

The Momentous Issue of the Senatorship

In messages to Governor WILLIS concerning the appointment of a successor to Senator CHANDLER, the Kentucky Union for Democratic Action, and the Kentucky Women's Action Committee for Lasting Peace have raised the question which, above all others, must be uppermost in the minds of the people of this state as they observe the line of candidates queuing up for the job, sense the powerful pressures being brought to bear upon the Governor, and watch the pot of political aspirations boiling furiously away at Frankfort. That question is, what are the views of the man whom the Governor is planning to appoint upon the great issue of United States participation, both political and economic, in an international organization for keeping the peace?

Some of the candidates prominently mentioned for the appointment, and endorsed by members of the Republican State Central Committee, have never held office, and have no voting or administrative record by which to measure their performances against their verbal protestations. And so it is particularly urgent that their opinions and convictions on important questions be publicly aired. There are certain issues of domestic policy, as important in their sphere to the future of the country as is the more dramatic and immediate one of foreign policy. And the people of Kentucky have a right to know the attitude toward them, too, of the man who will represent this state in the Senate.

Perhaps replies to questionnaires, and public statements are not the most efficient barometers of the integrity, wisdom, intelligence and experience of men. These are the qualities we need, and need in the Senate more desperately now than at any other time in our history. But, at least, upon specific questions of policy funda-

mental in the making of the peace, and in the building of the economic structure of post-war America, direct and frank answers can be given. The public is entitled to those answers.

This is no time to fob off upon the people of this state a Senator who is, first of all, an assiduous party worker, or a clever money raiser for the National Committee, or an adept at the tricks of ward politics. How do the men whose names have been most often mentioned for this appointment feel about the great questions facing the country which one of them, as a Senator, will be called upon to help resolve? What is their position upon the momentous question, for instance, of the delegation of authority to our representative upon the proposed international Security Council to vote for the use of United States forces to help quell future aggression? How do they feel about the issue of public power in general, and in particular, about such a project of vital interest to Kentucky, as the creation of a Cumberland Valley Authority? What is their attitude toward public works projects to create a floor under private jobs, if a period of unemployment should intervene between the end of the war and industrial conversion? How, above all, do they stand on the Dumbarton Oaks proposals, on the tariff question, upon reciprocal trade agreements, upon the Bretton Woods proposals?

This is no time for smooth words, or for polite considerations to prevent us all from asking these questions and demanding an answer. The Governor's appointive power derives from the people of the Commonwealth. They have a right to be given frank answers to honest questions. In this momentous year of 1945, the Senate is no place for a pig in a poke.