

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

—Thoreau

The Texas Observer

An Independent Liberal Weekly Newspaper

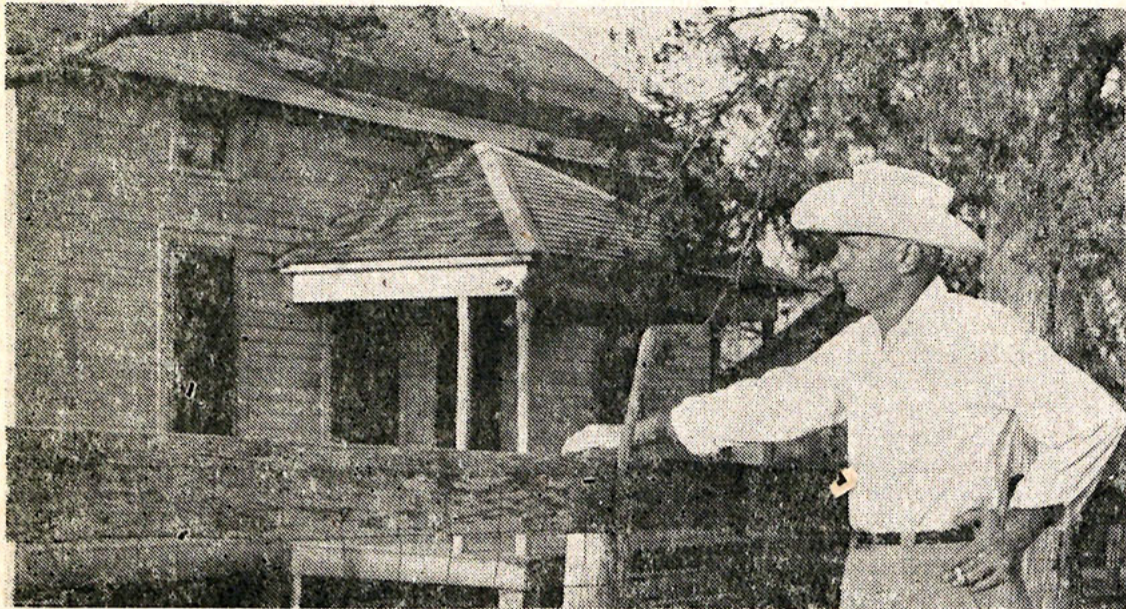
We will serve no
group or party but
will hew hard to
the truth as we find
it and the right as
we see it.

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—Staff Photo

FARMER ANTOSH AT THE ABANDONED FARM OF A NEIGHBOR
The Drouth He Can Understand, but the Allotment Program Is Too Much

Vanishing Family Farms

FAYETTE COUNTY

One day last week Ivan Antosh, a lean, sun-bronzed, graying farmer, paused in the shade of a tree behind his modest frame house and gazed pensively across his parched land.

Within his memory was a lifetime of farming. He recalled bumper crops, insect plagues, low prices, high prices, an old mule, a new tractor, drouth, good rains, federal controls—happiness and misery.

Time was when his 126-acre Fayette County farm ranked with the finest cotton land Texas had to offer. But that was another day. That was long before acreage allotments and this drouth. That was when a man who was young and determined of spirit could build his own farm empire with his bare hands.

The passing of that day is the thing that worries Ivan Antosh. The drouth will end and it is a thing he understands. But a cotton allotment program where the new irrigated farms in West Texas have grown bigger and the small farmers have been allowed to plant proportionately less; this, he cannot understand.

As he looks south he sees the 50 acres formerly farmed by Eugene Veselka, about 26, who has moved to Houston to find a job. Veselka, his wife, and their three children couldn't stay on the farm, Antosh says, because "the drouth and a nine-acre cotton allotment knocked them out."

A couple of miles up the road is the property formerly farmed by the Gus Heinrich family. Antosh says the allotment and the drouth also forced Heinrich to move to town. He's working for ALCOA at Port Lavaca.

Many more have moved, and they will continue to move, he predicts. "It is the youngsters just starting in farming, who is getting hurt," he said. "We oldtimers can usually make out."

AS AN OFFICIAL of the Old Cotton Belt Association and the Fayette County Farm Bureau, Antosh has been a leader in the fight to preserve the family farms. He concurs in a recent statement made by a U. S. House Agriculture subcommittee:

"The free-enterprise system

Drouth, Allotment Cuts Overcome Small Units

grew out of an early dream of a nation chiefly sustained by and for devout, free, independent, and home-owning farmers.

"With its roots planted in this dream, the United States has become the envy of the world in its strength, love of liberty, and in its standard of living. Whether

Bob Bray

such a nation might have grown from a different beginning can be answered only in the failure of history to disclose a comparable triumph of human vision and longings elsewhere or under other conditions and circumstances... the family farm established the

economic foundations for the liberties and the enterprise, and the national conscience, that are the heritage of the United States..."

Antosh was among the 30 Texans who testified before the subcommittee on family farms, which was headed by U. S. Rep. Clark W. Thompson of Galveston. Hearings were held in Texas at College Station, Hallettsville, and LaGrange.

Eugene Hermes of Sweet Home, Texas, gave the subcommittee a statement which Antosh said is the position of many farmers.

"...I am considered a small family-sized farmer. I have 57 and one-tenth acres in cultivation. My cotton allotment is eight and one-half acres. I have three boys in high school, one boy in elementary school, and me and my wife to feed, clothe, and educate on (Continued on Page 8)

El Paso Dispute Continues

AUSTIN

New light was thrown on the bitter controversy about the El Paso delegation to the recent Fort Worth Convention by Rep. Bob Wheeler of Tilden, a member of the credentials committee which first seated, then threw out the El Paso loyalists.

Woodrow Bean, chairman of the loyalists, had asserted that "three or four" top convention figures had told him, after the loyalists were voted the legal delegation by the credentials committee, that they would have to vote against seating the loyalist delegation from Harris County. The El Paso caucus refused, and the committee reconvened and seated the contesting conservatives, instead. But Bean would give no information on who the "three or four leaders" were, in spite of repeated inquiries from the press.

Wheeler, however, in an interview with the Observer, authorized quotation of Bean's remarks to him, Wheeler, to the effect that Price Daniel made the demand and warned that the Bean delegation would be unseated, and that a Lyndon Johnson aide called Bean into the convention hall.

Loyalist leaders have charged that El Paso and Harris County delegations were "stolen."

Wheeler said:

"This is what Bean told me, and you can quote me:

"After the (loyalist) delegation had been seated, he (Bean) said he was outside the convention hall lying on the lawn, when Warren Woodward, the senator's (Johnson's) assistant, said Senator Lyndon Johnson wanted to talk to Woodrow. He went on back, and Lyndon told him that he didn't want to talk to him, but that Price Daniel wanted to talk to him on the telephone. So he called Price.

"Price told him he'd let him remain seated, but that Woody would have to vote with him on Harris County (that is, against the loyalists—Ed.). Woody said he couldn't do that. Then Price said, 'Well, we'll just have to reconvene the subcommittee and kick you out.' That is what Bean told me."

Wheeler said that no reason was given, and there was no mention of illegal procedure, when the credentials committee reconvened and voted, 20-16, to reverse

itself and seat the conservative delegation from El Paso. "They simply said, 'We are going to vote on the El Paso delegation again,'" Wheeler said.

Wheeler noted that two of the members who changed their votes were Arnold Vale of Starr County and M. F. Benavides of Falfurrias, "areas noted for their political independence," he said wryly.

Another vote which switched was that of A. W. Moursund, county judge in Johnson's home county of Blanco.

THE LIBERAL MINORITY walked out of the committee meeting before the vote was made final. A minority report was then drawn up, and it was signed on the convention floor by fifteen members of the committee: W. J. Barron, 11th senatorial district; W. R. Barclay, 5th; Bill Sinkin, 26th; George Weiss, 28th; Glenn Batson, 30th; Earl W. Smith, 25th; Frank Hardesty, 24th; K. M. Walker, 4th; Lester L. Newman, 9th; C. P. Martin, 31st; W. K. McClain, 14th; Wheeler, 18th; Tom Moore, Jr., 13th; Jack B. Miller, 16th; and J. C. Goodlet, 12th.

However, when Robert C. Eckhardt, Houston liberal leader, tried to present the minority re-

(Continued on Page 4)

Laredo Situation

Independent Club's Difficulties Not Limited To Politics; Family, Business Ties Examined

(First of a Series)

AUSTIN

Poll taxes and absentee voting are the least of Webb County's woes, news headlines to the contrary notwithstanding.

The political machine traveling under the name "the Independent Club" is like a dragon trying to survive by eating its own tail. If it lets go, it starves; if it chews on, it dies.

Patronage, favors, nepotism, and civic sluggishness were the order of the courthouse and the city hall until the Reform Party formed a few years back. Since then the city fathers have tidied up their offices considerably; but unyielded sinecures can be awkward, and deals not buried lurk to haunt them.

The Martins are contemptuous of the reformers—"thirty five hundred outs who want in," snaps the wise new patron, Albert Martin—and they may, indeed, fight off the newcomers with their counterattacking artillery, substantial reforms and appeals to Latin solidarity. But Laredo is a different place for all that—as different as Duval today, as different as Jim Hogg.

Throughout South Texas, the old-fashioned Anglo-American idea that government should be efficient, humane (somewhat), and free from personal advantage is challenging the old-fashioned Mexican idea that government should be casual, phlegmatic, and helpful to friends of the governors or even to the governors, themselves.

JOE MARTIN, SENIOR, Albert's brother, is president of the school board, county sheriff, and one-third owner in the Laredo Transportation Company, which has the city franchise.

Albert, the former mayor and now president of the Independent

Club, owns another third of the bus company and is a trustee of the city water system at \$150 a month. (He is otherwise active in business as a director of Tex-Mex Railroad, Central Power and Light, the Laredo Housing Authority, and the Union National Bank.)

Joe Martin, Junior, big Joe's son, is the mayor, and the way things are set up in Laredo, as mayor he is also a trustee of the international bridge and the waterworks system, each of which pays him \$150 a month in addition to his city salary of \$500 a month.

The reformers brought removal proceedings against four city aldermen and other officials on charges that they were benefiting from business dealings with the city. Ran the charges, backed up by studies of city warrants:

The city paid Guajardo Motor Co., owned by A. E. Guajardo, alderman and mayor pro-tem, \$7,258.96 for repair parts and repairs from 1954 to 1956;

Insurance premiums were paid by the city to Albert Martin Insurance, the manager of which was C. M. Herrera, alderman, from 1954 to 1956: total, \$12,404.81;

For gasoline and pumps the city paid Alvin Hansen, alderman, and consignee of the Gulf Oil Company in 1954-1955, \$2,460.47;

For groceries for the city clinic the city paid E. F. Pena, city alderman and owner of Pantry Grocery, between '54 and '56: \$1,033.11.

City Secretary James E. Haynes, it was further charged, was a stockholder and director of the Laredo National Bank, the official city depository;

R. J. Benavides, the city treasurer, was a vice-president and director of that bank;

And Jose Rodriguez, the street commissioner, was paid by the city for the use of certain land he owns for the purpose of dumping garbage.

