

tack. He is Lyndon Johnson, who as Democratic Senate Leader has demonstrated a high degree of ability to keep the conservative and liberal wings of the party working together. Ironically, a Johnson-for-President boom was just developing when the senator became ill.

►The "favorite sons," waiting in the wings, can't, of course, be ignored. They include, just to name three: Gov. Frank Lausche, 60, of Ohio, Sen. Hubert Humphrey, 44, of Minnesota, Gov. G. Mennen (Soapy) Williams, 44, of Michigan. All are proved vote getters in their own states. Any one of them probably would be receptive to a Vice Presidential bid, though they're thinking, of course, of the top spot on the ticket. From now on voters can expect a wave of "favorite son" candidacies.

►The Democrats believe their chances of making big gains in the farm belt are increasing week by week (see page 30).

Up to the time of Mr. Eisenhower's illness, the Republican program was all set: Renominate President Eisenhower and Vice President Nixon and win in a landslide—perhaps carrying about 40 states. Now, pending developments in the President's illness, the Republicans, in big measure, were marking time.

Their first concern, of course, was for the President's well-being; seldom has a President had such a grip upon the affections of a political party or, for that matter, upon people generally. Yet Republican planners did not try to conceal the fact that they were gravely disturbed by the problems ahead.

The Republican picture:

►Should the President step aside, Nixon, 42, would go into the convention with powerful grass-roots backing. Many Republican politicians who were cool to Nixon when he was nominated in 1952 now are for him. A big reason: The success of Nixon's up-and-down-the-country campaign in the 1954 Congressional elections. Hundreds of GOP local leaders credit him with playing the biggest role, next to the President, in cutting down the size of the Democratic gains. Further, Nixon—thanks to Mr. Eisenhower—has had more training for the No. 1 spot than almost any Vice President in history. Advisers detect in Nixon an increasing political sure-footedness. They cite as an example Nixon's recommendation last week that an unflattering caricature, "Dick McSmear," be retained in a California art exhibit, even though exhibit officials were opposed to displaying it. "That's a tipoff to how Nixon is coming along," an intimate said. "A few years ago he would have been upset and all against anyone showing the picture." Nixon's popularity never has been higher with either Mr. Eisenhower or Republican National Chairman Leonard Hall than it is now. However, Nixon's standing with the GOP far-right-wingers isn't nearly as



Stevenson: Momentum enough?

good as it used to be. Some of them make no secret of the fact they think the Vice President has become "much too much of a middle-roader."

►Despite Nixon's growing stature in the party, many influential Republicans bluntly insist they would prefer Chief Justice Earl Warren, 64, as the Republican nominee should Mr. Eisenhower retire. Even though Warren has spelled out his intention of remaining on the Supreme Court and never returning to politics (NEWSWEEK, April 25), his name continues to bob up in high-level GOP discussions. Some think a draft-Warren movement is imperative. Others feel his age and perhaps his health would be against him.

►Under no circumstances should Sen.



Kefauver: Proof in the primary?

William F. Knowland, 47, of California be written off as a Presidential possibility. He has won substantial support among backers of the late Sen. Robert A. Taft. Knowland also is popular with those Republicans who believe the U.S. has been vigorous enough in its opposition to the Soviet Union.

►Former Gov. Thomas E. Dewey of New York, though twice beaten (1944, 1948) for the Presidency, is considered a long shot for a third bid. Even Dewey's harshest critics concede that he is one of the most able men in either of the major parties. Dewey was a prime mover in the General Eisenhower's boom in 1952, and he and the President have remained close friends ever since.

Significance

Mr. Eisenhower's personal prestige is so great that he can, even if he does not draw, strongly influence the selection of the Republican ticket at the next convention. Advisers believe that he will lean toward either Warren or Nixon for the top spot. Also, the President, even if he confines his campaigning to TV, will give the GOP a powerful lift.

From now on the Democratic race will be a scramble. Of the Democratic hopefuls, Stevenson is the best speaker, perhaps best known to the voters because of his race in 1952, and has control of the national Democratic machinery. Adlai Stevenson is leading at the moment—and that is important. Kefauver is pining for a shot in the primaries. He believes he can pretty well sweep these primaries regardless of who runs against him. He hopes to dramatize that he is the best vote-getter.

The real dark horse could be Ted Harriman. Advisers sum up the candidates' situation this way: "If Harriman said at this stage that he wanted the nomination, he would turn every Stevenson backer against him. Meanwhile, Kefauver is paying much attention to what Dewey is doing." What DeSapio was doing was obvious. He was quietly lining up the gates. He had the look of a man who was with the way things were working was such

MISSISSIPPI:

The Place, the Acquisition

For more than 80 years, Sumner was an obscure, drowsy little town (population 550) deep in the Mississippi Delta country. It was content to bask in the sun, never was plagued by growing pains; it was reminiscent of a bone-tired plantation master who long ago has seen all he can see and, thinking back isn't impressed with what he saw.

