

From The Nation:

College Editors Still Like Ike

(Eds. Note:) The following article was written by Laurence Barrett for The Nation. It reveals the results of a poll by the National Collegiate Press, in which The Nebraskan took part.

Eisenhower has lost considerable ground to Adlai Stevenson among the country's college editors since May, but a majority of them still like Ike. Yet Stevenson's gains cannot be attributed to his campaign; nine out of ten made their decision at convention time.

These conclusions are drawn from a poll of college editors taken this month and compared with one taken last spring by New York University (Nation, May 12.) The second poll drew fifty-two replies—sixteen from the Northeast, nine from the Midwest, ten from the South, fifteen from the West and five from border states. This distribution follows closely that of the first poll.

This month Eisenhower prevailed by a margin of thirty-three to twenty-two. When forty-four editors responded last spring, the President had a better than two-to-one edge.

In this month's poll, Richard Nixon came in for a good deal of abuse from Stevenson supporters as did the President's capacity for leadership. None of the pro-Eisenhower answers mentioned Nixon. The Eisenhower fans stressed prosperity more than peace. Wrote an editor from Illinois: "In general, I approve of the 1952-56 Administration and see no reason to shift into neutral while we're travelling in high."

The world situation was used heavily as an argument by both sides. Eisenhower supporters maintained that their candidate's experience and prestige abroad made

him essential at this time. Many Stevenson backers condemned Dulles' administration of foreign affairs. The Suez crisis came up frequently.

The candidates' honesty, intellect and personality received more attention from the editors polled than did specific issues. Most of the answers ignored the President's health and the merits or demerits of Estes Kefauver. Only a handful mentioned H-bomb tests and the draft. There were, of course, exceptions. One Ivy League editor, whose paper supported Roosevelt, Wallace and Stevenson in the last six elections, went Republican this time: "Over the last four years, the Republicans have given expression to the will of the people with their program of moderate conservatism. But at the same time, they have fought against political expediency when it seemed detrimental to the best interests of the country..."

On the Stevenson side (as opposed to the anti-Nixon, anti-Dulles, anti-Big Business line), one Eastern women's college editor wrapped it up this way: "Stevenson, the liberal intellectual, represents the type of candidate... absent from the White House for too long. I should like to see a real 'mind' in the Presidency."

There was a small but eloquent minority which favored Stevenson rather as if he were the lesser of two evils. One Chicago man wrote: "I can't stand Ike! He'd make a good king..." Another Mid-Westerner commented, "I don't support Stevenson as much as I do the Democratic Party. It seems to me that Stevenson has lowered himself immeasurably during the course of the present campaign."

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Thirty-seven editors reported that they would split their ballots as against fifteen who said they would vote straight. Three had not decided. Most of the split-ticket advocates argued that party loyalty at the polls would insure the victory of poor candidates somewhere along the line. The central argument for straight voting was fear of a "do-nothing" government resulting from a White House-Congress split.

The tone of the young journalists' comments indicated that they considered themselves keenly interested and at least moderately well informed on politics. But a majority could not attribute such virtues to collegians as a group. By a margin of thirty to twenty-three they agreed that "college students are generally apathetic to politics." Two said they did not know.

But most editors indicated that November 6 would bring a return of apathy. One wrote: "Though the urban, supposedly sophisticated environment of New York City should be enough to bring young persons out of their intellectual cocoons, obviously the effect is not great enough to overcome their political insensibilities. The fault is certainly not with communications... Either the educational job is an inadequate one... or this generation of new and potential voters is a selfish and self-satisfied one." A Kentucky editor noted that among native Kentuckians, who can vote at eighteen, there was an increased interest compared to out-of-state students. Georgia is the only state allowing eighteen-year-olds to vote. A reply from there said most students are not apathetic.

The replies indicated no geographic pattern. Schools from the same region and type of community often yielded opposite answers. The same was true about the various kinds of institutions—private, public, denominational or secular.

The majority of the editors reported that their papers dealt with national affairs to some extent, or encouraged student interest in politics in other ways, such as "register-and-get-out-the-vote" editorials, straw polls, the printing of absentee voter regulations and the encouragement of partisans to debate their positions in print. All of this, be it remembered, in the face of reader disinterest.