Section 15 of the Laredo city charter says:

"... no alderman, officer, employee, or servant of the city shall be directly or indirectly interested in any purchase, sale, business, work or contract, the expense, price or consideration of which is paid from the city treasury, or by an assessment of taxes levied by the city council... Any alderman, officer, employee, or servant of the city violating this section shall be removed from office and discharged from service by the city council."

The city council held it did not have authority to rule on the ouster request, and the reformers let it drop.

Mayor Joe Martin, Jr., told the Observer the charges were "purely politics." "We felt if they didn't have politics in mind, these people should go to court, and we

(Continued on Page 4)

In Their Own Right

The Fort Worth convention was the most noisome democratic exercise we've ever watched. Price Daniel, Lyndon Johnson, and Sam Rayburn together stole the convention and ganged up in a tawdry effort to humiliate the two ladies who have done more for political organization for the Democrats than anyone else in the state.

The three leaders agreed not to send a convention invitation to the new Democratic national committee-woman, Mrs. Frankie Randolph; she had to sit outside in a cow barn all day. This was a contemptible breach of personal courtesy and an unheard of affront to one of the state's two highest party officers. Mrs. Randolph chose to represent the wishes of the Houston Democrats instead of trading out those wishes to Johnson and Rayburn. They could not take this defeat in good grace. It was the kind of crude, small-time, and vindictive stroke for which Johnson is famous, but it is especially shocking because Rayburn and Daniel participated in it.

Then the three men purged Mrs. Kathleen Voigt of San Antonio as director of organization and a member of the new state executive committee. Mrs. Voigt had worked seriously and effectively at organizing the Texas Democratic Party. She accurately predicted that the convention would be stolen and stood with the loyalist majority who were entitled to convention control. For this she was ruthlessly axed.

Texas Democrats will simply double the honors they accord these two ladies as a result of their ungalant treatment in Fort Worth. But there is nothing to be done about the convention itself, which was stolen from the grass roots Democrats as surely as though three dead-end kids had blasted open the safe.

In Harris County, the loyalists had won the convention roll call, and the evidence from the contesting conservatives was not at all convincing. The loyalists won in Houston, and they won obviously.

The El Paso loyalists had a weaker case—Woodrow Bean, the chairman, had not permitted a roll call vote. But the issue had been resolved by the convention credentials committee in favor of the loyalists. At this point, Johnson sent for Bean and said Daniel wanted to talk to him. Daniel told him he would have to vote his delegation against seating the Harris loyalists. Bean said No. Daniel then reconvened the committee and kicked Bean's delegation out.

This is crucial because it shows that the Daniel-Johnson leadership

did not give a damn who had the majority, either in Harris or El Paso counties. They had to have those counties to win and they took them.

Even after this, they had to go further. The Dixiecrats from Harris County were permitted to cast the county's 270 votes for themselves on the decisive roll call of the convention. But for this fantastic breach of fair procedure, the delegates would have seated the Houston liberals, 869-736, and the loyalist Democrats would have organized the convention.

Are politicians exempted from the ordinary rules of courtesy and fair play?

Is it all right for a party's leaders to sell out the grass roots?

We do not think so; and neither did the delegates from the 145-odd loyalist counties who defied Johnson and Rayburn once and for all.

These two men are backed by the same big-money Texas interests that which want a conservative governor.

Vengefully, ruthlessly, to the injury of their own friends and their own party, they tried to rule or ruin the Fort Worth convention. They ruled, they ruined, and they paid the highest price leaders can pay: the respect of their followers.

Democrats in Texas can go ahead now free of encumbering obligations to their traditional bosses. From Fort Worth forward the people, in their own right, will run their own party in their own way.

Having been wronged, it is right and just that liberals should record the facts, that they may not recur. Now, however, begin the Texas campaigns for Stevenson and Kefauver, on the one hand, and Eisenhower and Nixon, on the other. It will come as no great surprise to our readers that we believe the Stevenson-Kefauver ticket to be better for the people and for the nation's destiny in the turmoiling world than four more years of Republicanism—of humanitarian platitudes periodically belied by raids on the public welfare, of higher bankers' profits and lower farm income, of foreign policy distinguished only by the ingenuity with which it has bungled away American prestige and authority.

And praised be Allah and Machiavelli, Senator Daniel has endorsed the nominees, too. If liberals can balance off their distaste for such opportunistic company with the comfort that Allan Shivers is on the other side, the state will no doubt go Democratic again. That will be good.

MARSHALL
Between the beginning and end of the Fort Worth convention, something happened to the conscience of our .0002 candidate for governor. At the outset, he steadfastly withheld unqualified endorsement of the national nominees, only to pledge himself as a laborer for the national ticket as the convention closed.

The ordinary Democrat would not pick a knight who had bedded down with the Republican dragon during the last rutting season as the St. George to slay the beast at the next. The thrust of his lance might be deflected by memories of the sweet liaison of '52. But these are strange times.

Democrats should rejoice that the outward trappings of the party are Democratic, however rotten be the underlying fabric. At least the executive committee is instructed to campaign for, not against the ticket, as some of the self-same members did in '52.

Instead of having to be the gallant solitary fighter he was in 1952, Mr. Rayburn now has the party machinery behind him rather than against him.

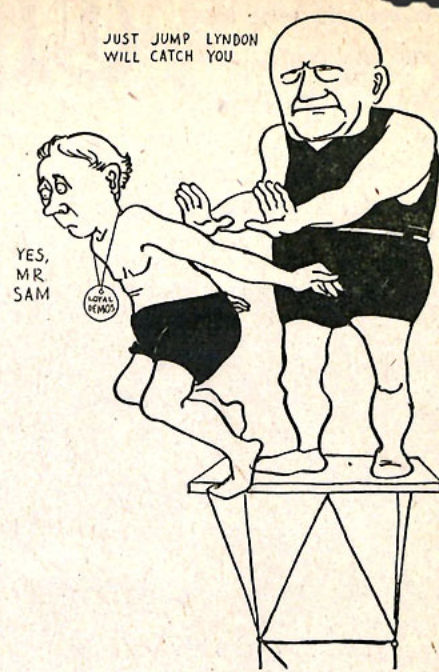
Frankly Speaking

What he did to those who stood with him through the jeers and insults of '52, in order to control the present machine, is a matter for his own conscience.

With Price is Lyndon, but we do miss Allan in the group. The ooze and vascillations of these two must have been too much for one-track Allan. He doubtless is the most comfortable of the three today. He opposed the Democratic ticket in 1952 and is doing so again, and he knows very well that Daniel would be doing so, too, but for his opportunism under stress. Daniel has as little love for Stevenson, and as much for Eisenhower, as he had in 1952, and for the same reasons.

Johnson went to Chicago to stop Stevenson, and later Kefauver, and relishes them both as a babe would a sour pickle substituted for a sugar treat. If their ticket wins, the covetous gaze he has upon the presidency for 1960 will be dimmed out. Yet these two must support liberal, forward-looking candidates to whom they are as unlike as I to Hercules. Don't jeer; the poor devils are frying.

Liberals should live up behind this shoddy leadership for the simple reason that it is supporting the liberal candidates. The sardonic among us should in fact savor the idea of Lyn-



don and Price carrying the ball, if they just continue to run in the right direction.

To our sister in betrayal from down San Antonio way, heartfelt sympathies. We feared it from May 22 forward. To one and all, shoulder to shoulder, and forward with the battle cry that our senator practices every day, "Love That Lyndon."

FRANKLIN JONES

THE SACRIFICED

—By Countryside and Town

NEW WAVERLY

"The tumult and the shouting dies; The captains and the kings depart."

Which, being interpreted, means that the high brass, having succeeded in pushing the steamroller over the screaming, squirming, rebellious citizenry, had retired to their smokefilled rooms to sample the potables popular in that day and divide the spoils.

But times have changed. In the recent "so-called" state Democratic convention, it became necessary to bring the smoke out of the bedrooms and fill the meeting hall with it. While the delegates sang that sad little song, "Smoke gets in my eyes," they were yet not so blinded that they could not see the procession of high-high brass our little senator interposed between himself and the infuriated "so-called" "governor's convention." Believing as he does in "interposition," he practiced it.

The Scripture says, "Greater love hath no man than he giveth his life for his friend." I could not help but be impressed at the gallant way they went up and lay down their political lives for the junior senator. He must have some appeal, though I do not discern it.

First, they sacrificed the young and tender: up went Jim Wright with his open honest face and a really first-rate gift of words and besought us in the name of victory to join hands across the breach. Never did he look down into the chasm that divides Democrats from Shivercrats and notice the division is of honor and integrity.

Then came Wright Patman; why, I do not know, for he is old enough to know better. The citizenry went wild as Texas's erstwhile best beloved, Mister Sam, went up. Now, they said, settling themselves in their chairs, now Sam will tell. He will tell them. But never a word about honesty and integrity. Only a sad plea for party loyalty. And he couldn't tell us what loyalty, party or otherwise, we owed to the man hiding behind the curtain who had voted for Eisenhower and ran his own name in the Republican column of the ticket two years ago.

Then came Lyndon. But we knew about him from the May convention. So no hopes were wasted there.

M. F. C.

SEPTEMBER



The Texas Observer



SEPTEMBER 19, 1956

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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.

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A TRIUMPH NOT A DEFEAT

AUSTIN

It was a kind of Independence Day for Texas Democrats at the Fort Worth convention.

Lyndon Johnson and Sam Rayburn went too far. Once too often they tried to bully the Democrats into compromise and withdrawal. Once too often they vented a punitive spleen on devoted Democrats whose only offense was looking to the people, instead of to Lyndon and Sam, for their ethics and their instructions.

They stood with Price Daniel, and the liberal Democrats of Texas stood against Price Daniel. It was as simple as that, and it was a victory for Texas Democrats that the big three had to deny the Harris County majority a convention seat, reverse their field on the El Paso loyalists, and then let the Harris County Dixiecrats vote on their own delegation contest before they could win the roll call.

Had the Harris County conservatives been kept out of the jury box of their own trial, the loyalists would have won, 869 to 736.

Johnson is a simple opportunist and Rayburn is a rural patrician. Johnson admires and respects people who chant "Love That Lyndon" as they kneel at their bedsides, and Rayburn enjoys the appellation, "the Squire of Bonham." For these different reasons, neither feels any identification with the urban liberalism and union labor which have become the dominant forces in Texas Democratic politics.

For years, because of this lack of understanding and sympathy, they have chopped off every effort of the urban Democrats to get a working political organization moving. Accustomed to the back room wheeling and dealing of the House and Senate, they fear the proclivities of unruly democracy for the uncheduled decisions.

Until Fort Worth, they managed to hold some urban and most rural Democrats with them.

WITH GREAT difficulty last year they rammed Ben Ramsey, a sidekick of Allan Shivers, down the gagging Democratic Advisory Council as the new national committeeman from Texas. This was their last unqualified success with Texas Democrats.

Rayburn had fostered the formation of the Council in 1953 to maintain liaison with the national Democrats during the official primacy of the Republicans masquerading as Democrats on the state executive committee. But the council became too powerful; and worse, powerful organizations were springing up out of the precincts in the cities, out of precincts which owed nothing to Sam Rayburn and Lyndon Johnson and seemed to have a dangerously independent reality.

