorney says: "He could get him another army of pistol toters and through fear and actual physical violence try to get those people back in line."

A Specila Report

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HOW CAN a man under so many indictments hold out so long in his own bailiwick? Rep. Bob Mullen, Freedom Party candidate in the past, explains it this way:

There are lots of hungry people over there, and a lot of them are scared to go against George. He puts economic pressure on anybody he can.

Time was when Parr controlled the county purse strings, and anybody with a second cousin on the payroll had better vote for him, or else. With Tobin defected, Parr lost even this power. Mullen thinks he may win. Jake Lewis, city reporter for the Alice Echo, says:

Oh yeah, sure he's got a good chance. He would be a cinch if they don't get together. If they get together it'll be close.

Neither Burris nor Larry Warburton, his assistant, agree.

"I don't think he's going to win," Burris says. "From the people I've talked to in Duval County, I think the majority are pretty sick of him and ready to turn him over." "I think he's gonna have a hard time," Warburton added.

Sticking with Parr are his old confederates in Duval County affairs—most prominently, D. C. Chapa, ex-tax collector and collector in the Benavides school district; R. L. Adame, former county school superintendent; Santiago Sanchez and H. P. Salinas, former Duval County school trustees; and Francisco Saenz, ex-treasurer of Duval. Every one of them is living under multiple criminal indictments. Adame and Chapa have already been convicted on one count each.

AS OF NOW 15 criminal charges are pending against Parr in state courts. They allege perjury in five instances; misappropriating public funds, two; receiving misapplied public funds, two; making false entries in the books and records of San Diego

State Bank, two; and on one count each, conspiracy to steal from the Benavides school district; destroying bank records; making a false affidavit; and making an unauthorized bank loan to himself while an officer of the San Diego Bank.

District Attorney Sam Burris alleges that Parr took half a million dollars from Duval County road and bridge funds in 1945 and used it to buy the 55,000 acre Dobie Ranch in Duval, La Salle and Webb counties. The suit seeks recovery of the money and rent and royalties for ten years.

Burris is also suing Parr for recovery of \$172,500 he alleges Parr took from Duval road and bridge funds in 1947 and used to pay part of his 1946 income taxes.

The Duval County commissioners' court filed another version of the Dobie Ranch suit. This one alleged the half million dollars was a loan at one percent interest. Burris says he and his associates could find no record of any interest payments, but Parr alleges a \$38,000 payment was made. Recently the commissioners' court accepted a deed to the ranch from Parr and sought to dismiss both suits. Burris is pressing his suit anyway.

Parr—who served a prison term for income tax evasion once before—is now charged in federal court with evading \$83,654 in income taxes for 1949, 1950, and 1951. This is the case which Parr wants tried in Laredo, where the ruling political powers are friendly to him, and which the government wants tried elsewhere.

In 1954 federal tax liens totaling \$1,181,568 were filed against Parr and his former wife in civil actions. In these suits, the government charges

that Parr did not report the money, he got from the county (\$500,000 in 1945 and \$172,500 in 1947). Naturally, if it is established that the money was loaned to him, it would not be considered taxable—a point which Burris has angrily suggested motivated the Duval County commissioners court.

THE PRESSURE against Parr's repute as a power and a *jefe* are reflected in the rapidity with which his leaders have fallen away from him.

Woodrow Laughlin, his district judge, was thrown out of his job by the Texas Supreme Court, but Parr re-elected him. Before the general election Parr tried to get Laughlin to handle some indictments in ways friendly to Parr, and Laughlin balked—especially when Parr asked him to give him immunity if he would tell the whole story before the Duval grand jury.

Ed Lloyd, Alice lawyer, was Parr's man in Duval County in 1948, when Precinct 13's late recount gave Lyndon Johnson his senate seat by 87 votes. But Lloyd broke with Parr about the time young Jake Floyd was killed.

The federal government is trying to tie up Parr's funds. Burris says he has been forced to selling off his cattle on Dobie Ranch to pay his legal fees.

There was a time when people regarded Parr as a benevolent despot, for he did give handouts to the poor. But listen to Sam Burris:

Do you see those slums most of 'em live in over there? Drive through San Diego and you can tell the Parr men, they live in the good houses.

Again to Donato Serna:

Well, helping the poor with somebody else's money? I could do it.

So does Parr have angry and articulate foes as he enters what may be his last battle before the law closes in.

RONNIE DUGGER

SANFORD CASE CLOSED

AUSTIN

Texans may spend any amount of money they wish toward the election or defeat of a political candidate, without fear of criminal prosecution.

This was the ruling of the Criminal Appeals Court last week, as it nullified two indictments against Vernon T. Sanford, Texas Press Association general manager.

However, those rushing out to spend excessive amounts in support or opposition to a political candidate still have one thing to worry about. They may still face civil damages for twice the amount they put into an election, unreported, where their expenditure exceeds \$25.

The celebrated Sanford indictments were tossed out in an opinion by Judge Lloyd W. Davidson, on grounds there was conflict between the penal law of 1919 and the Election Code of 1952. The earlier law prohibits expenditures of more than \$10 while the latter one prohibits unreported expenditures in excess of \$25. The judge explained:

One statute makes lawful what the other makes unlawful. It is apparent, therefore, that the two statutes are in irreconcilable conflict, both as to offense denounced and penalties applied. Both are invalid.

Complaining witness in the prosecution of Sanford had been C. T. Johnson, who charged that the TPA manager had placed advertisements in Texas weekly newspapers in behalf of Lt. Gov. Ben Ramsey that were in violation of the State Election Code in that the amount involved exceeded \$25 and was unreported.

Johnson, in an open letter to newspaper editors of Texas, explained that he was not interested in prosecuting Sanford as manager of the TPA, but that he was attempting to refresh Sanford's memory. The TPA manager said he could not recall who paid for the Ramsey advertisements and that all records pertaining to the matter

had been destroyed when he cleaned out his files at close of the year.

Said Johnson, when word of the court ruling reached him:

This decision would throw open the gates for tremendous slush funds by special interests to be used in financing their picked candidates. The people of Texas will stand to lose heavily by this decision. The law was a good law and meant much to the people.

Corpus Oilman Defends Lobby

AUSTIN

A Texas oilman who switched from Allan Shivers to Lyndon Johnson in the recent precinct fight told a Senate committee investigating lobbying in Washington last week that the general gas committee of which he was chairman operated legally and properly.

He said that the committee took in \$118,625 from 249 contributors, the four largest (at \$3,855 each) being Texas Co., Standard Oil of California, Humble Oil and Refining Co., and Magnolia Petroleum Co. He conceded the committee's work represented only a minor part of the oil and gas industry's effort to get the natural gas bill passed.

The oilman, Maston Nixon of Corpus Christi, told the investigators the gas committee did no lobbying, made no political contributions, reported all expenditures, and operated on "the highest ethical and moral plane."

Nixon, a former Shivers man, was listed on Johnson's 183-member booster committee and made public a letter he sent George Sandlin, head of the State Democratic Executive Committee, expressing the opinion that Johnson was in a better position than Shivers to represent Texas in the future.

