

## They're After Wallace

Sometimes the past puts current events into perspective.

It is so with the Governor's race in Alabama.

We have in mind a Gallup poll item of March 22, 1970; a columnist's report that appeared in the Dec. 3, 1969 issue of the Baltimore, Md., Sun; and a piece turned out for the Aug. 20, 1969 issue of the Mobile Press by a pair of Washington columnists.

These articles substantiate what former Governor George Wallace has been saying all along—that outside money, pressures and influences are being used within Alabama to defeat him, that the purpose is to destroy him as a thorn in the side of national politicians, parties and conglomerated groups.

Says the Gallup item:

By **GEORGE GALLUP**  
Director Gallup Poll

PRINCETON, N.J.—The Republicans could look forward to the 1972 presidential election with greater confidence if they could find a way to remove George Wallace from the race.

Wallace, who won 13.6 per cent of the national vote and 32.6 per cent in the South in the 1968 election as a third party candidate, is still a thorn in the side of the Republican party, particularly in terms of the GOP's southern strategy.

If Wallace should be defeated in the upcoming primary in Alabama on May 5, in which he is again a candidate for Governor, this, of course, would likely eliminate him from the 1972 race.

Writing in the Baltimore paper from Washington, Thomas O'Neill said in his column, "Politics and People," that "the administration's southern strategy shapes up largely as a duel with George C. Wallace."

Mr. O'Neill cites details as follows:

Mr. Wallace has recognized from the beginning that he was marked out for the first search and destroy mission in the southern strategy. The strategy requires that he be made ineffective in most of Dixie, perhaps limited to an Alabama-Mississippi reservation.

Setting out for his recent Asian tour, Mr. Wallace described his position with regard to the Republican President: "I've got my eye on him, he's got his eye on me, and we two are eyeing each other."

He feels eyes especially upon his prospective candidacy in the May Democratic primary for governor of Alabama. The incumbent, Gov. Albert Preston Brewer, is an announced candidate.

The national administration is lined up for Governor Brewer, which promises him openhanded financing for a contest. Postmaster General Winton Blount, the administration's man in charge in Alabama and a noted fundraiser, pointedly praises Mr. Brewer as the "finest governor in recent Alabama history," a period presumably spanning the period during which Mr. Wallace was governor-before-last. (He was followed by Mrs. Wallace until her death a year and a half ago.)

Mr. Blount arranged the Montgomery appearance of Vice President Agnew, who wowed the Alabama Chamber of Commerce by having at distant and suspect eastern newspapers.

At that affair the Vice President was introduced as the speaker by

Governor Brewer. In turn the Vice President took care to praise Mr. Brewer as an exceptionally competent governor. Alabama is fortunate to have. The Wallace headquarters observed that Mr. Agnew had been sent to Montgomery to build up Governor Brewer, acknowledged that he did a good selling job, and spoke of unselling him.

Alabama Republicans are badly outnumbered but a year ago they mustered 150,000 votes for Mr. Nixon—a number that could be highly significant in a hotly waged Democratic primary.

A column written by Frank Maniewicz and Tom Braden, under the copyright of the Los Angeles Times, said in the Mobile Press:

WASHINGTON — The Nixon Administration is doing its best to eliminate George Wallace of Alabama as a presidential contender in 1972 and has placed its resident-Alabama expert, Postmaster General Winton "Red" Blount, in charge of the operation.

Blount has been spending time recently in his home state raising money for the election campaign of Alabama's Democratic governor, Albert Brewer. Brewer has announced that he will run for the governorship again next year, whether Wallace runs or not. If Wallace doesn't run—or if he runs and loses—he is finished as a national candidate, so the Nixon logic goes, and the same logic holds that most of the 10 million votes Wallace picked up in 1968 will then go to Richard Nixon in 1972.

The tipoff to the Nixon effort came a few weeks ago in a little-noticed appearance by Blount before the Alabama State Legislature. There, he praised Brewer as "the finest governor in recent Alabama history," a compliment which was not lost on George Wallace.

According to Wallace backers, Blount has promised Robert Vance, chairman of Alabama's Democratic Party, that if Brewer can be persuaded to stay in the race, Republican money will be available for the primary against Wallace, and that, if Brewer wins, Alabama's weak Republican Party will stay out of the runoff. Vance is a lawyer who supported the Humphrey-Muskie ticket in 1968, so Wallace is ready to suspect the worst from him.

Indeed, Wallace himself says he has evidence that Blount, has been raising money for Brewer in Alabama's "country club set."

"That won't be enough," says Wallace. "If they're going to help Brewer, they're going to have to bring in the money from outside, and that's fine with me. Any time those boys in Washington want to redistribute the wealth, I want Alabama to get its share."

In addition to the foregoing, John J. Synon, a publicist of Kilmarnock, Va., wrote, among other things, the following when he commented on the Governor's race.

Brewer is picking up some curious bedmates:

The NAACP, the Limousine Conservatives, and the Alabama industrialists, all are bound and determined to unhorse Wallace in his bid to be re-elected Governor. And thus nullify him as a national political factor.

Fat chance!

Remember Stonewall Jackson and his famed Valley Campaign? Stonewall licked three federal armies in a space of 30 days. Watch Wallace do the same.

The election, in case anyone has forgotten—which we doubt—is just three weeks from tomorrow.