At the May convention this year, Johnson and Rayburn simply swept D.A.C. off the boards—they thought—by making Mrs. Kathleen Voigt of San Antonio the personal director of organization for the national ticket and ignoring the D.A.C. thereafter.

Apparently it didn't occur to them that their back room juggling of paper organizations could not affect the permanent city-by-city organizations that were taking form.

Even at the May convention they had warning. The delegates, acting on the impudent assumption they had the right to make their own decisions, elected Mrs. R. D. Randolph national committeewoman even though Senator Johnson had not personally selected her—was, in fact, personally opposed to her.

As the summer progressed it became apparent that Mrs. Voigt was very, very serious about organizing the state for the Democrats' national ticket. When she concluded that a Daniel victory at the September convention would jeopardize the Democrats' chances in Texas in November, down went her name in the book of the damned.

It Was an Independence Day For the Liberal Democrats

She foresaw a Shivers-Daniel steal of the convention and warned about it in pamphlets she circularized in the name of the Texas Democratic Party. Once again democracy was getting away from Johnson and Rayburn. How dare she speak out loud of such a sensitive possibility, endangering the *entente cordiale* they were warming up for presentation to Senator Daniel?

IN FORT WORTH, with an inexplicable indifference to the hurricaning hostility of their former associates in Democratic enterprises, Johnson and Rayburn joined with

AUSTIN

The Fort Worth convention was as exciting as new life always has been. A new political era was born in Texas politics, with Sam Rayburn, Lyndon Johnson, and Price Daniel acting as midwives for the event.

Political power in Texas has shifted from the rural counties of Texas to twenty urban counties, and in those the liberal Democrats and organized labor have become the dominant force in the Democratic Party.

Rayburn, Johnson, and Daniel waged a last ditch fight to keep the liberals and labor from governing the fruits of the victory which they won at the grass roots in the precinct and county conventions. The old order is changing, but as long as the oil and gas primitives who finance those three have their way, the change will not be recognized.

Speaker Rayburn views political power somewhat as Mr. James Thurber's aunt conceived of electricity. Once control of the switch is lost it's liable to leak out all over the place with dangerous possibilities. Rayburn is not about to let the folks get their hands on the switch; anything might happen, even democracy.

The question which remains unanswered is, "What did Sam Rayburn get in Fort Worth for which he was willing to trade the respect, affection, and esteem of thousands of Texas Democrats?" He got nothing for the Democratic Party. He went out of his way to alienate every working county organization—the very organizations which must carry the load for the November elections. He got nothing for himself but contempt. Why did he do what he did?

LYNDON JOHNSON poses a real problem for Texas Democrats. As a political operator and manipulator he has no peer in the United States Senate today. But to the folks back home he is a vain, arrogant, self-centered politician with a dogma of his own infallibility. He is a political opportunist in the grand old manner of George Washington Plunkett of Tammany Hall. He sees his opportunities and he takes 'em—or at least snatches at 'em.

His co-workers can't agree with Johnson 99 percent of the time and remain his friends. It's that one percent he remembers. His petty grudges are carried to the extreme. After the May convention in Dallas he nursed a peeve against Mrs. R. D. Randolph and the Harris County Democrats. He vented his spleen on Mrs. Randolph, personally seeing to it at Fort Worth that the Shivercrats and Danielites did not do the Texas national committeewoman the courtesy of offering her an official's badge so that she could get into the convention hall even though her delegation was not seated.

If Johnson and Rayburn were sincerely devoted to carrying Texas in

Daniel to bar the state's highest woman party officer from the convention floor and to purge their own state organization director from the new executive committee. They even voted their own delegations against the seating of the Harris County loyalists in the decisive division of the convention.

The disillusion of the loyalist delegates was indescribable.

Therefore the loyalists from the cities have been divided on demands from the Johnson-Rayburn axis. But since the Chicago convention a strong current of good feeling has been developing between the Houston and San Antonio liberals. The simultaneous affronts to both delegations solidified, not only San Antonio and Houston, but loyalist organizations,

whether seated in the convention or not, from every city of the state.

And the pettiness and naked vengeance, the robbery in broad daylight, and the disloyal liaison with Daniel, were repugnant, too, to the rural Democrats. Except for South Texas, Daniel, Johnson, and Rayburn drew their strength from the city groups that helped Eisenhower carry Texas in 1952. The country Democrats not only voted for the Harris liberals, they led the floor fight against the unholy triumvirate.

When that happened—when the rural Democrats joined the city liberals in the guns-up vote—Texas politics turned an important corner.

The grass roots Democrats had become strong enough to walk out on Johnson and Rayburn almost to a man and take the party organizations with them.

It was not a defeat; it was a triumph.

RONNIE DUGGER

Reflections on the Convention

November, then political considerations would have demanded that they do the honorable thing and live up to their pious public declarations of seating all legal majority delegations, of which the Harris County delegation, headed by J. Edwin Smith, was the clearest-cut case. For Harris County was the largest potential Democratic vote in Texas. When Rayburn joined Johnson and allowed Johnson to reprimand Harris County and Frankie Randolph for their political heresy at the May convention in refusing to follow and accept Johnson's decision as gospel, then Sam Rayburn yielded his claim to being "Mr. Democrat" for the somewhat lesser title of "Lyndon's Partner" so far as liberal Democrats were concerned.

One disturbing factor which enters all examinations of Lyndon Johnson's operations since the May convention is whether or not his sights are centered, not on November, 1956, but on the Democratic National Convention in 1960.

One of Adlai Stevenson's closest lieutenants at Chicago told several Texas delegates that he was convinced that Lyndon didn't care whether Stevenson and Kefauver won or not—that a Democratic president in the White

House would only tend to reduce Johnson's power in Washington.

A Stevenson victory in 1956 would eliminate any other candidate in 1960. If this is the dominant factor in Johnson's thinking—it explains a good many things.

IT EXPLAINS, for one thing, why Johnson was so alarmed when he realized that Kathleen Voigt was really working hard at organizing a grass roots party with opinions of its own.

Mrs. Voigt is a very energetic, ambitious Democratic Party wheel-horse.

Where Kathleen erred was in taking her job seriously. She thought everybody was as devoted as she was to letting the grass roots Democrats organize and run the party. Following the July county conventions she compiled the stories of the various "steals" which the Shivercrats and Danielites had perpetrated in a dozen counties. But then she took the fatal step which led to her downfall: she compiled and published thousands of copies of "The Big Steal," which told the whole story of the seven county conventions where the liberal Democrats had legally won but where the Shivercrat-Danielites had filed contests. The publication of this document infuriated Johnson and Rayburn because the fact of its existence and the fact that it was delivered to every delegate to the state convention made it impossible for them to operate a back-room compromise on these contests. Rayburn and Johnson were put squarely on the spot—they had to deliver for the Democrats or be shown up as partners with Daniel-Shivers bolters of 1952. Kathleen Voigt had become a troublemaker; she had cut off any excuse for compromise. She had to be destroyed.

Johnson's jackals went to work—whispers, innuendoes, suggestions—the Iago technique, which Johnson and John Connally have developed to a fine art in Texas politics. But in spite of these efforts, the Democrats didn't lose more than fifty votes on the roll call.

Rayburn and Johnson paid a tremendous price for those votes—a price with their own people. Their apparent devotion to ideals was unmasked. They were just a couple of power hungry politicians who would do whatever seemed necessary to hold on to a semblance of power.

The Fort Worth convention was a revolution in Texas Democratic politics. The effects of that revolution are all-encompassing. The first evident fact is that Sam Rayburn and Lyndon Johnson have had their leadership challenged and have lost. Whether or not they will be able to persuade Democrats again that only they are competent to hold the reins of political power in Texas—that, dear friends, that remains to be seen.

TEXANICUS

The Stump

From Frankie Randolph

To the Editor:

Loyal Democrats of Texas:

I wish to express to you my thanks and admiration for the stand you took in Fort Worth. To see so many remain firm for a principle was most heartening. You came out of the convention with your integrity unsullied and your hopes for the future strengthened. The Loyal Democrats showed that they would not bow to pressure. They showed that they felt that the Smoke Filled Rooms had become too Smoky.

Let us not be discouraged by the loss of a convention where it took the combined efforts of Shivers, Daniel, and Johnson to steal it.

You have won a great moral victory, and I know you will go on fighting for your ideals and for the integrity of the Democratic Party. We must now put all of our effort into carrying the state for Stevenson and Kefauver. It is up to me to have Governor Stevenson and Senator Kefauver know to whom they owe the victory. They will owe it to you, the Loyal Democrats, who do the work in the precincts.

Thank you again for the great fight you made in Fort Worth. I will stand firm at your side. I am proud to be the national committeewoman of such a dedicated people.

Let us all subscribe to that great weekly, The Texas Observer, our only means of knowing the Truth about what goes on in our state.

MRS. R. D. RANDOLPH
2501 Crawford, Houston

Laredo Politics Aired in Hearing

LAREDO

While District Attorney E. Jas. Kazen. Laredo, brought out in a court inquiry that policemen and firemen contributed money to a political party, but not involuntarily, opponents of the political machine finally wrote off the votes Price Daniel received in the runoff election.

"I can't see how these votes for Daniel can be legal when they are based on fraud," insisted Charlie Dick, Reform Party leader who described himself as a backer of Ralph Yarborough. The Independent Club backed Daniel. Yarborough received 2,336 in Webb County to Daniel's 4,063.

Reform party leaders have said they believe many of the poll tax receipts issued in Webb County were illegally bought by backers of a political machine. A 49th District Court grand jury has returned several indictments against persons for advancing money to buy poll tax receipts. Among the indicted was city street commissioner Pepe Rodriguez.

Kazen re-opened a special court of inquiry to look into voting irregularities and fired an average of 30 questions at each of ten witnesses, including eight who refused to testify in the investigation asked by the 98th District Court of Travis County. The hearing brought out that:

1. Firemen and police contributed money to the political party known as the Independent Club.
2. They are not forced to do so.
3. They make contributions "irregularly" depending on their "financial condition."
4. They have not been given money to buy poll tax receipts.
5. They have not advanced money to anyone to buy poll tax receipts.
6. They do not know of any voting irregularities in Webb County.

Fire Chief George Renken, who has held the job for 28 years in Laredo, and was assistant chief in San Antonio for 12 years, said that he gets the whole fire department together about "three or four" times a year and "I tell 'em that they're working for the Old Party and should support it." But he added he has never forced his men to get votes or buy poll taxes. He testified he collects the political contributions from the firemen, which he said are all voluntary, and turns them over to Assistant Chief Armando Pena. Pena in turn hands the funds over to Independent Club treasurer Manuel Gutierrez.

Former Mayor Hugh S. Cluck testified he fired Pedro Salinas and 14 other firemen in 1948 because they were "trouble-makers, rabble-rousers and agitators." Cluck was mayor 14 years. Six of the men were later reinstated Cluck said.

Salinas testified earlier he got fired because he took part in a campaign to get civil service status for the firemen.

Chief of Detectives A. H. (Cubano) Jimenez evoked laughter from the packed courtroom several times.

Once he was asked if he had ever fired anyone for not making contributions to the party. He answered: "Not yet."