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AGENCIES THROUGHOUT TEXAS

PRINTER REPLIES

David Gannaway, Austin printer and co-defendant with Lt. Gov. Ben Ramsey and Brown & Root, Inc., in a \$65,000 damage suit filed by C. T. Johnson, has denied his firm received over \$12,000 from Brown & Root for printing Ramsey campaign literature last election.

Gannaway's denial came in the form of a long series of "No" answers to interrogatories propounded to him in an *ex parte* deposition last week.

Johnson's suit asks damages and legal fees because of alleged unreported campaign expenditures under the State Election Code provision which allows a candidate to sue his opponents for double the amount of expenditures not reported.

While Gannaway bluntly denied the interrogatories, the questions gave some hint on public record for the first time of the basis on which the plaintiffs brought the suit. Johnson and his representatives tried to get Gannaway to give an affidavit or sign a statement concerning the case.

In interrogatory number three, Gannaway was asked:

"It is true, is it not, that in June and July, 1954, Gannaway Printing Company, Austin, printed approximately 250,000 pieces of literature in behalf of Ben Ramsey's campaign..."

His answer: "I can't remember."
Interrogatory four: "It is true, is it not, that for printing the literature inquired about in the preceding interrogatory, Gannaway Printing Company received a sum of money of more than \$12,000?"

Answer: "No."
Interrogatory five: "It is true, is it not, that sometime in June, 1954, a man whose name you do not recall, but who represented himself to have some connection with Brown & Root, Inc., came to the office of Gannaway Printing Company in Austin and gave you an order for the printing of campaign literature in behalf of Ben Ramsey's campaign for the Democratic nomination?"

Answer: "No."
Interrogatory six: "It is true, is it not, that the man who ordered the printing told you that 'they' wanted this to be a cash transaction and that they did not want any records of invoices on the matter?"

Answer: "No."
Interrogatory seven: "It is true, is it not, that the man who ordered the printing gave you a key to a safety deposit lock box at the Fidelity State Bank (now City National Bank) in

Austin, and told you there was \$25,000 in currency in that box in \$100 bills, and that whenever you needed money to apply on the printing order, you were authorized to go to the bank, and take therefrom the sum of money needed to apply on the printing order?"

Answer: "No."
QUESTIONS NUMBER eight and nine were whether Gannaway actually did withdraw \$12,000 from the safety deposit box and whether the printing done for Ramsey was worth that much.

Gannaway answered negatively to both.
Interrogatory ten asked whether it was true that Gannaway delivered some of the campaign literature, personally. Gannaway answered, "No, I do not do any delivering myself."

The next four questions were whether Gannaway had seen Ramsey when he delivered printing; whether he had been told to give the safety deposit box key to Mrs. Virginia Black so she could get money in payment for printing and duplicating work for Ramsey's campaign; whether he actually gave the key to Mrs. Black; and

whether upon the "first occasion you opened the box" it appeared to contain \$25,000. Gannaway answered, "No," to each query.

Interrogatory fifteen recited a statement in the legal form of an affidavit which stated that a man gave Gannaway a key to a bank box containing money for printing and capitulated subject matter in the earlier questions.

Gannaway answered, "No," to a question about whether the statement was correct.

THE NEXT SERIES of questions inquired whether four persons, attorneys William Yelderman, Houston Clinton, Notary Public E. B. Fuller, and Mrs. Bettye J. Beyer, in addition to Johnson, had approached Gannaway at various times to sign a statement concerning Ramsey printing.

Gannaway affirmed that several people had approached him on the matter but denied that he had told or signified to any of them that the statement they sought to have him sign was true.

Interrogatory thirty: "If you have answered that the statement quoted in interrogatory 15 is not correct, point out in your answer to this interrogatory what parts of such statement are not correct."

Answer: "It would have to be practically rewritten."

The final question was: "State now, in your own words, the transactions Gannaway Printing Company had in June and July 1954 in connection with printing of campaign literature for Ben Ramsey. Give all the details you desire."

The deposition records Gannaway's answer in this manner: "It would take time to check the records on any printing that may have been done for Mr. Ramsey and just... that's all."

A notation on the envelope shows that the description was opened at the request of attorney Everett Looney on April 30 at 4:30 p.m.

Lt. Gov. Ramsey was not available for comment on the matter.

A spokesman for Brown & Root, Inc., in Houston, branded the Johnson suit "utterly ridiculous." He said, "Brown & Root knows the law as well as anyone else and didn't contribute one penny to the Ramsey campaign."

Some Virulent Name-calling

AUSTIN

The Precinct Campaign

Leaves Many Scars

The voters leaned back and watched some of the rawest name-calling in recent Texas political history the last week before the convention showdowns.

Governor Shivers called Senator Johnson "vicious, vain, and ambitious"; said "cruel and vicious" pressures were being applied by Johnson and Speaker Rayburn; charged Johnson's Senate seat had been "stolen" in 1948 in Jim Wells County; and wound up by deciding that, though he had suggested Johnson for president before, he now thinks Johnson is not fit to be Texas delegation leader or president.

Senator Johnson called Shivers a Little Lord Fauntleroy with no place to go; said the Governor's campaign had been marked by "intimidation and villification which has no parallel"; charged him with "hypocrisy of the rankest order" in opposing federal aid and seeking it at the same time; and said that Shivers's "warped mind" favored the senator for president but not favorite son.

Johnson, under pressure from Shivers on various issues, said Shivers knew he was "against forced integration" and challenged Shivers to call a special session on interposition. Johnson said he got the natural gas bill passed for Texas but Shivers's candidate for president—Eisenhower—vetoed it.

Johnson said if Shivers would spend half as much time correcting states' wrongs as "ranting about states' rights," the crooks would have been driven out of the temple in Austin. He called the Shivers regime "the most corrupt administration in Texas history" and said Shivers owes the people an accounting for the veterans' and insurance scandals.

Shivers said the corruption charge sounded strange coming from Johnson in light of Johnson's 87-vote margin out of almost a million votes cast in his 1948 senatorial race against Coke Stevenson.

A late announced recount in Jim Wells Precinct 13 gave Johnson the margin over Stevenson in the election after returns that had been presumed to have been final indicated Stevenson was elected.

Shivers assured Johnson "that George Parr will not be counting the votes at the Texas state convention."

Johnson had asked Shivers to explain the suicide attempt of A. B. Shoemaker, president of U.S. Trust & Guaranty Co. "If he wants to know about a suicide, let me call one to his mind," said Shivers, continuing:

When Sam Smithwick killed a man in cold blood and went to the pen as one of the lieutenants of the Parr machine, he wrote a letter to Coke Stevenson and said, "If you'll send someone to see me, I'll tell you about those votes down in Jim Wells County."

Shivers then asked Johnson why Smithwick died "before he could tell his story." Smithwick's death was listed as a suicide.

