

4-18-52

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Arthur Hays Sulzberger, editor and publisher of the New York Times, told a University of Pennsylvania journalism class today (Friday, April 18) he had no fear that President Truman might try to seize the Nation's press and radio as he did the steel industry.

Guest speaker before the class, Sulzberger was asked by a student to comment on a remark by Mr. Truman at a news conference Thursday about his power to seize newspapers and broadcasting stations.

The President had replied that under similar circumstances he would act for the best interests of the country. Some interpreted this as meaning Mr. Truman believed he had such authority.

But Sulzberger said he did not think the President "really meant it."

"He's not that kind at all," he said. "I don't want to vote for him, but I wouldn't vote against him for that reason. Mr. Truman often makes off-the-cuff comments without duly considering them."

Sulzberger addressed a class in the History of Journalism in College Hall. He was introduced by Dr. Reese D. James, associate professor of ~~English~~ ^{English} journalism and director of journalism courses.

It was entirely a question-and-answer session, and Dr. James led off by asking Sulzberger to discuss the life and influence of his father-in-law, the late Adolph Ochs, who became publisher of the Times in 1896 and built it to its present stature.

Sulzberger traced Ochs' career. He recalled his insistence that the Times be strictly a news medium, and ventured an opinion that Ochs would not have permitted such "background" stories as the Times now finds ~~it~~ ^{helpful to its readers.} ~~necessary to print.~~

The Times' slogan, "All the News That's Fit to Print," was ~~considered~~^{viewed} by Ochs not so much as a promotion device as "a silent monitor on the desk of every staff member," Sulzberger said.

A student asked Sulzberger to explain the Times' policy in regard to the 1952 Presidential campaign.

Sulzberger replied that the Times had broken precedent in indorsing Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, even before the party conventions, "because we were so very frightened at the thought of Mr. Taft."

He pointed to the Times' internationalism--its support of the League of Nations and United Nations, its advocacy of United States entry in World War II back in 1939.

"No position we've ever taken in all the years I've been there has been an isolationist position," he said. "Mr. Taft's stand has been consistently isolationist. He has modified this stand somewhat, but pretty much as the wind shifted."

Hamilton

If the 1952 election were between Senator Taft and Mr. Truman, he said, "I believe it would have forced us to support Truman."

Sulzberger was greeted ~~in person~~ by Dr. Edwin B. Williams, provost of the University, in his College Hall office, then escorted directly to a second-floor classroom to address the students.

N. Y. Times will support Eisenhower

The New York Times is supporting Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower for the Republican Presidential nomination because it is "so very frightened at the thought of Mr. Taft," Times President and Publisher Arthur Hays Sulzberger said here.

The statement was made by Sulzberger in answer to a question by a member of a journalism class the publisher addressed at the University of Pennsylvania.

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PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

Taft Frightens Times Publisher

APR 19 1952

Arthur Hays Sulzberger, president and publisher of The New York Times, said here yesterday that his newspaper editorially was supporting Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower for the Republican Presidential nomination "because we are so very frightened at the thought of Mr. Taft."

The publisher made the statement in answer to a student's question at the University of Pennsylvania, where he addressed a journalism class.

Sulzberger pointed out that the New York newspaper long had been internationalist in its editorial viewpoint, including support of the League of Nations and the United Nations.

CALLED ISOLATIONIST

By contrast, he said that Senator Robert A. Taft's stand on foreign affairs had been "consistently isolationist."

Another student asked Sulzberger to comment on President Truman's recent assertion of Presidential powers to take over the Nation's newspapers and radio if the national interest required.

"I don't think the President really meant it," Sulzberger said. "I don't believe he's that kind at all."

OFF-THE-CUFF COMMENT

He told the class the President often "gives off-the-cuff comments without duly considering them."

"I don't want to vote for him," the publisher said, referring to Mr. Truman's statement concerning the press and radio, "but I wouldn't vote against him for that reason."

Underscoring his newspaper's editorial opposition to Taft, Sulzberger said that if Taft and Mr. Truman were the Presidential candidates in November, he believed that his newspaper would support Mr. Truman.

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19, 1952
April 7
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