Kazen asked him if he had received any political contribu-

tions. He quickly answered: "Yes sir, but we call them donations." Supt. of Schools J. W. Nixon testified teachers are free to vote the way they choose and are not required to contribute any funds to the Independent Club.

RAMON GARCES

LAREDO BACKGROUND

(Continued from Page 1) refused jurisdiction," he said. Meanwhile, he added, the city depository was moved to another bank. Reform leaders say the practices complained about came to an abrupt halt.

THE POINT IS ALSO MADE that the United Gas Corporation, which operates here under a city franchise, and the Laredo Waterworks System both rent office space in the Bruni Building. Joe Martin, Sr., the sheriff and school board president, married one of A. M. Bruni's daughters. Thus the sheriff's wife is one of the beneficiaries of the Bruni estate from which the gas company and the waterworks rent.

R.D.
(Next week: Buses and Bridges)

THE EL PASO DISPUTE

(Continued from Page 1) port to the convention management, parliamentarian Jim Lindsey told him it was too late, Eckhardt said. "I didn't even know what the majority report was until it was read on the mike," he said.

El Paso's conservatives thus were seated by the majority report of the committee without a vote of the convention, since the convention management would not accept a minority report.

Even with the El Paso switch, the Daniel-Johnson-Rayburn coalition had only a 43-vote majority in the permanent organization of the convention. Without throwing out El Paso, they would have lost control of the permanent organization by 25 votes.

Back in El Paso, Ernest Guinn, vice-chairman of the loyalist delegation, said he, Bean, and all others in that delegation refused the deal. "As a result of their actions, Rayburn and Johnson have lost all leadership of the Democratic Party in Texas," Guinn said. He said that both he and Bean had been called backstage "by officials in control of the machinery" to be told they had to vote for the Houston conservatives or be unseated.

R. E. Cunningham, member of the El Paso conservative delegation, hailed the seating of his group as a "complete victory" and said that if Bean refused to trade on Harris County, it was because

The wetbacks are back. The suspension of the sealift for apprehended illegal aliens from Port Isabel to Vera Cruz has given them heart again, and they are slipping across the river into the Texas brush. One day last week 500 were put across the berder and sent by bus to Monterrey. The U.S. Border Patrol has tightened its line all along the river.

It started when a mutiny of wetbacks aboard the Mercurio resulted in the drowning of five who jumped overboard. Reports of "hell ship" conditions were variously made and denied, provoking interest in Washington.

Captain Rafael Izaguirre, director of the Mexican merchant service, ordered port captains in Tampico, Vera Cruz, and other Mexican ports to suspend the repatriation of the wetbacks "during bad weather," which could mean until March of next year. In Mexico City it was understood the suspension resulted from the Mercurio incident.

Three ships had been taking the wetbacks south—the Mercurio, the Emancipacion, and the Vera Cruz until the Vera Cruz was ruled unseaworthy and pulled off the route.

THE WETBACKS ARE BACK

McALLEN

George Harrison, chief patrol inspector for the McAllen sector of the Border Patrol, said the Mercurio had been equipped with 600 life jackets, five inflatable boats, ten life rafts, and two life boats and was staying close to the coastline.

The boatlift had cut wetback entries from about a million in 1953 to 95,000 in 1955.

The Border Patrol's efficiency causes hostility against it among Valley farmers. Wetbacks used to be a source of cheap and pliant labor for them, but now they must contract with the Mexican government for braceros, that is, legal Mexican farm workers. As J. T. Ellis, the state representative from Weslaco, puts it, the Border Patrol "upset an economy of many years standing, and Valley people aren't happy about it."

Ellis is himself irritated by the government disposition to con-

sider the braceros first and the farmers second. He says:

"The bracero program has not worked. The government is more interested in the labor union aspects of the bracero program (hours, wages, facilities, insurance, etc.), than in the welfare of the individual agriculturalist."

Valley farmers as a whole favor a "white card" system which would let Mexican nationals register and then come and go over the border.

Last week Mayor Cardenas Montemayor of Matamoros intruded a somewhat different civic perspective. He said that Valley farmers sometimes work wetbacks for a time and then call the Border Patrol to come and get them just before payday. He complained that during the cotton season of the last three or four months, wetbacks have cost the city of Matamoros about \$8,000 for food and travel funds.



The Texas Observer now has subscribers in all of the 254 counties of Texas.

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This week in a letter to the editor, Mrs. R. D. Randolph, the Democratic national committeewoman from Texas, says:

"Let us all subscribe to that great weekly, The Texas Observer, our only means of knowing the Truth about what goes on in our state."

The Observer is the only statewide news weekly in Texas. Every week it gives its readers full and objective reports on all the news of importance from one end of the state to the other. Every week it offers exclusive features found nowhere else. Every week, on its editorial pages, it seeks to defend the rights and hopes of the people. And every week, on page six, it takes up subjects as widely varied as whiskey for rattlesnake bites, what's the matter with Texas teaching, and what Margo Jones did for the theater.

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SUBSCRIBERS IN ALL 254 COUNTIES

AUSTIN

The Observer has passed an important signpost: it now has subscribers in all of the 254 counties of Texas.

At last report (Observer, Aug. 29th) there were Observer subscribers in 252 of the counties, Borden and Kenedy being the only hold-outs. Without explanation subsequently, a subscription came from J. C. Chorn of Gail, the only town in Borden County.

C. B. W. Dick, wealthy cattleman and a leader of the Reform Party in Laredo, noted the Observer's drouth in Kenedy County (which is ranch country facing Laguna Madre). He decided that a conservative friend of his

at Armstrong, Texas—Tom Armstrong—would find the Observer interesting and entered a subscription for him.

The reformers in Laredo publish the Laredo Free Press, a crusading and inquiring weekly. Dick thinks of the Observer as "a state-wide Free Press."

Kenedy County is on the flat coastal plain of South Texas and faces Laguna Madre and the Gulf of Mexico. It falls mostly within the King and Kenedy ranches and has a population of 632, the second smallest of all the Texas counties.

Borden is another big-ranch county. Gail has a population of 250, and the county's total population is 1,106, the sixth smallest in the state.

Dems Declare Victory; Campaign is Split

AUSTIN

The rupture between Senator Johnson and Speaker Rayburn on the one hand and working loyalist Democrats on other means almost certainly that the loyalists are going ahead and campaign independently for the Stevenson-Kefauver ticket in Texas regardless of what the Daniel-Johnson-Rayburn coalition does.

Mrs. Kathleen Voigt, whom the coalition purged as director of organization for the Texas party at the state convention in Fort Worth, told the Observer this week in Austin:

"We're just in business and are assisting our country leaders in setting up meetings for Stevenson and Kefauver throughout Texas."

Mrs. Voigt has charge of extensive political records and intelligence in her San Antonio Democratic headquarters. Obviously she does not intend to turn these over to Senator Daniel's backers.

Mrs. R. D. Randolph, national committeewoman from Texas, said in a statement to the Observer (see the Stump, page three) that loyal Democrats should not be discouraged by the loss of a convention "where it took the combined efforts of Shivers, Daniel, and Johnson to steal it."

Her statement continued: "The loyal Democrats showed that they would not bow to pressure. They showed that they felt that the smoke filled rooms had become too smoky . . . You had a great moral victory and I know that you will go on fighting for your ideals and for the integrity of the Democratic Party . . . I am proud to be the national committeewoman of such a dedicated people."

Senator Price Daniel's endorsement of the nominees without qualification Tuesday was greeted by Speaker Sam Rayburn, at the Greenville Democratic rally, as a reassurance Texas will go for the Democrats "by a big majority." It meant that the bolt of conservative Democrats to Eisenhower which was led in 1952 by Governor Shivers will be sundered this year.

Daniel said Governor Stevenson had "thoroughly satisfied" him by telephone on two points:

"1. That Texas ownership of the tidelands is a closed issue and one which he will not attempt to revive.

"2. That no federal force should be used in school integration cases."

Daniel therefore endorsed the Stevenson-Kefauver ticket without qualification. He had not done so at the Fort Worth convention.

Before he announced his decision, Daniel said: "If I do support them it will be because they are the Democratic nominees and not from a personal preference."

In Austin, Shivers promised to "do everything I can" to help elect Eisenhower. He said he saw no reason why any of the 1,102,878 Texans who voted for Eisenhower in 1952 should be for Stevenson in 1956. A "brainwashing" campaign to convince Texans the party is more important than the candidate "is being conducted by persons who hold positions of party power and who want to strengthen and perpetuate themselves in those positions," he said—but he wouldn't name names.

Shivers said he'd vote for Eisenhower out of a sense of gratitude for the tidelands, for his stopping the Korean war, and for his "restoring integrity in the Washington government."

About 7,500 Democrats went to Greenville to hear Gov. Frank Clement of Tennessee predict the

greatest defection in Republican history "just to avoid promoting Nixon." He said in presidential primaries in 17 states this year, the GOP got only 45 percent of the vote compared to Democrats' 55 percent, and he predicted "a victory tide" for the Democrats.

Introduced to the rally were Ralph Yarborough, a possible entry into the U.S. Senate race, and James P. Hart, an announced candidate.

Senator Lyndon Johnson predicted that "Stevenson is going to carry every Southern state and every border state" and defeat Eisenhower.

MRS. RANDOLPH was in Austin Monday morning to meet with the other four persons who were charged by convention resolution to conduct the campaign. They are Jimmy Blundell, chairman of the executive committee; Mrs. Max Brooks, vice-chairman; Jake Jacobsen, secretary; and Byron Skelton, national committeeman.

The state executive committee is also a part of the campaign group established by convention resolution, but its members were not invited to the Monday meeting. Blundell said he expects the committee will meet in October.

The group announced that the state headquarters for the Stevenson-Kefauver ticket will be in Austin and that a state campaign director will be named later.

Mrs. Randolph confirmed the intention of the regular loyalists to campaign for the national ticket while also participating in coalition campaign sessions. She announced that Harris County Stevenson-Kefauver headquarters is being opened this week. It will be staffed by Stevenson-Kefauver volunteer women, she said. She has been designated Harris County campaign manager for the ticket.

Skelton said there is "no question" Texas will go Democratic, "but we have to work at it." He said at least 50 of the 62 members of the new state executive committee will work for the Stevenson-Kefauver ticket.

It was announced that Kefauver will make a speech Oct. 1 at Waco at the Heart o' Texas fair. If Stevenson visits Texas, it will be later in the campaign, Skelton said.

Meanwhile, Richard M. Nixon announced in Washington he will speak in Houston the night of Sept. 25 and will there "aggressively present" the Eisenhower record of "constructive achievement." He said there is an excellent chance of keeping Texas in the Eisenhower column. The segregation issue will be faced in his Southern appearances, Nixon added.

MRS. VOIGT, amplifying the statement she gave the Observer last week, said Mrs. Randolph was "kept in a cattle barn all day" during the convention. She said she is ready to go on with the Stevenson-Kefauver campaign and that it would be "free" of "any obligation" to Rayburn, Johnson, or Daniel.

"The state executive committee should take responsibility for the campaign," she said, "but I don't think some of them will be very active. . . ."

"I'll just keep on organizing if I want to. We'll run a campaign. We always have. Nobody else has the organization but us.