Johnson said Parr was supporting Shivers in 1946 and that when Johnson was elected to the Senate in 1948, Shivers got more votes in Duval County than Johnson did. He said Parr was being brought into the campaign by "little men."

Shivers pressed on, declaring that Sam Rayburn introduced Parr as a great Democrat from the speaker's platform in the 1948 state convention.

JOHNSON said Shivers is trying to destroy the Democratic Party in Texas and would return from Chicago and campaign for Eisenhower if he were given the chance.

He said Shivers made "a big deal with a big wheel" during his secret meeting at Woodville April 14 with U.S. Atty. Gen. Herbert Brownell. Johnson slammed the press for not playing up the meeting.

He asked reporters in Houston: Why should a Republican go to a Democratic convention to begin with?

Nor did Johnson let slip his power advantage over the Governor. "I've been on the firing line, Allan, and I'll be there four years after you've retired," he said in Houston.

Farmers, ranchers, working men, oil and gas producers, and businessmen would have to depend upon "a retired governor to pass the laws so essential to our prosperity" if Shivers won, he said. "The Texas congressional leadership will be gone" in that event, he said.

SHIVERS told Houston followers that the NAACP "controls" 17 percent of the precincts in Harris County. He said that "my mission" had been to keep the Democratic Party out of the hands of the NAACP, CIO, and other Northern pressure groups. He added:

The main issue in this fight is interposition on the issue of segregation or integration in the public schools.

Earlier in the week he charged that the UAW-CIO in Detroit had sent \$1,000, the Texas Federation of Labor \$500, and the American GI Forum \$200 to the Rio Grande Valley Democratic Club.

Jerry Holleman of the Federation replied that Shivers was incorrect—that the Federation had contributed \$1000—and that the purpose was a drive to increase poll tax payments in the Valley.

Holleman said organized labor in Port Arthur and Jefferson County paid Shivers's filing fee for lieutenant governor—"We... apologize... for foisting this demagogue and his political machine upon the people," Holleman said—and Shivers replied that the charge was not true.

Shivers said Johnson is "front man" for "the same old radical gang," among whom he numbered "the extremists," "the Washington crowd," "the labor union bosses and lobbyists," the NAACP, and "party hacks."

The choice is clear-cut. There is no middle ground. There is the Texas side and there is the Washington side.

He recalled Johnson was Texas delegation chairman in 1940 when the convention "ditched poor old John Nance Garner" and ended up with Henry Wallace for vice-president. He suggested something similar might happen this year.

SPEAKER RAYBURN had also brought his cannon into play the night before the decision. He hit Shivers's "vicious, inane, and insane attacks" against him, said the Governor's statement that he loved his party more than the country was a "scurrilous falsehood," and said there "can be no compromise between me and a man who says I am a dictator."

Of the state scandals, Rayburn said: Shivers is going around talking about a two-thirds rule at the national convention. He had a two-thirds rule in the land board and look what happened. Look what happened with the insurance board he appointed. They let companies go broke and stay broke for a year and didn't even notify the policyholders what had happened.

And, asked Rayburn of his Fort Worth audience:

How many of you have ever made a phony investment of \$25,000 in a land deal and then a few months later collected \$450,000?

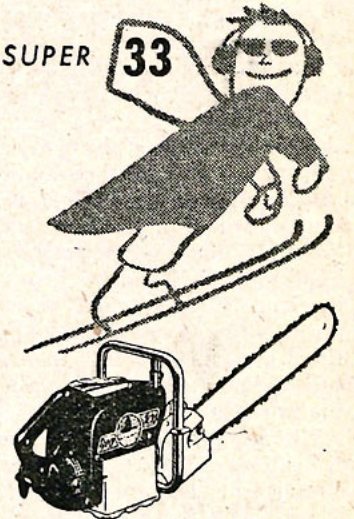
Former Gov. Coke Stevenson took Shivers's side, mostly with pointed references in a radio talk to Johnson's 87-vote victory over him by virtue of a late recount in Precinct 13 in Jim Wells County in 1948.

Gerald Mann, former state attorney general, accused Shivers of waging a "despicable, vile, mean campaign" against Rayburn "to cover up the most disgraceful, dishonorable, and shameful two years in our state's history."

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A TEXAS SNAKE TALE

VICTORIA

Victoria Youth Caught Plenty of Copperheads;
Business Was Good Until One Caught Him

There is something about a copperhead that is even more frightening than a rattler. Probably it's the silence, particularly when 40 or 50 of them are huddled close together—many with their tongues flicking the air nervously.

"Well, there they are," said my silver-haired hostess, Mrs. D. O. McClendon. "I don't even like to look at them," she shuddered, but she still stared with fascination into the new four-foot-square pen where the copperheads were imprisoned. "The one that bit Jimmy got away."

Mrs. McClendon was referring to her 21-year-old son, who recently entered business as a professional snake hunter in Victoria. We were looking over the catch he made the week before one caught him on the second finger of his left hand.

In a cage nearby was a baby armadillo; outside the garage was a bird cage full of lovebirds; another cage contained a non-poisonous snake; surveying the whole serenely was a large brown boxer dog.

"Jimmy's always been crazy about all kinds of animals," Mrs. McClendon explained, waving a hand to illustrate her point. "My friends have been calling up wanting to know, 'Why in the world do you let him do such a thing?'"

Mrs. McClendon smiled. "They do not know that boy. He hasn't changed a bit. He's up there in the hospital right now, worrying about getting this shipment of snakes off to a Florida venom farm. The man from Laredo is scheduled to take them when he hauls in a load."

JIMMY was doing just that—worrying about the snakes.

The husky youngster, his left hand and arm swathed in cold packs, lay in his bed. A few days' growth of goatee added to his devil-may-care appearance. A magazine opened at an article on snake hunting and raising was on his bedside table.

His hunting accident happened, he explained, when he slipped in some loose dirt on a river bank. "He was a pretty good size copper, about 26 to 30 inches. I had his neck in my left hand and his tail in my right when I slipped."

"I tried to sling him away, but he got me with one fang on the finger. I almost shook loose, but he got hold of me again with both fangs . . . held like a snapping turtle . . . until I managed to toss him halfway across the river."

Jimmy explained that he "bled the bite" in a matter of seconds, applied a tourniquet and was in the hospital in a matter of minutes. His hunting ground is only a short distance across and down the Guadalupe River from Victoria's city park.

"It was a tough break," Jimmy said. "We'd only been hunting 25 minutes and it was a good day . . . Copperheads were everywhere in the trees. Have you ever seen them? They're sure pretty right after they shed their skins."

The Victoria youth was incredulous at the suggestion that maybe he should consider going into some other business. "Why, we haven't made a dent in them yet. I'm building pens out at the edge of town and after we get

the copperhead shipment filled, I'm going to rattlers."

Rattlers are more lucrative than copperheads, apparently because there is more demand for rattler venom. They bring \$1.50 a pound, while the copperheads are worth \$1.50 each. Since the rattlers get so big in Texas, and are much more plentiful, Jimmy expects to make more money when he handles them. He hopes to sell nine or ten thousand pounds of rattlers annually.

