

White House Reporter Interviews 'Old Farmer'—Dwight Eisenhower

EDITOR'S NOTE — Merriman Smith, who has reported the activities of four presidents for UPI, recently paid an informal visit to an old friend and news subject, former President Dwight D. Eisenhower. They chatted for about two hours in Eisenhower's Gettysburg office. No notes were made, no records kept, but here is Smith's report on Eisenhower's current mood and manner.

By MERRIMAN SMITH
UPI White House Reporter
GETTYSBURG, Pa. (UPI)—It was more of a friendly chat than an interview. We compared notes on children and grandchildren, on aches and pains, trends in presidential news conferences, reading tastes and the 1964 political outlook. After about two hours, I asked him how he would describe our conversation.

"Just say you dropped in for a talk with the old farmer," replied former President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Eisenhower will be 73 years old next Oct. 14. He seems a bit heavier than when he left office in 1961, particularly around the face and middle. This may be because he has not been getting as much exercise as he did.

business through a small combination microphone-speaker embedded in a wall.

The locked door was opened by a buzzing contraption and moments later the visitor was escorted into Eisenhower's sunny office. The former president was studying the preliminary draft of a magazine article.

His first conversation, however, was about his grandchildren. David was en route to his second year at Exeter, but Ike, as the kids call their grandfather, was more talkative about their jobs this past summer. David worked in a college book binding plant; Anne was Mother Goose in a local amusement park pageant and Susie got a job as a restaurant helper.

Roars With Laughter

The general rocked with laughter as he described the levels of their wages. David, 15, made 75 cents an hour. Anne, 14, made only 15 cents an hour less. Susan, 11, received 50 cents an hour.

The talk of his literary career led to discussion of the presidential news conferences — past and present. Eisenhower feels that

television cameras and radio microphones have a strong and permanent right at such occasions.

Eisenhower shies away from saying anything that could be construed as direct, personal criticism of President Kennedy. But he recently told friends on an eastern newspaper who had inquired that he thought over-use of political or administration propaganda in a presidential news conference tended to tarnish the integrity of the event.

To this day, he seldom reads anything written about himself. This is a pattern he began during World War II. He deliberately restricted his newspaper reading while he was in the White House and for this he had an interesting explanation.

Read Top Secrets

As president, Eisenhower read a constant stream of top-secret reports, many of them dealing with paramount news stories of the day and containing a great many classified details which did not appear in public print.

He soon found that in discussing such subjects later, it was hard to separate between classified material and what had been published about a given situation.

As a result, he confined most of his newspaper reading — aside from brief morning and evening roundups — to Sunday afternoons when he carefully scrutinized the weekly review sections of about a half dozen major newspapers.

Gives General Views

In other areas D.D.E. reflected these general attitudes:

Nuclear Test Ban: Like many top U.S. diplomats, he believes it may be a turning point and should be ratified by the Senate. But he hopes the public does not get the idea that the limited test ban is any guarantee of peace. He did not mean in a recent comment that the Senate should insist on a reservation to the point of amending the treaty. He merely was asking that it be made clear the United States retained freedom at all times to use its nuclear arms should this extreme step be necessary to defend this country or her allies.

President Kennedy made such an assurance last week.

Budget: Eisenhower's feelings about federal spending seem to grow stronger with the passage of time. He thinks there can be no greater threat to national security than unwise, unnecessary spending which in turn weakens the national economy.

Politics: He's not taking public sides between New York Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller and Arizona Sen. Barry Goldwater in their quest for the GOP presidential nomination.

Sub-District Meet Scheduled Sept. 23

The Umpqua Sub-District meeting of the Women's Society of Christian Service of the Methodist Church will be held Sept. 23 at the Methodist church in Myrtle Creek.

The session will start at 9:15 a.m. and will conclude at 2:30 p.m., with luncheon served at 12:15. Nursery care will be provided.