Persistent Pappy

AUSTIN

When the Observer traveled for a few days in the campaign entourage of W. Lee O'Daniel this summer, he said, in a thoughtful moment, "There's the chance I'll lose, and then I'd be a defeated candidate." Apparently that thought rankles Pappy O'Daniel more and more.

He ran third in the first primary. During the runoff he announced he'd run as an independent in the November election. After the runoff the constitution Party nominated him, and he accepted.

Tom Reavley, the young Texas Secretary of State, was called upon by John Lee Smith, attorney for the Constitutionalists. Smith warned Reavley he might file criminal action against him if he didn't put O'Daniel on the ballot. Reavley said No. "His voice is the voice of Jacob, but his hands are the hands of Esau," said O'Daniel as he went to the Supreme Court.

Last week the court held that O'Daniel, having been a Democratic candidate and having voted in the primary, "assumed the high moral obligation to support the nominee of the Democratic Party for governor in 1956." The answer again: No. O'Daniel, who had castigated "those nine old men in Washington" for their school integration decision, now turned on those "nine old men in Austin" for their "lame-brained thinking."

"Because the name of W. Lee O'Daniel will be on the ballot in the general election Nov. 6, written there by the hands that rock the cradles which rule the world," he said.

This week the Constitution Party tried to get Reavley to put on the ballot the name of Mrs. W. Lee O'Daniel. She had voted in the Democratic primary. Reavley's answer again: No.

The Integration Front

AUSTIN

About eighty Negro undergraduate students are entering the University of Texas this week, the Texas Supreme Court having denied the Houston Citizens League for School Home Rule the right to file a suit aimed at thwarting their entry.

But to the northeast and elsewhere, crosses burned. A third cross was burned in Texarkana, where two Negro girls are determined to enter Texarkana Junior College and U. Simpson Tate of the NAACP has given legal notice of intention to attempt to cite an official of the college for contempt of court.

Another cross burned at the Sam Houston elementary school in Edinburg, which was integrated last year. In Seguin, a cross was burned in front of Seguin High School (which accepted six Negroes this fall for the first time) with a sign reading: "We don't want Niggers (KKK) in Seguin schools."

In Houston itself, the Houston chapter of the NAACP voted to file suit for school integration there by November 1. In Fort Worth, two Mansfield school officials testified they thought their community wasn't ready for integration this fall in depositions taken on request of L. Clifford Davis, an NAACP attorney. In Dallas, the school board, answering a federal suit of 24 Negro pupils seeking admission to Dallas white schools, said Negro pupils' achievement was lower and integration would also cause disciplinary problems. In San Antonio, there are now 455 Negroes in the public schools, twice last year's number.

A mysterious investigation of the NAACP was launched by Attorney General John Ben Shepperd, but he refused to state the purpose of the inquiry, and his press aide, John Davenport, said

it was office policy not to do so. In Dallas, Asst. Atty. Gen. Elbert Morrow spent an entire day taking pictures of records in the NAACP's regional office, and in Houston, Asst. Atty. Gen. Sterling Fulmore, Jr., and William King and Asst. State Auditor Clarence F. Niebuhr, an expert on state corporation franchise taxes, inspected the local chapter's records for six hours.

John White, the Texas Commissioner of Agriculture, took a more explicit position on integration of the schools in a speech in Dallas. "I am convinced that the Supreme Court ruling was not in the best interests of the colored or the white people," he said. "I think it actually hurt relations . . ." he said. The NAACP, he said, is doing "a disservice to colored people."

White also called mob action "reprehensible" and urged peaceful petition in its stead.

(On March 7, 1955, White said in Observer interview on the Supreme Court decision: "I believe in the U.S. Constitution and the Bible. They tell you what is right.")

Meanwhile, repercussions from the spate of racial violence in Mansfield and elsewhere continued. Roy Wilkins, national executive secretary of the NAACP, said in Cleveland of Gov. Allan Shivers' sending Rangers to enforce segregation at Mansfield: "It is now a question between the United States government and the mob of Mansfield." President Eisenhower told reporters he had read the federal court order perched Justice Department memo taining to Mansfield and an attached Justice Department memo on the procedures leading up to citation for federal contempt of court. The AP quoted Justice Department spokesmen about laws pertaining to what would happen if it were decided Shivers was in contempt.

Frank Clement, Governor of Tennessee, said in a Dallas speech that "none of us has any right to take mob action in the streets" and defended his use of National Guardsmen and highway patrolmen to quell violence in Clinton, Tenn.

Daniel and Labor Tilt

AUSTIN

Apparently the new governor, Price Daniel, either is resigned to, or actively desires, continued political warfare with organized labor in Texas.

In the angry aftermath of the Fort Worth convention, Daniel charged:

"The people of this state will never know how close the Democratic Party came to falling into the hands of AFL-CIO leaders. They would have succeeded if they had not overplayed their hands."

He said "power hungry" union leaders allied with "good loyal Democrats" from rural counties

"We were the ones who took care of the Stevenson fight up here. We don't need Johnson and Rayburn any more. After (the convention) we have no obligation to them . . . Rayburn says he got more than he lost. But respect is a lot to lose. I don't believe these people will ever follow Rayburn again."

Mrs. Randolph said Senator Johnson was "trying to discipline Harris County" because she was elected national committeewoman over his objections. Instead, she said, he alienated "an extremely large number of people who voted with him before" and sent Democrats away from the convention "fighting mad."

She said it made no difference to her that she wasn't allowed into the convention. "I had rather be outside with my people. But as an executive committeewoman I should have been given an official badge to go in," she said.

under the pretext of "party loyalty." Of the 15 to 20 minutes of booing he received from the convention, he said it came from Jefferson, Bexar, Galveston, Travis, and Potter county delegations and was "organized and carried out mostly by paid union labor leaders," some delegates and some not, and from "paid workers" of Mrs. Kathleen Voigt of San Antonio.

Replied Jerry Holleman of the State Federation of Labor and Fred Schmidt of the Texas CIO Council:

"Price is like the little boy who explains that he was late for supper because he had to fight boogey-men on the way home. He made such a poor showing at the recent convention when he had to steal the votes from El Paso and other counties to insure his control that he now wants people to think he did it to save the Democrats from some boogey-man."

"Shivercrats and Republicans usurped the power to organize the convention and turn it over to Daniel."

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Natl. Committeeman
2501 Crawford, Houston

MRS. DALE 'SASSY'
HODGSON
Natl. Committeewoman
2306 Cloverdale, Arlington

A. L. 'DUSTY' RHODES
Vice President
609 Mims Bldg., Abilene
(adv)

SKILL VERSUS ART

AUSTIN

In practically any city of any size in Texas you may find a statue created by Pompeo Coppini. Emigrating from Italy in 1896 and through struggle, hard work, and heartbreak, he became one of the most well known American monumental sculptors. He has made San Antonio his home where he still lives and works.

Coppini is a realist. His first commandment in sculpture is to follow nature as closely as possible in its purely superficial aspects, then to butter it well with pomp and heroism. He has tremendous skill and ability as a

Philip Evett

modeller and knows every trick in his trade. But the only emotion a Coppini work may give to me is the emotion engendered purely by the subject matter—certainly no thrill at seeing and comprehending a work of art for its own sake. His figures are copies of natural figures, and I feel if they were reduced in size would make excellent tin soldiers. That the works should be so skillfully executed yet so poor as works of art is not really surprising when you consider that the work is typi-



cally Graeco-Roman-Italian Renaissance in spirit, with the same allegorical content.

Here in Austin, the Capitol grounds, the University campus, and the city cemetery are graced by heroic monuments by Coppini.

The Littlefield Fountain on the University campus is a supreme example of allegory. As a work of art it is non-existent. The main figure looks like a candelabra being supported on either side by two service men who have had their uniforms stolen. In front, sea-horses are a whooping it up in the water. This group will be interpreted by different people in different ways, none of which is likely to be what the sculptor intended. The fountain group represents (says Coppini): "Columbia bringing, for the first time, the army and navy across the water in defense of world Democracy; and driven by three sea-horses, symbolizing the sea power of the United States; the center horse, the wild force of mob hysteria; kept in check by strong disciplined manpower of the navy as well as the army." To have the subject matter of a work of art explained takes the gilt off the gingerbread.

But to criticize the Littlefield Fountain is like flogging a dead horse.

It is well, however, to study Coppini's work and appreciate the very fine craftsmanship involved. It is true that modern artists sometimes scorn fine craftsmanship and workmanlike methods in their impetuous quest for fee—er, expression, and many times at the expense of their art. I believe in an old master's advice: "Deny yourself nothing, absorb all teachings and try to understand them. Then you can be selective." This of course goes for the appreciation of art as well as its creation.

Personally I enjoy fine craftsmanship, and Coppini's work can be very fine technically.

So if there is statuary in your neighborhood go and see for yourselves—it will probably be a Coppini.

THE TEXAS OBSERVER

Page 6 Sept. 19, 1956

Whiskey and Rattlesnakes

AUSTIN

Snake bites and rattlesnake bites are not the only evils connected with whiskey. Nobody knew this better than Governor O. M. Roberts, the "Old Alcalde," who wrote the "Jack Rabbit History of Texas"—so-called because it has such an extraordinary cartoon of a jack rabbit in it—and who taught law in the University of Texas soon after that institution was established.

When the Governor began to expound the law to young Texans, he was already old, and in the winter time particularly, subject to coughs and colds and wheezes and phlegms and whuzzes and all those afflictions of head and lungs and the passages between that bring the animal "created in the image of God" too near a state of sawdust and mud to even wish for death.

Well, one winter morning the Old Alcalde in this ignoble and depressed state stood before his assembly of young legalites. His eyes watered, his handkerchief was soggy, his voice was a combination between a squawk and a croak; his whole body was a slump, his mind an utter blank without a single idea, a single fact or a single gleam of human intelligence to give voice to. He stood blank, then opened his mouth and wheezed, "Please excuse me for a minute."

Thereupon he walked out of the room and down the hall to his office, the door of which could be heard shut. A minute passed, several minutes. Then the Old Alcalde strode back into the presence of the "young jackasses." He strode; he did not drag. His shoulders were thrown back; his head was up; there was a glitter in his eye. Just as his eagerness was about to explode, a "young jackass" on the front row interrupted him.

"Governor?" he queried.

"What is it, sir?"

"I'd like to ask a question, sir."

"Ask it, sir."

"Governor, don't you think a better remedy could be found for coughs and colds than whiskey?"

"Young man," and the Old Alcalde fairly roared, emphasizing the finality of his opinion with a slam on the table before which he towered—"young man, who in the hell would want a better remedy for coughs and colds than whiskey?"

I DON'T KNOW whether the story I am about to relate is a whiskey story, a skunk story or a rattlesnake story. Back in the days before barbed wire put a Spanish bit on Free Enterprise in the country, west of the Pecos, Henry Williams was boss for the TX outfit. His range stretched up and down the Pecos River, following its meanderings, from old Fort Lancaster on the south to Pecos City to the north. The "city" part of Pecos City was then even less visible than it is now; some rock chimneys, bleak and deserted, marked the site of Fort Lancaster, as they do today. Cowboys riding out daily from a series of line camps prevented TX cattle from drifting away from their proper range.

