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## Perspective

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# The Senator and the General

by Raymond Moley

THIS piece is written in the belief that it represents the point of view of a very, very large group of Americans. The political platform of this group is simple. It has just one plank, which is a call for a change of Presidents and party control in Washington. These people regard that change as a supreme necessity. For unless there is such a change, the principles and the integrity of this republic will be fundamentally, perhaps irreparably, impaired. They consider this need so great that the personality of the person who fulfills it is, while important, secondary.

A friend of mine, Alfred A. Knopf, was expressing the sentiment of this group when he said: "I have no sympathy for people who say that unless a candidate is nominated who precisely meets their heart's desire, they will not vote or they will vote for Truman. The major issue is the need for change. I shall vote for any good Republican, and no one other than a good Republican is likely to be nominated."

Two Republican candidates now dominate the scene. In their order of entry, not necessarily of importance, they are Senator Taft and General Eisenhower. Each has thousands of sincere, eager supporters, hardly one of whom, I suspect, is completely satisfied with his man.

MANY a Taft supporter wishes the senator could be more amenable to differences in viewpoint or that his voting record might be different. Others wonder how he would succeed as an administrator. Still others feel that he has compromised his conservatism by favoring certain statist measures such as Federal aid to schools and by failing to be sufficiently intent upon government economy. But these Taft supporters conclude that their man has great integrity and an unrivaled grasp of public affairs. He has also been tried in the fire of hundreds of votes in Congress, and he has a fine record of victories at the polls.

There are, on the other hand, supporters of General Eisenhower who wish that their man knew more of the civil side of government, that he had spoken more clearly of his views on

public affairs, and that he was less handicapped by his military habit of mind and his previous service with the Administration which he now proposes to supplant. But, they conclude, he has immense prestige which offers assurance of election, great administrative ability, familiarity with European affairs, and established integrity.

The great group of people who have no specific preference but want to end the long Democratic occupation of Washington would probably agree with both of these estimates. They would, however, deeply deplore the exaggeration of the differences between Taft and Eisenhower to a point where it will be impossible to present a common cause after the Republican convention in July.

These two candidates are far more than merely honorable men and patriotic Americans. Each has attained towering eminence in his field. Both will have a high place in history. Eisenhower as a commander will rank with Scott, Lee, Grant, Pershing, and MacArthur. The late Charles A. Beard, a distinguished American historian, said after reading every word of the record of the 80th Congress that Taft's performance, particularly in promoting the passage of the Taft-Hartley bill, ranked with those of Webster, Clay, and Calhoun. In these days when it sometimes seems that greatness is no longer with us, we can congratulate ourselves that the convention in July can choose a President in such a rich market of talent.

IT WILL be disastrous if anything mean and small creeps into this contest for the nomination. Whoever descends to that level to drag down either of these men is not only throwing obstacles in the way of the main task of 1952, but he is fouling his own American nest. This general and this senator are illustrious men in the great tradition. With either, the future will be brighter. In fact, if neither the senator nor the general is chosen, it would not be difficult to find a number of public men quite worthy of the Presidency. May Providence and not passion guide the 1,199 people who must make the decision next July.