He'll hunt on Matagorda Isle, at a large ranch near Tivoli, and at several other infested areas if he can get permission. "Most people are glad to give permission to come in and hunt snakes," he explained. He wants to learn about other prospective hunting grounds.

Jimmy indicated he was getting anxious to get out of the hospital and resume his copperhead hunts. "We got 22 in one morning, about four hours hunting," he recalled.

Back at Jimmy's home, his mother added that his copperhead hunting success was particularly surprising because "all of those caught have been broadbanded, when his snake books said there wasn't any of that kind in Victoria County."

Although she still seemed a little reticent about Jimmy's snake hunting business, Mrs. McClendon indicated she was becoming accustomed to the idea. "When he hunts rattlers on Matagorda Isle, it looks like I'll be the one who'll have to go down and haul them back in the car," she said.

BOB BRAY

Grandstand View Of a Bull Fight

They Threw This
Fellow in the Ring

KENEDY

The scene was in Monterrey, Mexico. It was New Year's day. A friend and I had been visiting the interesting landmarks around old Monterrey. We visited the saddle shop, the leathershop, Sanborn's restaurant, La Louisiane, and the fish market.

Finally we decided upon going to the bullfights. There were some matinee idol bull fighters on the program. The crowd was to pick the best one.

There are two prices for the *aficionados*, the cheaper seats on the sunny side, the more expensive on the shady side. We thought the tequila would bother us least on the shady side. While waiting for the fight to start, we noticed unusual activity across the ring in the sunshine. They weren't waiting for the matador to begin the entertainment.

A few roustabouts at the top of the stands were shaking up their *cerveza* bottles until they worked up a good fizz and then running back and forth

Dan Strawn

spewing beer over the unfortunates below. Others had red powder, a type of paint, in little bags. These funsters would throw the powder about over a large area below them, giving the victims a crimson hue and a peppery disposition. All this was accompanied by much guffawing and several screams. There was one fellow below in a neon red satin shirt who seemed to require special attention—the boys upstairs saved their grapefruit for him.

A considerable number of the fun-lovers had evidently broken into a dynamite store, considering the noise they made. They tossed their giant firecrackers into the masses below; pause; gigantic explosions; screams; clouds of black powder smoke. This lasted about half an hour.

The police were evidently enjoying these little jokes, for they made no attempt to interfere. Eventually, however, the pranksters went too far. One of them threw a beer bottle and conked an *aficionado* on the *cabeza*. The *federales* swooped down on the audience, picked up the closest suspect and hustled him off to the calaboose.

Just before the fight started we had the halftime ceremony. Dozens of luscious Latin-American señoritas paraded around the bull ring in convertibles. They were dressed in gorgeous Spanish costumes. Then they climbed up into the stands and ensconced themselves to watch the proceedings.

A Mexican cola sign in the middle of the bull ring, made of red sand, was swept up and put in a bucket before they let the bulls out. After the fights started the shenanigans ceased, except for one fellow they kept throwing into the bull ring. He would climb back out and they'd throw him back in again. They finally got too tired, or too drunk and left him alone.

To the fights: as I said, it was New Year's day, and they picked one of the bullfighters as the best one. I recall that several bulls were killed. It was a memorable afternoon.

A Miniature SALT History

(At the Observer's request, Kay Crews of San Antonio has written a report on the San Antonio Little Theater. It may suggest procedures to other communities that want to set up a local theater.—Ed.)

SAN ANTONIO

The San Antonio Little Theatre looks back with pride, and a bit of nostalgia for past-and-gone thrills and pleasures, upon the achievement and progress of over a quarter-century.

In its history of thirty years, SALT, the familiar abbreviation for the organization, has had seven full-time directors, and perhaps six temporary ones, or "pinch-hitters." First there was Carl Glick, followed by Coates Gwynne, Frank Beckwith, Joe Clay Roberts, William Courneen, Jean Longwith, and Joe Salek, who arrived in 1949 and will definitely be kept as long as he will stay.

In thirty years 135 plays have been produced with settings designed and executed for each, some of them outstanding from a professional viewpoint. Originally productions were scheduled for one-night playing, gradually increasing to two, three, four, and now in the 30th season to five nights for the annual musical in May. There have been notable hold-overs, the most recent being for "Mister Roberts" and "Sabrina Fair." For years only five plays were produced each season, but in 1950 the schedule was arranged for six.

MEMBERSHIP IN SALT has grown steadily, but has really boomed in the past six years since Salek's superlative direction has provided entertainment that is as nearly professional as one will find this side of Broadway. Among those memberships, as conspicuous examples of patronage for the sake of theatre itself, there are 15 angels at \$100, 22 sustaining members at \$50, and 240 patrons at \$25, all of whom contribute from \$9.00 to \$84.00, at least, beyond

San Antonio Little Theatre;
Achievement, Progress

the price of the Double-Membership book of twelve tickets, two for each show. It is also worthy of note, showing community reaction, that of this membership, about two-thirds are solely interested in being audience.

As a forerunner to the organization of the present Little Theatre in 1925, Mrs. J. H. Bindley and a small group worked for several years to establish the movement in San Antonio. This group, with no available funds for charters and organization, met and rehearsed and produced in barns, carriage-houses, home parlors or borrowed buildings, always progressing a little further each year. They even procured the money to join a one-act play tournament in Dallas by producing "The Goose Hangs High" in a rented hall, and then walked off with Second Place for their play, "The Last of the Lowries," and an award for Mrs. Bindley as Best Actress of the tournament.

IN 1925, WITH Mrs. John M. Bennett at the helm, a Charter was obtained, and the San Antonio Little Theatre was organized. Carl Glick was employed as professional director, and the first play, "Captain Applejack," went into rehearsal. There was still no permanent home for necessary activities, but with the usual ingenuity, the group set to work to find some place. An old building in the courtyard of St. Mary's College was renovated and dubbed the Green Gate Theatre, and it housed the first play. Immediately, however, the inspired group planned, and together with other artistic enthusiasts, prevailed upon the City to build a theatre.

In 1930, and not until then, this building stood an achievement: the San Pedro Playhouse on a beautiful and prominent knoll in San Pedro Park. On January 22, 1930, with Mayor Chambers as Master of Ceremonies, and a houseful of important

guests from town and out-of-town, backed by encouragement in the form of telegrams and messages from famous personages, coast to coast, the San Antonio Little Theatre opened the San Pedro Playhouse with Ferenc Molnar's "The Swan." In the dedication of the Playhouse, the mayor said it was built "for the pleasures of all people, and in the interest of all arts."

For ten years following, the San Pedro Playhouse was rent-free to SALT, lights and heat being the only charge, and all activities allied with production were in the hands of Little Theatre members. Times have changed! Now rent is paid for rehearsals and performances, equal to that paid by other individuals and organizations, and union stagehands are a must. Therefore SALT's predominant dream is a home of its own. There is a Theatre Building Committee on the Board of Directors, and a Building Fund which in four years has grown to \$12,000.