To one of these camps Henry Williams drove up one evening about sundown in his buckboard. He found both riders in, preparing supper. They had their frying pan, coffee pot, dutch oven, bean pot, tin plates and bed rolls in a small dugout, roofed with poles and dirt. They were fixed up for the winter. The dugout door was on the south side and consisted of a piece of old tarp that lacked several inches of touching the ground. Despite the camp's open door policy, Henry Williams preferred to sleep outside. He always carried his own bed roll in the buckboard, along with coffee pot, some jerked beef and sourdough biscuits dehydrated by time, and was prepared to be self-sufficient

anywhere. After he had hobbled his team out, eaten supper, smoked three Bull Durham cigarettes, listened to the two cowboys express their views on Pecos River water as well as on several other subjects, and enjoyed—without saying so—a coyote serenade, he unrolled his bed beside the buckboard, pulled his hat over his eyes to preserve his complexion, and went to sleep.

The two cowpunchers went inside the dugout to sleep. Presumably they did not cover their faces with their hats. Anyhow, along in the night one of them awoke the slumbering hills with a yell. A skunk had bit him through the nose. Skunks are always prowling at night for something to eat. To enter the dugout with its food smells was as natural for a skunk as to enter an old badger hole. One summer night when I was a boy a skunk came up into the

J. Frank Dobie

open hall of our ranch house and bit into the big toe of a Mexican girl who was sleeping on a pallet spread on the floor. This was in Live Oak County, and the worst thing connected with a skunk that people in that part of the country generally feared was the little animal's fire-extinguisher. On west, any skunk that bit a human being was supposed to be a hydrophobia skunk. No cow camp ever conjured up any other horror as horrible as death resulting from the bite of a hydrophobia skunk.

And now in the middle of the night, away out in the middle of the vast and empty Pecos range, a long hundred miles from nowhere, this TX cowboy had a hydrophobia skunk biting into his nose. Somewhat curiously, the cowboy was called Snort—when he got close enough to anybody to be called anything; the episode in the dugout had no influence on changing his name. Snort was highly excited at the prospect of hydrophobia; his mate and Henry Williams were too.

Henry Williams always carried a bottle of whiskey with him for emergencies. He wanted to cheer Snort up and he told him that he'd heard a doctor say that whiskey was even better than a madstone for the bite of a hydrophobia skunk. Snort listened to the prescription, swallowed a big dose without flinching, and seemed to take a less gloomy view of his destiny.

HENRY WILLIAMS had heard of a kind of doctor having come to Midland, fully a hundred miles northeast of the dugout camp. No doctor had yet felt the call to settle in Pecos City. The hobbled horses, none too fresh, were brought in and hitched to the buckboard. Snort got up on the seat with Henry Williams; he did not forget to bring his medicine with him. Henry Williams headed for Midland, and before long they saw daylight coming to meet them. As the old cowboy song says, "It was a long and lonesome go." The horses suffered for water. There wasn't any road—just a way. By dark Snort had taken the last drop of medicine out of the quart bottle. They made a dry camp, let the horses rest and graze and then about three o'clock in the morning drove on. Snort became more despondent over the prospect of hydrophobia than he had been at any other

time. Henry Williams was mightily relieved when, just at daybreak, he smelled coffee boiling and mesquite wood burning and knew they were at the Block Ranch.

Three cowboys were eating breakfast. They said yes, that a doctor of some sort had put down his stakes in Midland. It was still thirty-five miles or so to Midland. They would bring in a fresh team of horses to hitch to the buckboard. Meantime, they had a quart of whiskey, always reserved for emergencies, and they were glad to help fight hydrophobia with it. In a melancholy, disinterested way, Snort began swallowing it, while Henry Williams downed coffee, steak and hot biscuits. Then while the fresh horses were being roped and harnessed, Snort sort of staggered out to the pen and sat down, leaning his back against the fence. He was beside a pile of old lumber. As soon as the team was hitched in, Henry Williams called Snort to come on. Snort didn't seem to make much effort to move and Williams walked towards him with the intention of helping him up.

JUST AS he got to the old lumber pile, Williams heard rattlesnake rattles whirring. He saw Snort put a hand out on the ground as if to raise himself up. He saw a monstrous rattlesnake plunge his fangs into the hand. The three Block Ranch cowboys said the only remedy they knew for snakebite was whiskey. That was the only remedy Henry Williams had ever heard of. They all encouraged Snort to take more medicine. He did. They got him into the buckboard and Henry Williams started off, just hitting the road in high places.

"I did not know whether the feller would go mad from skunk bite or die from snake bite," Henry Williams says. "I didn't know what might happen. I just kept bathing the butts of that fresh pair of horses and they laid down in the collars like a pair of Spanish mules. Snort was cooperating on the bottle right along. About an hour before noon he held the bottle up to the sun to show me it was empty. I grabbed it and threw it away to lighten the load. That pair of Block ponies was pure buckskin. We got into Midland along early in the afternoon and found the doctor.

"He was a dentist but had practiced some on horses. All he knew to do for snake bite or skunk bite was give whiskey. Well, it looked like everybody in town wanted to provide medicine. We all kinder forgot, it seemed, who was the main patient and whether it was hydrophobia or rattlesnake poison this cowboy Snort had to be doctored for. I lost sight of him. In fact, I forgot all about him. I forgot about a lot of things.

"About sunup next morning, the weather sorter cleared and I set out to find Snort. I found him in a livery stable stall, asleep. I woke him up to ask him how he felt. He said he didn't recollect having been sick. He wanted to know how he'd come to make a trip to Midland. 'Why,' I says, 'in the first place you got skunk-bit and then you got rattlesnake-bit.' He wouldn't believe it. He wanted to know if a man could get a drink anywhere. I drove him back to the TX dugout. As far as I know, he never did recollect about the bites, and if he ever died I never heard of it."

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AGENCIES THROUGHOUT TEXAS

(Why has Jim Hogg County refused to finance its public school system adequately? A special Observer report from Hebronville.—Ed.)

HEBRONVILLE

The situation in Hebronville is so bad, even "El Silencio," Dr. Homero Martinez, is driven to say, "If we're going backwards instead of forwards, we might as well not be in this world."

"The Silent One" was speaking of the sudden announcement in Hebronville that there wasn't any money to open the 1,200-pupil school and the school board couldn't borrow any more.

A citizens' committee formed and, as it were, passed the tin cup. Slightly more than \$1,100 was raised, which would hardly begin to meet the August payroll of \$17,000. The entire school board has finally resigned, and ten citizens, including five of the new board members, personally endorsed a bank note for \$24,000. The school opened on time.

Allowing for all anticipated state and local income and cutting every corner, the new superintendent, S. M. Anderson, expects the school to run out of money again in April. His present plan for raising the needed \$60,000 for the balance of the school year: more private loans from the citizens.

Hebronville's crisis is symptomatic of the tension across the ranchlands of South Texas between the old "patron" system of government and the reformers. It shows what can happen when the people don't pay attention to their school system and their taxes. In

its own way it dramatizes the problems facing overcrowded and underfinanced schools throughout the country.

The low-slung white stucco school is the only one in Jim Hogg County, which is in transition from a feudal society of ranch units to a community depending more and more on publicly-supported institutions. The school was built in 1938 under the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works and was expanded in 1951, but the tax valuations haven't changed basically in two decades.

The county jefe is Aristides Barrera (called "Aris") who holds court in a little office in the back of his drug store. A small man with a vaguely officious air, Barrera was chairman of the school board for twelve years even though he was also county commissioner. He and his associates on the board waited until a few weeks before school was to open to tell the people of the crisis.

"My suggestion," Barrera said last week, "would be that they have to raise the tax level." Why hadn't the old board so recommended? "We tried it but just couldn't get the proper co-operation of the big interests," he said.

"The big interests" of Jim Hogg County are, mainly, the large land-owning families, especially the Easts, the Joneses, and the Gruys, and the oil companies with holdings there, especially Humble and Sun Oil.

July a year ago the board called in the main landholders and told

Backward or Forward

Resistance to New Taxes Almost Closed a School

them they might have to raise taxes on ranch property. Most of them indicated they would accept an equitable tax increase, but nothing was agreed upon. The school board minutes also record an interesting exchange that day:

"Billy Jones: I have been hurt. They have taxed my ranch house and I don't think that it should be taxed at all

"Ray Holbein (a county commissioner): You should be ashamed of yourself, Billy. All property should be taxed according to its value, and you have an expensive house."

Ernesto Vasquez, the only member of the old board who has not yet resigned, says that the deficits continued to grow because the old board "didn't want to put pressure on the big land owners."

The group now running the board suggest that the old group were politically dependent on the ranchers and were "timid" (as rancher George Saunders puts it) about announcing that revenues were not meeting expenses.

Under Jefe Aristides's administration, the school cafeteria lost about \$600 a month for four years feeding children free at the noon meal. He explains that the average Mexican-American ranchhand in Jim Hogg gets about \$75 a month, and with this he may have to feed five or six children. The new board has tightened up the program, based it on proof of need.

Anderson, the new superintendent, is a veteran schoolman (he was superintendent at Petronila, near Corpus Christi, for ten years), and as a newcomer in the town he is careful what he says. He explains:

"When I took over there just wasn't any money to meet the August payroll. They had a prepayment of 1956 taxes from Humble and Sun Oil so they could meet the July payroll. There are about \$140,000 in short term loans and accounts payable due. The old board was not able to secure a loan to make the August payroll"

There is "some talk," Anderson says, that there will have to be a tax raise. It couldn't affect the county's income before October, 1957, so the citizens will probably have to tide the school over until then if it is to stay open. The tax rate is \$1.25 per \$100 valuation (it could be \$1.50 without special legislative enactment), and the total county valuation is about \$12 million, based largely on a \$4-per-acre valuation of the ranchland.

Is it still possible the schools might close down? "Yes sir," Anderson says firmly. "But it would be rather ridiculous for an entire community to close its school doors because of a failure to support its public schools." He concedes there are some people "bitterly opposed" to raising taxes.

A member of the new board Mrs. Earl Dodson, sums up the new feeling: "We can no longer fear hurting other people's feelings. It's a matter of the educa-

tion of twelve hundred children." Whether the new feeling will prevail is still, as Aris Barrera says, a very hard question to answer." In many ways the answer lies with Tom East, Jr., and the other big ranchers like him. East, a handsome, tough-featured young man, walks about the slow-moving country town under a woven straw cowboy hat, bow-legged, with his arms swinging back on his hips. He says he doesn't know anything about it and doesn't want to be quoted.

RONNIE DUGGER

Second Respite

BELTON

Trial of T. J. McLarty, former Cuero real estate dealer who is under indictment in connection with the veterans' land scandals, has been reset for Oct. 15 by District Judge James K. Evetts.

The case delayed for the second time after McLarty's attorneys presented a doctor's certificate that the defendant is under treatment for a heart ailment and is not able to stand trial.

McLarty, who now resides in Denver, was found guilty of one land scandal charge and sentenced to four years in prison. The case is now on appeal.

Mixed Couple Leave

SAN ANTONIO

A white woman and her Negro husband have reportedly left the state of Texas on advice of District Attorney Hubert Green after a Bexar County grand jury no-billed the couple even though their living together is a violation of state laws.

