

Politics at Home and Abroad: Diem Imitates Frank Hague

Harriman's Real Goal to be Stevenson's Secretary of State?

Political Scuttlebutt: Reported here in fairly well informed circles (which doesn't make it necessarily reliable) that Harriman's real game is to gather enough delegates to exact the two jobs of Secretary of State (himself) and Postmaster General (De Sapio) from Stevenson. . . . Senator Russell's assumption that Chief Justice Warren will be the candidate if Eisenhower doesn't run again dovetails with other reports that the Chief Justice will change his mind and accept the nomination if there is any danger that Nixon might otherwise get the nomination. . . .

Democracy, Jersey City Variety: Judging by the referendum results, Premier Diem of Vietnam must have studied democracy under Frank Hague. Even Jersey City never dared turn in a better-than-98-percent majority. U.S. press agencies never did a better job of covering up the realities of an election but Philip Potter of the *Baltimore Sun* writing from Saigon (Oct. 24) provided some glimpses of just how controlled and one-sided the voting was. "Diem has ruled," Potter cabled, "as a one-man government whose censors sit in every newspaper office and stifle the voice of criticism. He and his followers have formed youth organizations which help enforce his will." Now Diem will block the Indochinese elections pledged for next July at the Geneva parley. His ground is that free elections cannot be guaranteed in the North! . . . *Reuters* throws entirely different light on the Diem election. It reported (Oct. 24) that about half the eligible voters had abstained; that in several towns the number of votes counted exceeded the number of electors by 30 percent; and that in Saigon "by 11 a.m. many presiding officials found themselves almost alone [in the polling places] with security officers and no voters." Perhaps they just went on counting to while away the time. . . .

Note for Farmers: While hog prices are lower than at any time since 1946, a New York *Journal of Commerce* market survey from Chicago (Oct. 25) reports "Packer Profit Margins Improve" and the meat packers expect 1955 net to show a sharp rise over 1954. . . .

"Protection"? That delegation of 32 from Chicago, including 7 Negro ministers, who came here last week to ask Federal action in the Till murder were shadowed by the police everywhere they went. Chicago police tried to intimidate and dissuade them from making the trip. Here, on arrival at Washington's Dunbar hotel, they found the place surrounded by police. Six police motorcycles and three full police cars followed them Monday morning to Vice President Nixon's office, to Attorney General Brownell's office and on a sight

Chaplin No Longer News

This letter by Charles Chaplin, protesting the refusal of passports on political grounds, was released in New York last week by the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee in connection with Rockwell Kent's suit to obtain a passport without signing a non-Communist affidavit. The letter was turned down for publication by the *New York Times*, the *AP* and the *UP* but sent out by *Reuters*, the British world news service. It has not been printed in any American newspaper, so effective is the self-imposed blanket of conformity. The text follows:

"The natural right of every free man to travel is being violated more and more by the unscrupulous withholding of passports. The situation is most alarming. For every American today, whether he knows it or not, is a prisoner on probation, with a chain around his leg to be drawn in by a jailer at any time he may disagree with the political policy makers who are in temporary power. And who knows that what we agree about today, we may disagree about tomorrow.

"Such international artists as Paul Robeson and Rockwell Kent, whose art is a credit to America and whose art has enriched understanding between America and Europe, are chained by this vicious and dangerous policy. To deny the right to travel to Americans held in such general respect abroad is stupid and inhuman. It destroys American prestige and creates doubt and suspicion in the countries whose friendship America most needs.

"This is not a plea for American artists in chains, but for every American over whose fundamental freedom this menacing shadow is creeping. The violation of the right to travel affects every aspect of American democracy and freedom. That is why nothing can be of greater importance than this effort by the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee."

seeing trip in between. They got a cold shoulder everywhere. Neither Nixon nor his Administrative Assistant was on hand to see them, though an appointment had been made in advance, and they were forced to leave a statement with the receptionist. Brownell was also "out" at Justice. . . .

IFS to speak: With Carl Braden at Meridian Hill Baptist Church, 1725 Kalorama Road, NW., Washington, D. C., at 8:30 p.m. Friday November 4.

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