(Next: How the Little Theater Workshop was organized.)

THE TEXAS OBSERVER

Page 6

May 9, 1956



C. T. JOHNSON

Your Democratic
Candidate
for
LT. GOVERNOR

"HONESTY IS STILL THE BEST POLICY"

- Reduce high taxes
 - State utility commission
 - \$75 monthly pension at 65
- HDQRS.: 1901 RALEIGH AVE., AUSTIN

(Political Adv.)

The Week in Texas

● Thirty cases of polio already have been recorded in Nueces County this year. Twenty-two of the stricken reside in Corpus Christi and there have been six cases at Mathis.

● Standard Oil Company of Texas has announced plans for construction this summer of a \$25 million addition to its El Paso refinery, which will boost the plant's capacity from 36,000 to 61,000 barrels a day.

● Kaufman County Sheriff James Becker and two of his deputies have filed a motion for dismissal of a \$182,436 suit charging them with false arrest and wilful mistreatment of Jerrell King, 22, Fort Worth aircraft plant worker. The officers denied misconduct, and said the suit lacked federal jurisdiction when it grew out of an automobile wreck near Kemp.

● The Dallas Slum Clearance Committee says it will ask the city council to pave streets in the Little Mexico rehabilitation area so that home owners will become eligible to secure FHA repair and improvement loans.

● Veterans Administration officials asked the Senate Appropriations Committee to disapprove a \$3,500,000 fund to renovate the VA Hospital at McKinney, because they plan to close the facility and move as soon as a new hospital can be built in Dallas.

● The University (Main) of Texas budget for the fiscal year beginning Sept. 1, has been set at \$12,812,744, an increase of \$515,744, according to Lanier Cox, assistant to the president. Salaries for 14 additional top teaching positions, and more money for maintenance and equipment are set up in the increase.

● A 20-year-old expectant mother, Mrs. J. W. Carter of Fort Worth, was seriously wounded last week by what police said was a drunken, wild-firing gunman. More than a dozen shots were fired in the Carter neighborhood at about 1 a.m., with several of the bullets narrowly missing other residents.

● The United States Fidelity and Guaranty Co., has agreed to make a \$10,000 settlement with the Houston Housing Authority on the \$25,000 bond covering former FHA manager E. W. Blum, who was convicted of defrauding the government with misuse of funds.

● Former Notre Dame law school dean Clarence E. Manion, speaking in Houston's Music Hall, said last week that Southern leadership provides the last hope for states' rights and constitutional government.

● Rep. Harold Parish has proposed in a speech at Taft adoption of a state constitutional amendment reallocating the 35 cent state ad valorem tax to state school building and water conservation programs.

● Aransas County's 66-year-old Moslem temple type courthouse—main landmark at Rockport—has been demolished to make way for a new modern county building to be constructed at a cost of \$390,000. The old courthouse, built in 1890, cost \$19,494.

● Gov. Shivers gave Agriculture Commissioner John White a \$25,000 deficiency appropriation to assist an airplane spraying program on six million Panhandle acres where grasshoppers are a threat.

● A. B. Shoemake of U.S. Trust & Guaranty was said ready to leave the vets' hospital at McKinney, but Mrs. Shoemake said she couldn't take of him, so he stayed there. In a news interview, Shoemake appeared to think this is 1946 and that he is still living in San Saba.

● William Miles, a white-bearded, 49-year-old nature lover, asked the U. S. Attorney in El Paso about his legal chances of establishing a long

dreamed-of free love colony. Told his chances were slim, Miles explained: "It would not be a lewd colony. We would live by the highest moral principles."

● Heart massage restored the heart-beat and breathing of Frank B. Summers Jr., 13-year-old Houston junior high school student, injured when he fell and struck his head on a music stand.

● Police roadblocks checking drivers coming back into El Paso from Juarez to determine whether the motorists are intoxicated have caused a 35 percent cut in Mexican border nightclub business, the owners complained last week. Some club owners have cancelled their memberships in the El Paso Chamber of Commerce.

● Jack B. Porter, National Republican Committeeman of Texas, in a San Antonio meeting, promised drouth-plagued farmers and ranchers "feed and financial relief as quickly as possible."

● Housemothers at a University of Texas sorority house, which was raided by some 40 male students who got 13 pairs of nylon panties and other items, have demanded prosecution of the raiders. Only four of the boys were apprehended after the raid, which was the biggest at U.T. since 1952.

● President Eisenhower will speak on international affairs at Baylor University's 111th commencement

program. He will be awarded an honorary doctor of laws degree.

● Sophie Tucker, original "Red Hot Mama," got the Maceo syndicate's new Balinese Room open to standing room only crowds. The famed nitery and gambling hall burned down more than a year ago just as Sophie was preparing to start an engagement.

● The City of Houston anticipates paying a light bill of \$805,000 during the current year for the operation of 10,500 street lights. This does not include operation of 7543 installed free and maintained in Houston by the Houston Lighting & Power Company.

● Negroes swam last week in Corpus Christi's Butt Pool when it was opened for the season under new integration policies. No incidents were reported. Half a dozen Negroes were among the pool's 239 customers.

● Houston Vice Squad officers arrested the "proprietor" and eight customers of a juvenile gambling hall and confiscated a roulette wheel, cards, poker chips, and dice. The boys ranged from 12 to 16 years of age.

● Galveston Mayor George Roy Clough has asked Police Chief Willie Burns to prevent Negro and white persons from dancing together at dances held in the City Auditorium. "It can only lead to trouble," he said.

● More than 900 large industrial and commercial users of natural

gas were notified last week by United Gas Corp. of a 28 percent rate increase to become effective June 1.

● State Land Commissioner Earl Rudder said in Corpus Christi that if the persons who sold land under the veterans land program have assets, it is still possible that the state will not lose money over fraudulent sales.

● Insurance commissioners of eight Southern states, meeting in Austin, passed a resolution expressing confidence in the Texas insurance industry. The resolution, in part: "The present insurance board... have by their positive action stabilized the insurance industry as a whole... the overwhelming majority (of Texas's 2,000 companies) are financially sound and under competent management."

● A team of Labor Department wage officials is making a survey to determine the prevailing wage that should have been paid bracero cotton pickers in Dawson County last fall. Cotton farmers paid \$1.55 a hundred pounds on the average, which they contend complied with the Mexican labor agreement. Labor department officials figured the braceros should have received \$1.75 per hundred and are seeking to collect \$200,000 from farmers in a dozen counties to send to the cotton pickers at their homes.

● Trial of two white men accused of the murder of 16-year-old Negro John Reese last October (Observer, Nov. 2) was postponed until about mid-May on a defense pleading that a material witness was ill.

TEXAS POLITICS

O'DANIEL MOUNTS FIRE WAGON

AUSTIN
Does Pappy O'Daniel still have the "it" that mowed down rows of opponents in 1938 and 1940? Voters will get an idea Saturday when he mounts his "big, bright, fire-engine-red truck to put out the raging fire in our state government which the professional politicians kindled and fanned with graft and corruption for the benefit of themselves and certain big special interests who control them."