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CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS

TO John Quiroz, Defendant, in the hereinafter styled and numbered cause: You are hereby commanded to appear before the 126th 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 29th day of October, 1956, and answer the petition of plaintiff in Cause Number 102,958, in which Juanita Quiroz is Plaintiff and John Quiroz is Defendant, filed in said Court on the 5th day of December, 1955, 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 towards her of such a nature as to render their further living together, as husband and wife altogether insupportable; Plaintiff further alleges that four children, the issue of said marriage, are now living with plaintiff, who is the proper person to be awarded their custody and control and for which she prays judgment; Plaintiff further prays for order of court requiring defendant to contribute a reasonable amount monthly for the support of said children; plaintiff further prays 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 the 14th day of Sept., 1956.

O. T. MARTIN, JR.
Clerk of the District Courts,
Travis County, Texas.

By GEO. W. BICKLER, Deputy.

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS

TO Josiah Fisk, if he be living and if he be dead the heirs and legal representatives of Josiah Fisk, Defendant, in the hereinafter styled and numbered cause: You (and each of you) are hereby commanded to appear before the 126th 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. on 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 29th day of October, 1956, and answer the petition of plaintiff in Cause Number 105,121, in which Marion Fowler is Plaintiff and Josiah Fisk, if he be living and if he be dead the heirs and legal representatives of Josiah Fisk are Defendants, filed in said Court on the 7th day of

September, 1956, and the nature of which said suit is as follows:

Being an action and prayer for judgment in favor of Plaintiff and against defendants for title to and possession of the five (5) acres of land, more or less, situated in Travis County, Texas, being a part of the James M. Mitchell Survey, Patented on July 26, 1950, Abstract No. 521, more particularly described by metes and bounds in said petition; plaintiff alleges that he is the owner in fee simple of said land;

Plaintiff further alleges that he claims title to said land in fee simple, under title or color of title from and under the sovereignty of the soil, and that defendants are claiming some interest in said 5 acres of land which said claims are barred by the three-five, ten and twenty-five year statutes of limitation; Plaintiff further prays for removal of cloud from title, 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 for all intents and purposes;

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 the 14th day of Sept., 1956.

O. T. MARTIN, JR.
Clerk of the District Courts,
Travis County, Texas.

By GEO. W. BICKLER, Deputy.

THE STATE OF TEXAS

TO any Sheriff or any Constable within the State of Texas—GREETING: You are hereby commanded to cause to be published, ONCE, not less than ten days before the return day thereof, in a newspaper printed in Travis County, Texas, the accompanying citation, of which the herein below following is a true copy—(but if there be no newspaper so printed in said county, then that you cause the said citation to be posted for at least TEN days before the return term thereof as required by law).

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF James A. McClain, A Person for whom the appointment of a guardian is necessary to receive funds due him from the Federal Government. No. 16,029, County Court Travis County, Texas. Mrs. Clara McClain, guardian thereof, filed in the County Court of Travis County, Texas, on the 4th day of September A. D. 1956, her Final Account of the condition of the Estate of said James A. McClain, A Person for whom the appointment of a guardian is necessary to receive funds due him from the Federal Government, together with an Application to be discharged from said Estate.

Said Final Account and Application will be heard and acted on by said court on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of Posting or Publishing this citation, the same being the 1st day of October, 1956, at the Courthouse thereof in Austin, Texas, at which time and place all persons interested in the Account for Final Settlement of said Estate are required to appear by filing a written answer and contest said account and application should they choose to do so.

The officer executing this writ shall promptly serve the same according to requirements of law, and the mandates hereof, and make due return as the law directs.

Given Under My Hand and the Seal of said Court at office in Austin, Texas, this the 12th day of September, A. D. 1956.

EMILIE LIMBERG
Clerk of the County Court,
Travis County, Texas

By M. EPHRAIM, Deputy

THE STATE OF TEXAS

TO any Sheriff or any Constable within the State of Texas—GREETING: You are hereby commanded to cause to be published, ONCE, not less than ten days before the return day thereof, in a newspaper printed in Travis County, Texas, the accompanying citation, of which the herein below following is a true copy—(but if there be no newspaper so printed in said county, then that you cause the said citation to be posted for at least TEN days before the return term thereof as required by law).

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS

TO All Persons interested in the estate of Emily Spence, A Minor. No. 13,212, County Court Travis County, Texas. Mrs. Elizabeth P. Keenan, guardian thereof, filed in the County Court of Travis County, Texas, on the 23rd day of August, A. D. 1956, her Final Account of the condition of the Estate of said Emily Spence, A Minor, together with an Application to be discharged from said Estate.

Said Final Account and Application will be heard and acted on by said Court on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of Posting or Publishing this citation, the same being the 1st day of October, 1956, at the Courthouse thereof in Austin, Texas, at which time and place all persons interested in the Account for Final Settlement of said Estate are required to appear by filing a written answer and contest said account and application should they choose to do so.

The officer executing this writ shall promptly serve the same according to requirements of law, and the mandates hereof, and make due returns as the law directs.

Given under my hand and the Seal of said Court at office in Austin, Texas, this the 10th day of September, A. D., 1956.

EMILIE LIMBERG
Clerk of the County Court,
Travis County, Texas

By M. EPHRAIM, Deputy

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS

TO V. L. Stephens, Defendant, in the hereinafter styled and numbered cause: You are hereby commanded to appear before the 126th 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 22nd day of October, 1956, and answer the petition of plaintiff in Cause Number 103,432, in which Gladys Stephens is Plaintiff and V. L. Stephens is defendant, filed in said Court on the 3rd day of February, 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 a decree of divorce dissolving the bonds of matrimony heretofore and now existing between said parties; Plaintiff alleges cruel treatment on the part of Defendant towards her of such a nature as to render their further living together as husband and wife altogether insupportable; Plaintiff further alleges no children were born of said union and community property has been settled;

Plaintiff further prays for 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 the 6th day of September, 1956.

O. T. MARTIN, JR.,
Clerk of the District Courts,
Travis County, Texas

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

By virtue of an order of sale issued by the Clerk of the 126th District Court of Travis County, Texas, on the 20th day of August, 1956, in Cause No. 101,227, upon the docket of the 126th District Court of Travis County, Texas, wherein a judgment for the sum of Eight Thousand Five Hundred Twenty-one and 70/100 (\$8,521.70) Dollars, with interest thereon at the rate of five (5%) per cent per annum from July 20, 1956, and costs of suit was recovered by The Austin National Bank, Independent Executor and Testamentary Trustee of the Estate of Bertram H. Bloor, deceased, against Lillian Shockley Meredith and Chester Graham Foster, which judgment was also for foreclosure of the vendor's lien upon the property in said order of sale and hereinafter described, I, T. O. Lang, Sheriff of Travis County, Texas, on the 27th day of August, 1956, at 11:24 o'clock A. M. levied upon and will, on the first Tuesday in October, 1956, the same being the second day of said month, at the courthouse door of Travis County, Texas, within the legal hours of 10 o'clock A. M. and 4 o'clock P. M., proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder all of the right, title, interest, estate and claim which the said Lillian Shockley Meredith and Chester Graham Foster, all the right, title, interest and claim, which Leroy B. Meredith, Lucille K. Foster, Calcasieu Lumber Company, Genevieve Keeworth, Van M. Smith, Chester Freund and Lawyers Title Insurance Company, or any of them, or any person claiming by, through or under them, or any of them, had on October 6, 1951, or at any time thereafter and still has or claims in and to the following described tract of land in Travis County, Texas, a part of the James Manor Headright, described as follows:

Beginning at a point in continuation of the West line of Lexington Street in the town of Manor in said County and State 60 feet North from the Northeast corner of Block No. 78, of said town of Manor;

Thence West, parallel with Rector Street, 250 feet;

Thence North with an angle of 90° to Rector Street, 250 feet;

Thence East, parallel with Rector Street, 250 feet;

Thence South 250 feet to the place of beginning, and being the same land conveyed to Mrs. Martha W. Bloor by A. E. Lane and wife by deed of conveyance dated June 30, 1897, recorded in Book 147, page 273, of the Deed Records of Travis County Texas; together with all improvements thereon situated, being the same land as that conveyed by B. H. Bloor and wife, Pearl C. Bloor, to Lillian Shockley, by deed dated October 6, 1951, recorded in Book 1203, at page 263, of the Travis County Deed Records.

The above sale will be made to satisfy the above described judgment in favor of plaintiff, The Austin National Bank, Independent Executor and Testamentary Trustee of the estate of Bertram H. Bloor, deceased, as secured by the vendor's lien upon the property above described, together with costs of suit, and the proceeds of such sale will be applied in satisfaction hereof and in the manner in said judgment provided and in accordance with the terms of said order of sale.

Witness my hand at Austin in Travis County, Texas, this the 28th day of August, A. D. 1956.

T. O. LANG,
Sheriff of Travis County, Texas

By HENRY KLUGE, Deputy

THE STATE OF TEXAS

TO: MRS. VIOLET LIPSCOMB, a Femme Sole, Defendant in the hereinafter styled and numbered cause: You are hereby commanded to appear before the 98th 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 15th day of October, 1956 and answer in writing the petition of Mrs. Emma Lillian Lipscomb, Petitioner, in Cause No. 103,924, on the docket of said court, in behalf of Nathan Lee Lipscomb, Barbara Beatrice Lipscomb, Edwina Lipscomb, Violet E. Lipscomb, and James Thomas Lipscomb, minors, and styled: "Amended Petition for Declaration of Dependence," said original petition was filed in said court on the 6th day of for Declaration of Dependency being filed on the 8th day of May, 1956. The nature of the suit is as follows:

Mrs. Emma Lillian Lipscomb, as petitioner, instituted this suit for the purpose of declaring Nathan Lee Lipscomb, a boy, 16 years old, Barbara Beatrice Lipscomb, a girl, 13 years old, Edwina Lipscomb, a girl, 11 years old, Violet E. Lipscomb, a girl, 4 years old, and James Thomas Lipscomb, a boy, 9 years old, Dependent and Neglected children, and to place the custody of said children into the care of their grandmother, petitioner, Mrs. Emma Lillian Lipscomb.

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 Court of Travis County, Texas. Given under my hand and the seal of said court at office in the City of Austin, Travis County, Texas, this the 27th day of August, 1956.

O. T. MARTIN, JR.,
Clerk of the District Courts,
Travis County, Texas

By GEO. W. BICKLER, Deputy

Issued this the 27 day of August, 1956.