Like most people, the people of Sumner prided themselves on certain things. Above all, they took pride—they were guard



The accused: Roy Bryant and J.W. Milam



The accuser: Uncle Mose pointed a finger

say—in the important little virtues like neighborliness. For instance, they not long ago put up a big sign: SUMNER—A GOOD PLACE TO RAISE A BOY.

The town never became part of the New South—never wanted to. Its roots remained deep in the delta. The people liked it that way. The sun was hot. The land was fertile. Cotton fields stretched as far as a man could see. People seldom worked themselves into a lather over anything. Certainly, in Sumner few people, if any, ever got excited about segregation. Segregation wasn't an issue; it was a way of life. In Tallahatchie County, of which Sumner is one of two county seats, there are 19,000 Negroes. There are 11,000 whites. No Negro is registered to vote.

Sudden Fame: To the dismay of its own people, Sumner last week became the most talked about town in the country. This came about because of what had happened to a 14-year-old Negro boy named Emmett Till. The boy came from Chicago in August to visit his uncle, Mose Wright, a 64-year-old sharecropper who lives near the tiny village of Money. On a trip to a grocery store, Emmett was accused of making advances to a white woman and "wolf whistling" at her. At 2 a.m., on a silent night that followed, Emmett was kidnapped from his uncle's home. Three days later a body bobbed to the surface of the Tallahatchie River. It was lashed to a cotton-gin fan. The victim had been terribly beaten and then shot through the head.

Emmett's mother and uncle were positive in their identification: The body was Emmett's.

The killing aroused the country. Newspaper editors throughout the South and the rest of the nation called for swift justice. Mississippi officials, anxious to preserve segregation in the schools, feared revulsion against the crime in

Tallahatchie would weaken their cause.

Tallahatchie authorities promptly arrested two men and charged them with murder—Roy Bryant, 24, who runs a grocery store in Money, and his half-brother J.W. Milam, 36, of Clendora. Milam had a distinguished second-world-war record. As an infantry sergeant at the Battle of the Bulge, he took command of his platoon when its leader was killed. He won decorations and a field promotion to lieutenant. Bryant served two-and-a-half years as a paratrooper during the Korean war, but never got overseas. It was Bryant's wife Carolyn, an attractive, dark-haired mother of two, whom Emmett was accused of insulting.

Trial: Bryant and Milam and Sumner went on trial last week in Sumner's gray brick courthouse. The town never had seen such excitement. Reporters and photographers took over the town's only hotel, the Delta Inn. The defendants hired all the active lawyers in the community—five. To assist Circuit District Attorney Gerald Chatham, Gov. Hugh White appointed a special prosecutor, Robert B. Smith 3rd, regarded as one of the state's top trial lawyers.

At first, reporters were startled by the casual atmosphere of the courtroom. Judge Curtis M. Swango permitted smoking. Children played at their parents' feet. But as the trial went on, most reporters came to admire the way in which Judge Swango conducted himself.

Some of what the newsmen heard was contradictory. For example, what kind of boy was Emmett Till? Some said he was fresh, impertinent. Others—and this viewpoint emphatically was backed up by those who knew Emmett in Chicago—insisted that he was polite and mild-mannered. He was a Little League ball player. He was religious, with a near-perfect attendance at Sunday School.

But, whatever he was, Emmett Till

was a Chicago Negro boy in Mississippi.

The prosecution's main witness was Emmett's uncle, Mose Wright. White-haired, frail, now and then nervously hitching at his galluses, Wright dramatically arose before a packed, steaming-hot courtroom (the 280 white and Negro spectators were segregated) and pointed a bony finger first at Milam and then at Bryant. "That's the man," he said each time he pointed. Bryant and Milam had admitted to police officials that they had taken Emmett from his uncle's home, but claimed they had released him when Mrs. Bryant said he was not the boy who had allegedly insulted her.

William Reed, a Negro youth, testified he saw four white men and two Negro men take Emmett to a barn a few hours after the kidnapping and that he later heard "licks and hollering." He said he saw Milam leave the barn, wearing a pistol, get a drink of water from a well, and return.

Mrs. Mary Bradley, a Negro woman who lives near the barn, says she saw a truck parked near the barn and four white men, but did not recognize them. William Reed's grandfather, Add, also testified he saw the truck.

Defense Claims: The defense concentrated on a claim that the body found in the river was not Emmett's. The boy had been missing three days. Sheriff H.C. Strider said the body appeared to have been in the water "at least ten days, if not fifteen."

The boy's mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley, a \$3,600 civil-service employe, weepingly told the jury that she was certain the body was that of her son. She said a ring found on the body had belonged to her former husband and that Emmett was wearing it when he left Chicago.

Bryant and Milam did not testify.

After five days the case went to the