O'Daniel will have his hillbilly boys with him.

Meanwhile, the loyalist field was left to Ralph Yarborough when Agriculture Commissioner John White announced—on the wave of farmer optimism attendant to the recent rains—that he will seek re-election.

Dean Johnston, state president of the Young Democratic Clubs of Texas which convene in Austin this weekend,

said Yarborough and U.S. Sen. Mike Mansfield (D.-Mont.) will be the principal convention speakers.

ARTHRITIS?

I have been wonderfully blessed in being restored to active life after being crippled in nearly every joint in my body and with muscular soreness from head to foot. I had Rheumatoid Arthritis and other forms of Rheumatism, hands deformed and my ankles were set.

Limited space prohibits telling you, more here but if you will write me I will reply at once and tell you how I received this wonderful relief.
MRS. LELA S. WIER
2805 Arbor Hills Drive—CS-40
P. O. Box 2695
Jackson 7, Mississippi

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENTS

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS
TO Al Beckman, Defendant, in the hereinafter styled and numbered cause.

You (and each of you) are hereby commanded to appear before the 126th Judicial District Court of Travis County, Texas, to be held at the courthouse of said county in the City of Austin, Travis County, Texas, at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of the first Monday after the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance hereof; that is to say, at or before, 10 o'clock A.M. of Monday the 4th day of June 1956, and answer the petition of plaintiff in Cause Number 103,982, in which Zelphe Beckman is Plaintiff and Al Beckman is defendant, filed in said Court on the 17th day of April, 1956, and the nature of which said suit is as follows:

Being an action and prayer for judgment in favor of plaintiff and against Defendant for decree of divorce dissolving the bonds of matrimony heretofore and now existing between said parties. Plaintiff alleges cruel treatment on the part of defendant toward plaintiff of such a nature as to render their further living together as husband and wife altogether insupportable. Plaintiff further alleges that no children were born of said union and no community property was accumulated; Plaintiff further prays for the restoration of her maiden name of Zelphe Allred and for costs of suit and relief, general and special.

All of which more fully appears from plaintiff's original petition on file in this office, and to which reference is here made.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

WITNESS, O. T. MARTIN, JR., Clerk of the District Courts of Travis County, Texas.
Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said Court at office in the City of Austin, this 17th day of April, 1956.

O. T. MARTIN, JR.,
Clerk of the District Courts,
Travis County, Texas
By (s) ELI GREER, Deputy

THE STATE OF TEXAS
TO: Thomas Puckett, Caleb Garrett and wife, Irene Garrett, C. R. Puckett, Miranda Puckett McRae, Lorenzo D. Puckett, S. W. Hotchkiss, John Champion and wife, Mary E. Champion, Cornelia F. Hotchkiss Brown Willenberg, Martha E. Hotchkiss Bostick Whitten, Nathaniel Moore and wife, Usela (Eneobia or Eueabia) Moore, Nancy Puckett, Hannah B. Puckett, Daniel W. Hotchkiss, Mable Willenberg Dietrick, William Henry Hotchkiss, Milton S. Hotchkiss, Dewitt H. Hotchkiss, John B. Walters and unknown heirs, John F. Weber and unknown heirs, Jesse I. Graham and unknown heirs, E. D. Townes and unknown heirs, T. J. Moore and unknown heirs, Nancy Puckett and unknown heirs, Mary E. Champion, wife of John Champion and unknown heirs, A. F. Boyce and unknown heirs, J. Y. Cain and unknown heirs, Sugar M. Cain and unknown heirs, M. R. Jones and unknown heirs, Mrs. R. A. Jones and unknown heirs, A. F. Jones and unknown heirs, Seborn Higging and unknown heirs, Berry Fowler and unknown heirs, W. P. Smith and unknown heirs, Mack Collins and unknown heirs, Ada Collins and unknown heirs, Tommie

Green, Vincente Castillo, the heirs and legal representatives of each of said named Defendants who are deceased, the heirs and legal representatives of each of the heirs of the named Defendants, if the heirs of each of said named Defendants are deceased, the heirs and legal representatives of each of the heirs of the heirs of the named Defendants are deceased; and all persons claiming any title whatsoever to the land hereinafter described.

You and each of you are hereby commanded to appear before the 98th Judicial District Court of Travis County, Texas, at the courthouse thereof, at or before 10:00 a.m., on the first Monday after the expiration of forty-two (42) days from the date of issuance hereof, the same being the 11th day of June, 1956, in a suit numbered 103,994 on the docket of said court, and styled Dick Lockwood vs. Caleb Garrett, et al, wherein Dick Lockwood is Plaintiff and the persons named above are Defendants, filed in said court on the 19th day of April, 1956, and the nature of said suit being Trespass to Try Title to 24 acres of land located in Travis County, Texas, in the J. B. Walters Survey, and described as follows:

BEGINNING at the N.E. corner of a tract described as SECOND TRACT in a deed Recorded in Book 857, page 196 of the Travis County Deed Records, from Sanchez to Lockwood; THENCE along the East line thereof in a southerly direction 729.5 varas; THENCE east along an extension of the South line of the above tract 181.75 varas; THENCE northerly parallel to the East line hereof 732 varas, THENCE Westerly 195.75 varas to the Beginning.

which suit is brought by Plaintiff against the Defendants wherein the Plaintiff is alleged to own and be entitled to the possession of said property although the Defendants claim and assert some interest therein and have questioned the title of Plaintiff and have dispossessed him and damaged him, and Plaintiff seeks an adjudication of title and possession as well as damages.

If this citation is not served within ninety (90) days after the date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

WITNESS O. T. MARTIN, JR., Clerk of the 98th District Court of Travis County, Texas.
Given under my hand and seal of said court, in Austin, Travis County, Texas, this 24th day of April, 1956.

O. T. MARTIN, JR.,
Clerk of the 98th District Court
of Travis County, Texas

By: O. T. MARTIN, JR.
Issued this 24th day of April, 1956.

O. T. MARTIN, JR., Clerk of the 98th District Court of Travis County, Texas
By: O. T. MARTIN, JR.

NOTICE
TO THE CREDITORS
OF
HOME LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE CO.
DALLAS, TEXAS
Home Life and Accident Insurance Company, Dallas, Texas, was placed in receivership by order of the 98th District Court of Travis County, Texas, and its affairs turned over to the Liquidator for the Board of Insurance Commissioners on March 14, 1956.
The Court has ordered that all policies, contracts, and agreements under which Home Life & Accident Insurance Company was in any way bound as an insurer are cancelled as of 11:10 A. M. March 14, 1956, save and except, however, those policies and contracts of insurance on which

Western Republic Life Insurance Company and Bankers General Life Insurance Company assumed liability by virtue of their respective contracts with the Receiver dated March 30, 1956, and April 6, 1956.

All persons having a claim against Home Life & Accident Insurance Company are notified to present the same with legal proof thereof to me at my office in Austin, Texas, within one hundred eighty (180) days from March 14, 1956. Blank proof of claim will be furnished on request.