Senate Primary Juggles Prospects

Ralph Backers, GOP Want Nov. 6 Vote, But Not Hart

THE WEEK IN TEXAS

- Prices received by Texas farmers have dropped 36 percent since March, 1951, and their livestock prices are down 48 per cent for the same period, the University of Texas Bureau of Business Research reports.
- Buck Owens, 27-year-old truck driver, testified for the state in San Antonio that local teamsters' union official Raymond C. Shafer hired him to dynamite the Alamo Freight Lines warehouse (the fuse fizzled out) and set fire to the warehouse of Lee-way Motor Freight, Inc., in January, 1955. Owens said Shafer also tried to persuade him to etch the word "rat" with acid on the forehead of a nonunion driver for Southwest Motor Transport Company. Owens said he and Eddie Hass, who is indicted with Shafer, did set fire to the warehouse and gave up plans to dynamite the Southwest firm when they found it too well lighted.
- State Rep. Tom Joseph, Waco, said he will introduce a bill to require the Texas Insurance Commission or the State Banking Department to regulate union welfare funds. He said sometimes as little as 40 percent of the contributions reach the workers.
- The Texas Prison Board voted to ask the next Legislature to appropriate \$4,825,000 and to let them sell the Blue Ridge Prison Farm near Houston for another \$4 million to finance new prison system construction.
- A circus clown, Eddie Dulum, passing through Dallas, bemoaned the onset of radio and TV. "Clowning is almost a lost profession," he said.
- In San Antonio, former vice squad lieutenant Wilton Shaw was found guilty of five counts of an ouster charge involving alleged failure to enforce anti-marble table laws and was suspended for eight months without pay.
- In Fort Worth, Mrs. Charlie Mae Allen, election judge of predominantly Negro precinct 120, was indicted on three counts of casting ballots for men who did not vote, thereby falsely and unlawfully certifying the correctness of the returns from her box.
- Gulf and Magnolia told a House subcommittee meeting in Waco they had rescinded their half-cent farm gasoline price hike, and other oil companies, after explaining increased costs, said they would reconsider it.
- Sam Hargraves, Sr., Anahuac hunting guide, was found guilty of illegal possession and sale of wild ducks and geese, fined \$250, and given a five month sentence in Galveston. He denied he ever sold Tony Stefano, Department of Interior undercover agent, any ducks.
- Texas Railroad Commission chairman Bill Murray says the commission will continue to base its October allowable on present market demand for oil, not on Suez-oriented speculation.
- Trial of George Parr on a count of "seriously threatening (the) life" of Tomas Molina, a political foe, proceeded in Alice. One witness said Parr leveled a .30-30 at his midsection and told him, "Go tell Tom Molina I'm looking for him." Parr was found guilty and fined \$1,500.
- R. M. Dixon, state Water Board chairman, endorsed a suggestion by Texas A&M water research director Gibb Gilchrist that Texas needs a three-man water board on the same pattern as the present Texas Highway Commission.
- A Republican, Charles W. (Napper) Davis of McAllen, is running for the Texas Senate from the 27th district, and Robert O. Fagg of Austin is also running under the GOP flag for state representative.
- Roy Hofheinz, former mayor of Houston, has borrowed \$1 million from the Sealy-Smith Foundation in Galveston to consolidate debts and develop the Harris County properties he put up as security.

AUSTIN

Demands from loyalists and Republicans that Price Daniel resign his Senate seat in time for a high-man-wins race November sixth were coincident with the feeling in the Jim Hart camp that a primary and primary runoff would improve his chances over those of Ralph Yarborough.

It seems apparent that Yarborough would have his best chance at the Senate seat in a plurality election in which his very large following around the state would vote for him with maximum effect. Republican Senate candidate Thad Hutcheson of Houston also feels that he would have his best chance Nov. 6, since President Eisenhower's name will then attract many voters to the Republican side of the ballot.

Senator Daniel is candid about the intention of his plan for a Democratic primary and a primary runoff, followed by a general election: he wants to weaken Yarborough's chances and, as he said before the Fort Worth convention, he does not want a Republican elected.

Yarborough took sharp issue with the latter intention in an Austin statement. He said Daniel prefers seeing Republicans elected to office. "He has supported the Republicans for many years, and he actively campaigned for them in 1952," Yarborough added.

DANIEL says he is sure that a primary would be legal and is backed up in this conclusion by Secretary of State Tom Reavley. But Reavley adds that the law is clear that the state can't finance any part of a party primary. "How the Democratic Party is going to get enough money to pay for them real problem," Reavley said. Ordinarily the cost of holding the election would be more than \$400,000. Daniel says the state executive committee is considering the possibility of holding the first primary Nov. 6 and the runoff the next Saturday, when the state is holding a special election on a constitutional amendment. This would reduce voting machine costs. Another possibility being explored is the use of volunteer, unpaid help for election judges and officials.

Mrs. R. D. Randolph, national Democratic committeewoman,

WHILE THE TWO GROUPS of Texas cotton farmers were girding for a battle for allotments on the state level, Rep. Thompson's subcommittee issued a report recommending:

"The enactment of legislation to assure each family-size farm its share of the Nation's agricultural production and in the prosperity which the American system has provided for the nation's general economy.

"The subcommittee in its field studies found great hardships among small farmers resulting from the construction of their allotted acres below the necessities of the farm families. These hardships and their solution through minimum allotments should be the concern of the Department of Agriculture, the Congress, and the nation. . . It is important to the well-being of rural and urban people alike, as it is a matter of simple justice, that farm families should share fairly in the fruits of free enterprise, which is the heritage and pride of all Americans," the report concluded.

said in Houston Daniel should resign to let the election be held Nov. 6. She said Daniel, Gov. Shivers, and Sen. Johnson know Yarborough would be elected at such an election and added the stage is being set for the appointment of Shivers or "some other Dixiecrat" to the Senate seat. She called Daniel's proposal a "stalling maneuver hatched by the Daniel-Shivers-Johnson alliance in a desperate effort to elect a Dixiecrat."

Hutcheson said Daniel should "carry out his widely understood campaign commitment to resign as soon as he was certified as the Democratic nominee for governor." Hutcheson said the election of a Republican was the most logical way to bring Texas to two-party politics.

Daniel's position is that a sudden-death election would let a minority elect the senator. Mrs. Randolph replied that Yarborough would win at an election at which the majority of the people would turn out but that Daniel wants a small turnout so a Dixiecrat will win.

Daniel denied any plan to appoint Shivers or anyone else. "There will be no such appointment," he said.

HART announced Bexar and Travis County campaign aides which illustrated his campaign plan to try to coalesce liberals and moderates behind him.

In San Antonio he named Maury Maverick, Jr., lawyer and former liberal representative, and Mrs. Edgar Tobin, who was appointed to the Board of Regents by Gov. Shivers. In a joint statement they said Hart could help eliminate the "bitter partisanship which has split" Texas Democrats and has the "vision, tolerance, and patience" to assist party unity. They commended his "statesmanship, his candor, and his courage in speaking his mind."

For Travis County Hart has designated co-managers Gaynor Kendall, a moderate conservative, and Herman Jones, a loyalist leader. Jones said people of various views believe Hart can help reduce party bitterness and commended Hart's "intellect, morality, and integrity."

Robert Sawtelle, of San Antonio, 1954 state manager for Yarborough, has agreed to serve on Hart's statewide campaign committee. Hart has designated William Kay Miller, Austin attorney, as his state manager.

The report persisted that Jim Sewell, the district judge from Corsicana, may also enter the race. Sewell had no comment.

A draft movement started several weeks ago to get Yarborough into the race. During the recent Fort Worth convention its leaders exhibited an impressive number of wires from Yarborough county leaders demanding that he get in the race.

On the conservative side, there was talk that Senator Searcy Bracewell of Houston might withdraw. He has said he will support Eisenhower and so would have to look to Gov. Shivers for support.

At this point it seems likely that conservative support will cluster around Rep. Martin Dies of Lufkin. However, if the liberal-loyalist vote splits enough ways, Atty. Gen. John Ben Shepperd might also enter the race as a conservative.

The Vanishing Family Farm

(Continued from Page 1)
eight and one-half acres of allotted cotton.

"My land needs terracing and needs it bad. The soil conservation people say how in the world can I terrace any land on eight and one-half acres cotton allotment.

"When me and my wife first married, 19 years ago, we were on the place that we are on today, and we worked, we always planted from 15 to 18 acres of cotton annually. Now my boys are big enough to help me and I have nothing for them to do.

"I have a neighbor south of me who is moving to town this year, and one north of me moving to town.

"Fellows, that is where I am going to have to go, and I will be dissatisfied, unhappy. I know no other trade but farming. I was raised on a farm and I must stay there if I am going to risk making a living.

"To be honest with you gentlemen, I am not making a living. I am just existing. Two of my boys desire to be farmers. That is their ambition. They want the free life that we have on the farm, but they cannot see it. The oldest boy will graduate this year. He told me through cotton-picking time, 'Daddy, I would like to farm, but how am I going to farm? You can't give me a start. You can't help me.'

"When I was a boy and a young man, I got four or five acres of cotton to help me get started. What is the boy going to do? If he goes to the city, I can't give him an education. He would have to be a common laborer, and, fellows, you have plenty of common laborers in the cities, as you probably know. . . ."

SUPPORTING the statements of Antosh, Hermes and others that small farms are being forced out of business are statistics on file

at the U. S. Department of Agriculture. These show that "600,000 farm units vanished between 1950 and 1954. The decline in farms during this four-year period was almost twice the total in the twenty years from 1920 to 1940. The disappearance of farms in recent years has taken place among those of 259 acres and less. Conversely, there has been a marked increase in the number of farmers of more than 260 acres.

"This trend is accountable for concern in some area of agriculture that the 'factory in the field' may supplant family farm operations, that large farming enterprises with hired labor will replace the independent family unit," the subcommittee reported.

The main issue has been interpretation of a "trend" clause in the law giving the state A.S.C. authority to use ten percent reserve of the state's allotment. Antosh and other leaders of the Old Cotton Belt Association believe Congress meant for the ten percent reserve to be used for adjustment of allotments of small farmers in counties adversely affected by weather conditions and other factors. Department of Agriculture officials believe otherwise, and, up until this year, the ten percent reserve was used mainly to allow the planting of additional acres of cotton in North Texas and the Rio Grande Valley, irrigated areas where the trend has been for sharply increased cotton production in recent years.

Charged James E. Goad of Rosebud, one of those who worked to reorganize the O. C. B. A.: "The way things have been going our cotton acreage allotment would all have moved to the big irrigated farms of West Texas if we had not finally waked up. In our section, we consider our cotton allotment as being worth as much as the deed to our land, since the banker loans money based on the

kind of allotment we have.

"... We lost a lot of our cotton to West Texas on the use of the word 'trend' in A. S. C. allotments. This trend was set up on the big irrigated farms of West Texas because they had the acreage volume and built the trend plan," Goad said. He reported that West Texas farmers comprise only 20 percent of the state's cotton farmers but under the 1954 allotments produced 80 percent of cotton.

When the time came to figure allotments for the current year, the state A. S. C. made provisions for "small farms, hardships and inequities" and most farmers of the O. C. B. A. area received permission to plant proportionally more cotton. Antosh said, "The state was fair this year." He does not feel that farmers of this area have gotten as high allotments as they are entitled to receive but is pleased that the most serious hardship cases had been remedied.

BUT THE COTTON allotment fight is not over by any means. Cotton growers of the Lubbock area are moving to try to recover acreage allotted last year to the South Texas growers.

W. O. Fortenberry, an official of the Plains Cotton Growers Inc., of West Texas, has asked the Texas Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee for a complete investigation of the cotton acreage allotment program.

OCBA President Lundgren immediately announced that his organization also urges such an investigation and asked specifically that it start for the year 1951 and continue through 1955. "It is of particular interest to us to find out about the tremendous gains that were granted the plains growers during 1953 for abnormal conditions, and also why the trend factor of over 80 percent was granted them in 1954 and a factor over 60 percent during 1955."