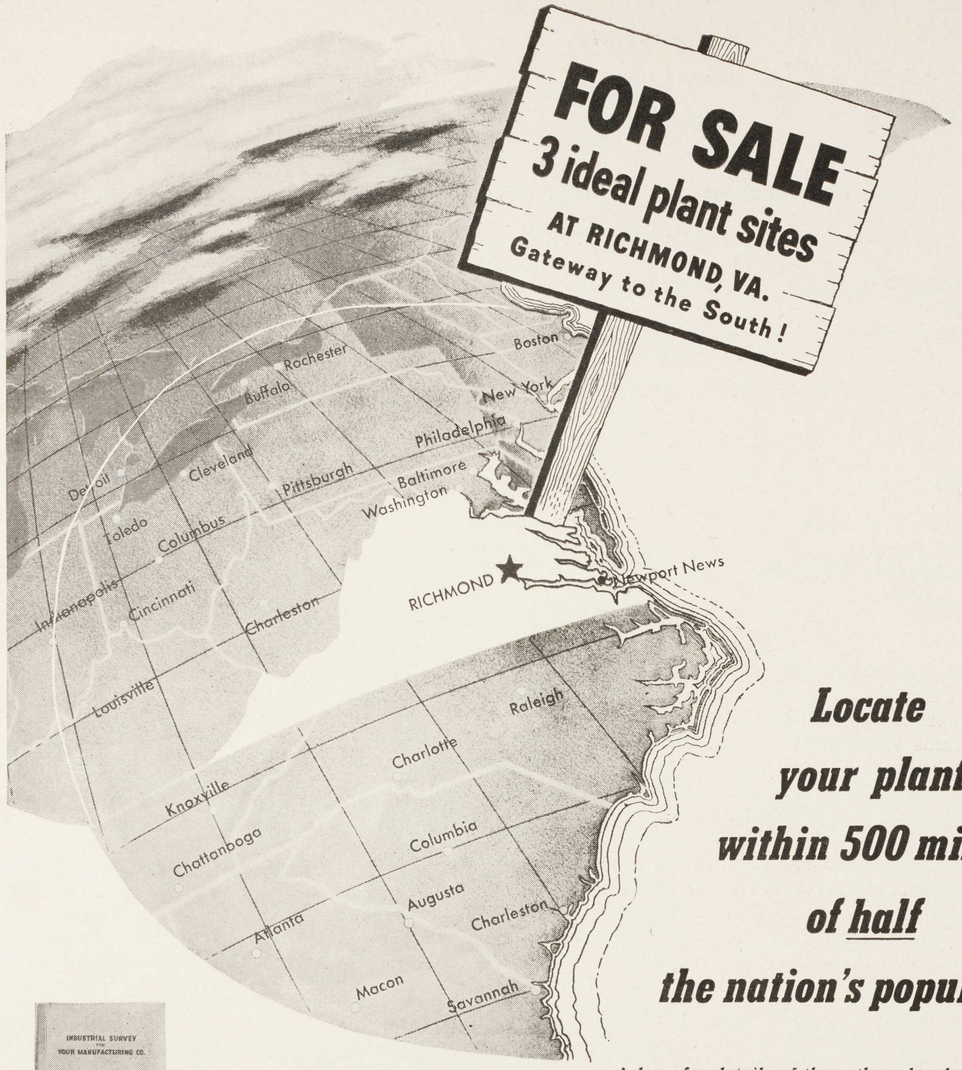

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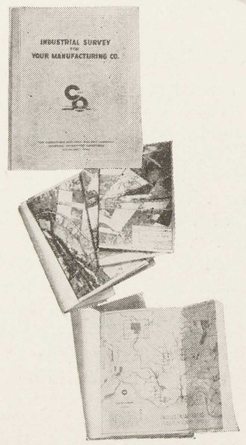

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THE Freeman

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1952

The Fortnight

Many of our friends who voted Republican and so helped contribute to the Eisenhower sweep are still going about with their fingers crossed. We say to them, "Uncross those fingers." The reason we say this derives from our analysis of the constitution of the incoming Congress. Broadly speaking, it has a conservative majority no matter how you cut and slice the party designations. The Taftite Republicans and the Byrd-Byrnes-Shivers Southern Democrats have the mostest men and can git thar fustest with the vote. This makes a revolt of New Dealish Republicans, of potential Wayne Morses, far less dangerous to Ike Eisenhower than a conservative Republican revolt would be. It appears to the *Freeman* that a new political alignment, a new coalition of conservative Northerners and conservative Southerners, is here to stay.

This new coalition is bound to produce a new atmosphere in politics. The old clichés of Statist "liberalism" are already on the way out; they have lost their magic. And the college undergraduates, always quicker than their professors to sense changes in the social climate, are not reacting favorably to the old Rooseveltian shibboleths. For example, a recent Princeton undergraduate rating of courses abounded in potshots at faculty members whose viewpoints "are far to the left of center and [whose] lectures are not noted for giving both sides of the case." The young are growing up in the dawn of another great shift in attitude; they themselves will help to modify that attitude, but never backward, never in the direction of making 1933-1936 the permanent norm for the America of the future. The bird is on the wing, and the bird is the bird of freedom. So uncross those fingers, ye faint of heart, and take hope.

G. L. Mehta, India's Ambassador to the United States, recently told a luncheon session of the Far East-America Council of Commerce and Industry that his country was not willing to adopt methods of economic development which involve coercion for bringing about a realignment of productive forces. Moreover, the Indian Ambassador manifested a very friendly spirit toward private capitalism. "India," he said, "presents a field in which there are none of the hindrances and impediments which frequently prevent the flow of private capital. First of all, there is a stable government and an efficient administration. There are adequate facilities for repatriation of capital and due process of law for compensation. Besides, there is an enormous potential market. . . ." Having listened to some of Pandit Nehru's paeans to socialism in the past, the editors of the *Freeman* might have some excuse to doubt the full relevance of Ambassador Mehta's glowing words. However, we do not look the Mehta gift speech in the mouth; in fact, we think it a most significant straw in the wind that high-placed Asiatics are beginning to give voluntaristic economic ideas an occasional pat on the head.

Philip Murray, who was a lad of sixteen when he first came to this country, died fifty years later as the personification of modern America's biggest and rawest power—labor. In his case, it is easy to comply with the proprieties and say of the dead nothing but good; for Phil Murray was undeniably driven by a genuine need for a moral order in social relations and was honestly seeking guidance from his Church. Whoever succeeds him as President of the CIO will, we are afraid, have little more than a guffaw for Phil's theological sensitivities. And should it be Walter Reuther, the new man will draw his inspiration for social battle from the supreme modern heresy rather than the historical body of Faith—from the unregulated urge for social domination. In the years ahead, there may be formidable reasons to light a candle in Phil Murray's memory.

We haven't managed to extract the precise meaning from certain incidental intelligence about the behavior of the American academic community at the straw vote polls, but for what it's worth we would like to observe that the fourteen-year-olds of the land seem to have had a clearer conception of the issues involved than the members of the Yale faculty, for example. We checked at St. Margaret's School in Waterbury, Conn., and found the freshman class there was 100 per cent for Eisenhower. The seniors in the same school