J. D. WHEELER, Liquidator for the Board of Insurance Commissioners
P. O. Box 13
Austin 61, Texas

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:
Notice is hereby given that Norman E. Montgomery, Chester H. Chiodo and Walter A. Montgomery, partners, doing business as Power Tools Company, intend to incorporate such firm on May 1, 1956, under the name Power Tools & Equipment Company.
POWER TOOLS COMPANY
San Antonio, Texas
by NORMAN E. MONTGOMERY
CHESTER H. CHIDO
WALTER A. MONTGOMERY

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:
Notice is hereby given that Fred Miller and Gerd Miller, partners, doing business as Miller Curtain Company, intend to incorporate such firm without a change of the firm name after the expiration of thirty days from this the 24th day of April, 1956.
MILLER CURTAIN COMPANY
San Antonio, Texas
by FRED MILLER
GERD MILLER

MAN WANTED: Good Rawleigh Business now open in Southeast Travis or North Bastrop County. If willing to conduct Home Service Business with good profits, see E. D. Stevenson, 96½ Red River, Austin, Texas, or write immediately Rawleigh's Dept. TXE-1771-45, Memphis, Tenn.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATE OF HILDEGARDE FLACHMEIER, DECEASED
Notice is hereby given that original letters testamentary upon the estate of Hildegard Flachmeier, deceased, were granted to Raymond H. Flachmeier and William A. Flachmeier on the 5th day of March, A.D. 1956, by the County Court of Travis County, Texas. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same either to the said Raymond H. Flachmeier or William A. Flachmeier within the time prescribed by law. The residence and post office address of Raymond H. Flachmeier is 2000 East Side Drive, City of Austin, Travis County, Texas, and the residence and post office address of William A. Flachmeier is 3206 Churchhill, City of Austin, Travis County, Texas.
RAYMOND H. FLACHMEIER
Independent executor of the estate of Hildegard Flachmeier, deceased
WILLIAM A. FLACHMEIER
Independent executor of the estate of Hildegard Flachmeier, deceased

HARRIS CONVENTION LIBERALS HIT HARD

HOUSTON

Waving the American flag and beating down states' rights and interposition resolutions, the liberal Harris County Democrats took over the county Democratic convention here this week.

They registered this huge metropolitan area in the big-city Democratic league, and they mean to keep it there.

The convention endorsed Mrs. R. D. Randolph, secretary and leader of the Harris County Democrats, for national Democratic committeewoman from Texas. Mrs. H. H. Weinert of Seguin, the present committeewoman, has supported Shivers and voted for Adlai Stevenson in 1952.

Scoring Democratic national committeeman Ben Ramsey for "failing to speak out" for the nominees in 1952, accusing him of being "part and parcel of the Shivers organization," the convention demanded he be replaced with a "full-time Democrat."

By these resolutions and the decision not to commit to Johnson at the county level the Harris County Democrats served notice on the state convention that they will use their 270 votes—the largest block in the state—on behalf of liberal policies in Dallas and Chicago.

Although it was little noted in the daily press, which lumped Houston with other pro-Johnson forces, leaders of the Harris County Democrats declare they won their loyalist precincts without adopting pro-Johnson resolutions and that the few silk-stocking precincts they asked the Johnson forces to carry with pro-Johnson resolutions went for Shivers.

This was not the state-wide pattern. Johnson resolutions helped carry many normally conservative districts in the other cities and worked heavily against Shivers in rural areas.

J. Edwin Smith, chairman of the liberal Democratic group in Houston, was elected chairman of the convention and expressed the view that its delegates are "morally bound" to support Johnson, but it is clear that the delegation will insist on safeguards for liberal policies at Dallas, in default of which some of the leaders say they would bolt the convention.

SOME of the new aspects of big-city politics in Texas could be seen on the convention stage Tuesday morning.

Members of a credentials sub-committee, three loyalists and three conservatives, sat in folding chairs arranged in a circle, and spectators crowded around them. One contest—over Precinct 255, off South Main—involved a convention held in an open parking area at a U-Tote-Em store. The loyalist spokesman said he would have to give the whole background. "Three minutes," snapped a curt young conservative, Jim Bailey.

It appeared that a Mr. Osburn had stood up in a convertible and commenced calling for nominations for chairman. When the voting started, as one gentleman testified, "you couldn't tell registered voters from U-Tote-Em voters in to get a can of beer." (This reminded one of the judges to ask a bystander: "Got any cold beer out there Pete?" "Right outside—in the brewery," he replied.)

The Shivers forces had totted up the largest vote on the U-Tote-Em lot, but their foes complained that there were more people voting than qualified voters on the precinct's poll tax list. A svelte young minutewoman, Louise Horr, asserted she checked "every single solitary person's name off this list who passed a poll tax to me," but that obviously didn't settle the question. The judges seemed about to split the precinct's votes between the two sides when a young man in the fringe of the crowd interposed excitedly—bobbing his head down with every blasted emphasis—

Let me tell you how the vote was taken because I was presiding when they voted! ... And that's the count

Mrs. Randolph Backed for Committeewoman, Ramsey Scored; Delegates Avoid Stand on Johnson Candidacy

[we got when we got through!]
The judges split the vote anyway (over Bailey's "Oh Ahhoho! What's this?"). Loyalist John Crossland admonished the protesting groups that they couldn't meet in a public lot and expect to have the results honored.

The convention opened an hour late, agreed with the recommendations on the contested delegations, and heard an agenda proposed by the loyalist spokesman, Dean Johnston, secretary of the liberal-controlled county executive committee. A conservative committeeman, Joel Coolidge, proposed an amendment to require the chairman to entertain a resolution on states' rights and interposition before the vote which was obviously going to unseat the conservative chairman, Presley Werlein, Jr. This triggered the heavy booing of pro-Shivers speakers which caused liberal leaders on the stage—especially Chris Dixie and J. Edwin Smith—to rush to the footlights and wave for silence again and again, their faces grim with the import of such overzealousness.

Bailey tried to defend Coolidge's motion, arguing that states' rights is the fundamental doctrine of the Democratic Party, but he was booed at every period. We need states' rights, he said, to govern the states properly—"By the oil companies?" shouted a heckler. "Federal control dictated through the states—your schools—we don't want, we don't want—" Bailey started. "Allan Shivers!" finished a bright delegate in the front of the auditorium, convulsing the assembly. After he finished Bailey went over to Bob Echarde, the liberal keynoter, and told him: "You guys could hold that crowd against God."

Dixie opposed the amendment, suggesting that Shivers "ran all over the state on this issue two and more years ago and got elected and betrayed the Democratic Party and said nothing more about interposition until it was time to betray it again." But Smith advanced a more dramatic reply.

"The people in charge (of this convention) now have not even had the patriotism to have an American flag in this hall!" he exclaimed. Surprised, everyone looked around the stage. No flag. "I promise you when I become temporary chairman of the convention an American flag will fly! In all this states' rights talk I am an American!"

