To: Bob Hagy

From: Frank McNaghton

Nov. 7, 1948

Dixiecrat Purge

Bill Lawrence's story is the perfect example of hot-stove-league speculation. It is based on nothing collector of internal revenue, and doped with a lot of intangibles. Howard McNaghton has gone on the record in favor of cleaning out the party machinery and the national committee of Dixiecrats and other breeds without the party law. But he has also said that there will be no attempt to purge the Dixiecrat Senators from membership or chairmanship of committees. This would raise one hell of a fight in Congress, have to upset the hitherto impregnable seniority system, and lead to all kinds of reprisals. For the same reason, it is a little far fetched to believe that the administration will start reaching wholesale employe of the Dixiecrat Senators. All of this is being thrashed out in Key West, but Bill Lawrence's story is plainly intended for effect. In the House, Sam Rayburn says flatly (and not for attribution) that there will be no attempt to penalize and cut the throat of anybody so far as he is concerned.