Stevenson is undoubtedly the strongest candidate which his party could have nominated. Fears that he wouldn't hit hard enough and that he would not be popular with the masses have gone unfounded.

To date, he has made an appeal to voters of three large groups. He has committed himself to rigid high supports for the farmers and has sought the support of labor by declaring himself in favor of the guaranteed annual wage and in opposition to the Taft-Hartley Act. Stevenson favors social welfare legislation in the fields of better housing, better schools, more old age assistance and better protection against hazards of ill health.

Two of the most interesting proposals by Stevenson have been the ending of the draft and the halt of H-bomb testing. These issues have both been carefully qualified by the Democratic candidate, but nevertheless, the general pub-

Editor Labels Campaign Words Tools Of Political Opportunism

Ike's, Adlai's Personal Qualifications Count

By SAM JENSEN

Campaigning in these United States seems to have fallen to an all time low. So many derisive comments and inflammatory remarks have been made that many intelligent people have decided to completely disregard campaign statements of members of either party.

The spoken word appears to be merely an instrument of political opportunism.

The party affiliate seeks to classify the statements of his party heroes as truth and the comment of the other party as malicious and unfounded slander.

The Republicans are running on the promise of another four years of successful administration and the Democrats are running on the promise of a more devoted concern for the interests of the people.

As the campaign goes into its final weeks, it would seem profitable to look beneath the charges and counter charges and perhaps examine the positions of the two candidates—shorn of accusations of "egg-headedness" and "part-time presidency."



Courtesy Lincoln Journal
EISENHOWER

lic is assuming that the end of these measures will come with the advent of a Democratic regime in Washington.

Stevenson has affirmed the Supreme Court's decision on school integration in the South and holds approximately the same moderate view as does President Eisenhower.

Dwight Eisenhower

In the case of Mr. Eisenhower, he has been in the position of defending his record in office and has offered little or nothing in the way of promises or group commitments.

Most frequently he cites these administration accomplishments: The national budget has been brought into balance.

The "atoms-for-peace" plan and the "open-skies" inspection plan have given the initiative in disarmament to the United States.

American business has been freed of bureaucratic controls.

Employment and earnings are high.

The people have a trust in the soundness of the Federal government.

Mr. Eisenhower has re-shaped the Republican party into an organization to which more of the laboring groups can feel at home

in and the independent voter can trust. He has acted quickly in condemning irrational partisanship and praising statesmanship on the part of members of both parties.

A Difference

Actually, if a choice is made, it is between two men who follow the middle of the road.

Both men have expressed a distrust for extremist positions and a clearly demonstrated faith in the philosophy and method of moderation. For this position, Mr. Eisenhower is distrusted by the reactionary wing of his party and Stevenson was rebuked at the Chicago convention by Harry Truman.

Whichever man is chosen Nov. 6, his policy will be to conciliate rather than to confuse and to unify rather than to corrupt.



Courtesy Lincoln Star
STEVENSON

Pandoria



Those who need an introduction to Horace may disregard this column. I'd like to talk about something he said long ago which is still apropos today. It was in his first Ode; the one he wrote to his patron Maecenas.

"Tastes differ," the poet said... though not in those words. To each man there opens a path which seems to him to lead to the highest achievement of his life. Some men want to be a success in the chariot races, some want nothing

above mentioned items aren't petty! Sitting around the copy desk of a local newspaper the other evening someone said, "You know, that Rag is just about the worst paper I have ever laid my eyes on!" You laugh. So did he. He felt that on this student paper we neglected the issues 'or failed to create them) and played up stories not worth playing down. He then wrote a headline which said, "Aussie Crapp Breaks Four World Records" (spread into two lines.)

Dick Shugrue

Once again, tastes do differ. And every time someone makes a statement like the one he made and turns around only to make a "boo-boo" worse than anything we might otherwise do, I get a rather funny taste in my mouth. I will grant that each man has a right to say (or taste) anything he wants to.

Those who would criticize without being constructive have their place in our society. They have begged their own Muses to bless them with whatever it takes to be nasty little people. Instead of praying (as Horace did) to a fine goddess of the lyre, these people are apt to say, "Plunk your magic twanger, Froggie!" and the results will be just as cello-sounding as anything the gremlin could think up.

Whenever I meet a person like that, I just pull out my little vademecum and like Horace, tug at my ear. The bore usually walks away.

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