Not only did this haymaker arouse a tumult, it also countered one symbol—state pride—with another symbol—national pride. After they recovered from their surprise, the Werlein spokesmen expressed indignation that Smith had reflected on Werlein's patriotism because of an oversight—"such silliness as this," scoffed conservative Jim Wheat.

There was a little concern among the loyalist floor leaders that some loyalist precincts might waver on the race issue, but the effectiveness of their liberal organization work and the genuineness of their liberalism was demonstrated when they did not lose a single vote on the roll call—which was also an event in its own right.

The chairman of precinct 152 shouted out, "Not just no, but hell no!" "As Texans vote—yes!" said No. 178. "I advise all Shivercrats to cancel their reservations at Dallas," said No. 219. "Yes!—I don't want my girl to marry a Negro!" said No. 82 (that precinct was not allowed any convention votes because of a contest, but he voted anyway). A low moan followed the last remark. A number of Negroes were among the delegates.

Swiftly then, with the liberal majority of 1836 to 1378 formally established, nomination were entered for convention chairman for Werlein and Smith. When Wheat said Werlein was "a friend of labor," a wounded roar of boos rose from the assembly. Wheat tried again—another roar, and a front-row delegate shouted, "Does he have callouses on his hands like I do?"

But then it was over. Smith took the chair.

WE HAVE fought the better fight. The voice of the people is heard today that prejudice cannot draw a knife through our land," Smith said.

"We as Democrats hold that all positions in the party should be manned by Democrats. On that issue we will give no quarter. Those who do not stand with us on that issue do not belong among us.

"You have stated that a governor cannot mislead you by shouting states' rights when he has violated the rights of the state."

Among the delegates in spirit, he said, were Woodrow Wilson, Franklin Roosevelt (whose name blew up a tall wave of applause), "the jovial, beloved Harry—as a give-'em-hell fighter he had no equal" (more applause), and Alben Barkley.

Smith said they would be guided by Barkley's dying words: "We would rather be servants in the House of the Lord than to sit in the seats of the mighty."

With Jackson he repeated: "We are the victors; and to us belong the spoils." The convention elected Johnston temporary secretary and Jim Ward, a diligent precinct worker and a leader in the Houston steelworkers' union, temporary sergeant-at-arms. Committees were appointed, their members solidly loyalist.

Mrs. Randolph was given a standing ovation. "You did it. I didn't do it. You the workers did it," she said.

She said that the July primaries are still ahead. "We must elect a loyal Democratic governor, and I don't know but one in the race and that is our great friend, Ralph Yarborough," she said. "The one we have to defeat is the bosom friend of Shivers, as he always has been—Price Daniel."

Then Bud Mosier, on the liberals' headquarters staff, told the crowd:

"We made 'em crawl on their bellies like snakes today but we're gonna have to do it again in July."

At the press table, a pro-Shivers fellow who operated an adding machine muttered:

"They don't believe that, but believe me, it's true." **RONNIE DUGGER**

Texas Loyalist Democrats Regain Control

(Continued from Page 2)

Johnson sentiment indicated, but uninstructed—Bosque; resolutions indicate pro-Shivers sentiment, but uninstructed—Chambers, Brazoria, Lavaca, Runnels;

In Walker County, Shivers won the precinct conventions, but the county delegation was released to Johnson; Austin, two pro-Johnson delegates, one pro-Shivers delegate; Liberty, Shivers won the precinct conventions, the county convention endorsed Johnson as favorite son, delegates uninstructed; Gray, Shivers won the precincts, Johnson the county convention; Goliad, uninstructed.

LONGVIEW

An indication that interposition may pop up again at the state convention came from Gregg County. The convention named Shivers chairman of the delegation and heard Atty. Gen. John Ben Shepperd—another delegation member—recommend that petitions be circulated.

Shivers is not a resident of Gregg County and did not attend the convention there. A convention official said he had been informed Shivers would accept the chairmanship. Shivers lost out in his home county of Jefferson, in Hidalgo, where Sharyland, the family estate of his wife, is located, and in Travis County, where the Governor's Mansion is located. He carried Tyler County; he has a home near Woodville.

THE STATE SLATE

AUSTIN

Here is the final list of statewide candidates for the July Democratic primaries as filed with the Secretary of State by the midnight deadline May 7th, exclusive of courts of criminal appeals:

For Governor: Price Daniel, J. Evetts Haley, J. J. Holmes, W. Lee O'Daniel, Reuben Senterfitt, Ralph Yarborough.

Gor Governor: Price Daniel, J. Evetts Haley, J. J. Holmes, W. Lee O'Daniel, Reuben Senterfitt, Ralph Yarborough.

For Lieutenant Governor: A. M. Aikin, C. T. Johnson, Ben Ramsey, John Lee Smith.

For Attorney General: Ross Carlton, Curtis E. Hill, Tom Moore, Jr., Will Wilson.

For State Agriculture Commissioner: Jim Barber, Bill Jones, John C. White.

For Comptroller: Robert S. Calvert (unopposed).

For Treasurer: Warren G. Harding and Jesse James.

For Railroad Commissioner: William J. Murray (unopposed).

For Texas Supreme Court: Meade F. Griffin (place one, unopposed);

Robert G. Hughes, James Norvell (place three).

Late surprises were the entries of John Lee Smith, the former lieutenant governor from Lubbock, into the already three-cornered race for that job this year; Ross Carlton of Dallas, head of the Texas Citizens' Council, and Curtis E. Hill, another Dallas lawyer, in the attorney general's race; and Bill Jones, a nurseryman from Kermit, and Jim Barber of Wylie for the agriculture spot.

Barber said that on May 1 he resigned his job as an employee of the agriculture department because he feels Commissioner White doesn't have "any sincere interest" in the department and has instead been trying to "raise sufficient funds to become a candidate for governor."

Shepperd's Warning

AUSTIN

No violence or "in mass" attendance of Negro voters was reported at conventions in East Texas—in spite of a most unusual last-minute statement from the Attorney General, John Ben Shepperd.

Shepperd announced before the precinct fight that "it was reported to me that Negroes in East Texas have been instructed to attend precinct conventions in mass, unlike past years."

Where did the reports come from? Denison, Mount Enterprise, Gilmer, Kilgore, Pittsburgh, Mount Pleasant, Longview, Tyler, Carthage, Rockdale, and Marshall, Shepperd said. Did they come from peace officers? He was asked. He replied he had received one such call. From responsible persons?

"I think they were." But he preferred not to give their names.

Shepperd was asked what the complainants wanted, and he said they asked for Texas Rangers. "I did not think that was necessary," he said. Had he called back to local officers of the cities involved? He replied:

"No, I thought I would pass the word along through the newspapers."

A related story appeared the same day—Friday—in the Longview Daily News. A. G. Morton, Jr., president of the Kilgore Citizens' Council, warned the council's members that the precinct conventions might be "flooded" with Negroes.

THE TEXAS OBSERVER

Page 8

May 9, 1956