(Comments distributed to press on Calhoun Hotel TV show)

pet-1958

President Eisenhower has pulled down the shabby facade of 'modern Republicanism' in the current campaign by sacrificing constructive leadership for misguided partisanship.

Regrettably, the President has only belittled himself and further undermined his last remnants of future national leadership by stooping to Nixon's tactics of name-calling and distorting the facts.

In this troubled world, no more serious challenge confronts us than easing international tensions. Democrats in Congress,

Derschel Laskowitz MH 1/10

particularly northern liberal Democrats, have a record of responsible cooperation with the President in meeting this international challenge.

Yet with one reckless sweep of the brush, the President has now tried to condemn as 'radicals' the very northern liberal Democrats who in many instances came to his rescue on vital international issues against the opposition of reactionary Old Guard Republicans and conservative southerners he now apparently embraces.

It was these northern liberal Democrats

who saved reciprocal trade, and blocked drastic cuts in foreign aid. It was these northern liberal Democrats who headed off reactionary Republican attempts to block confirmation of Paul Hoffman as a delegate to the United Nations -- the same Paul Hoffman who made such a brilliant address to the Women's UN Rally in Minneapolis a week ago.

If the reward for such bipartisan foreign policy cooperation is to be smeared as 'radicals' by the President at campaign time, then the President is indeed charting a most difficult course for himself and the

country during the next two years he

For Republicans who sincerely believe in foreign aid, in reciprocal trade, in liberalized immigration laws, and in civil rights, it must be tragic most to see the President consistent join the right-wing reactionaries of both parties who have consistently sabotaged his efforts on these vital issues. It can only make the path to progress more difficult ahead, serving neither the best interest of the Republican party nor the nation.

There is a role for partisanship in our Democracy, and the President is expected to be partisan. But the times call for caution against blind and misguided partisanship that sacrifices hope for constructive leadership in the years ahead.

By publicly turning his back on those who tried to work constructively with him for the good of the country, regardless of partisanship, the President has performed a disservice to himself, his party, and his country.

President Eisenhower must have shut his eyes and shuddered when he embarked on his campaign tour, in view of what he knows are the facts of the last session of Congress.

The Eisenhower-Nixon-Dulles Administration has admitted that it needed Democratic help to get the Mutual Security appropriations past the obstruction of the GOP isolationists in Congress. It got this help when 73% of the Senate Democrats lined up in favor of

mutual security in the last session of the 85th Congress and 72% of the House -and a far higher percentage of the northern liberal Democrats.

And while we northern liberal Democrats were joining hands with the President to save reciprocal trade, the fight against President Eisenhower's bill was being led by Congressman Simpson, Chairman of the Republican House campaign committee.

When the pemocrats, with Administration approval, introduced/legislation giving the President the power to grant ecohomic aid to

Eastern European and other satell/ite nations which showed signs of becoming less dependent upon Soviet Russia, /Republicans, led by Senator Knowland, issued an witimatum to the White House -- and the Eisenhower Administration surrendered. In the House, 64% of the Republicans supported a move to cut \$4 million from America's contribution to UN Point Four technical assistance -- against the recommendation of their own President.

In the Senate, 81% of the Republicans voted to restrict U.S. participation in

page ; 8

the International Labor Organization delegates from Red countries were seated -- against the recommendations of their own President. Eighty percent of the Senate Democrats voted with the President.

Yet now the President blindly embraces these Republicans who voted against him, condemns the Democrats who voted with him.

The old GOP slogan of electing Republicans to 'help Ike' now has a hollow ring. It is about time we thought instead about the need of electing more democrats to help the country.

##

## Minnesota Historical Society

Copyright in this digital version belongs to the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, link to, or email content, however, for individual use.

To request permission for commercial or educational use, please contact the Minnesota Historical Society.