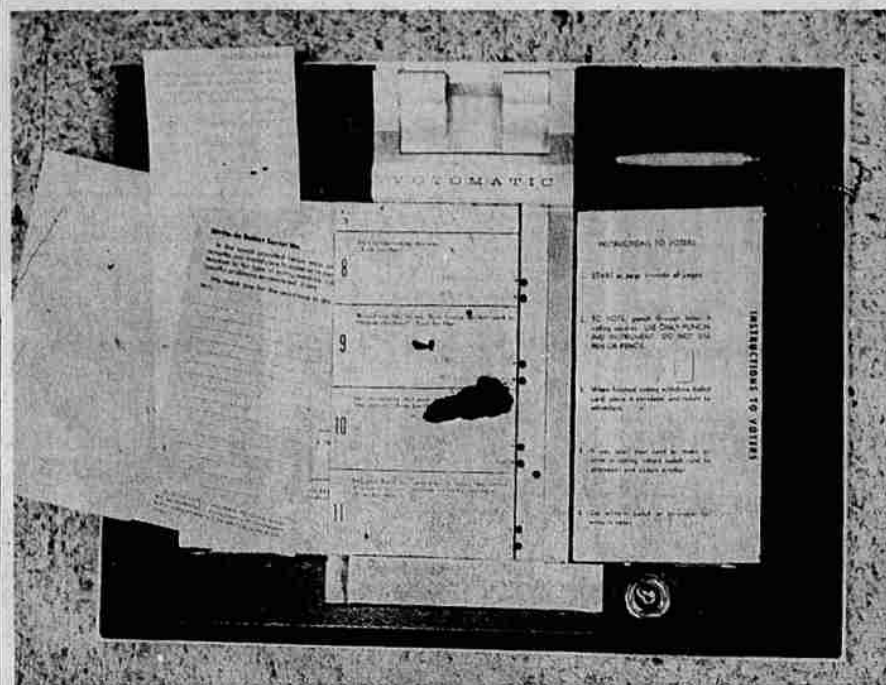
Mrs. Milton DeGroodt of Myrtle Creek will be chairman of the meeting which will have as its theme, "Called to Serve."

The Rev. Donald S. Campbell of the Myrtle Creek church will conduct the opening worship.

Appearing on the program will be Mrs. L. B. Pierce, vice president, and district secretaries, Mrs. D. W. Burton, Eugene, spiritual life; Mrs. Karl Hummel, Myrtle Creek, missionary education; Mrs. Eldon Lee, Yoncalla, literature; Mrs. Claude Miller, promotion; and Mrs. Lester Lollis, Grants Pass, Christian social relations. Others will be Mrs. Don Grinolds and Mrs. Maurice Babb, both of Myrtle Creek.

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VOTING MACHINE above is the brain child of a relative of a Roseburg man. It combines simplicity with the quality of making it easy to count votes. It is still in the experimental stage, and several states, including Oregon, are conducting extensive tests to determine its capabilities. (News-Review photo)

State Fair Test Proved Value Of Automatic Voting Machine

The Oregon State Fair provided an excellent and most successful tryout for the Votomatic, the machine that promises to revolutionize vote taking and vote counting methods. Such is the opinion of Attorney Arthur A. Wilson, Roseburg, Oregon representative of the machine's inventor and manufacturer and who has been closely following tests and experiments connected with the proposed new voting device.

Under the newly developed plan, however, the voter would receive a punch card from the election board, and also would be handed an envelope. After he had voted he would insert the card in the envelope. Under a flap on the envelope would be spaces and numbers

amply sufficient for the job are in operation at the Roseburg Lumber Company office, the Southern Oregon Log Scaling Bureau. Computers ordinarily may be rented for about \$40 per hour, Wilson says. Douglas County's requirement would not exceed two or three hours, he believes.



ARTHUR WILSON has high hopes

The inventor of the Votomatic is Dr. Joseph Harris, professor of political science at the University of California. Dr. Harris is an uncle of Mrs. Wilson, which is, in part, one of the reasons the Roseburg attorney is so interested in the machine and its future.

Testing Through

The Votomatic has been receiving very thorough testing at the hands of Oregon's secretary of state, Howell Appling, Wilson reports. California, Wisconsin, Nebraska and Massachusetts also are interested in developing and using the proposed new system.

These tests are helping with improvement and final development of the Votomatic, Wilson says. It is believed to be close to its final and perfected form at this time, he reports.

One of the interesting new developments resulting from the many experiments now in progress is the use of an envelope to assure complete secrecy of the ballot.

The machine itself is about the size of a large city's telephone directory. The ballot, broken into sections, appears on numbered pages enclosed in heavy plastic and hinged to the outside edge of the machine.

Card Punched

The voter inserts a punch card at the top of the machine. The card has perforated squares opposite the name and number of each candidate and measure upon which votes are sought. The voter uses a stylus to punch out squares in the punch card. This, of course, requires that the card be in exactly the proper position. The newer machine, instead of using lugs over which to fit the card now uses an electric coil. It is impossible to punch holes in the card until it has been fully and properly inserted.

The original form of punch card also had a space for write-in votes, which were to be tabulated separately.

bers corresponding to those on the ballot. Any write-in votes would be placed on the envelope.

Envelope Returned

The envelope, the flap closed, would be returned to the election board. The numbered tab, which would extend outside the envelope, would be torn off for record, and the envelope, with card enclosed, would be dropped in the ballot box. Envelopes would be retained and write-in votes tabulated. In this procedure the utmost secrecy would be assured.

In the process of casting his vote, the voter would first insert the punch card. The first section of the ballot would be exposed. Holes would be punched opposite the candidate or proposition, instead of marking an (X) as at present. After completing the terms on Sec. 1, the voter would turn to the second section. This would move his holes to the next column on the card. This process would follow until all sections had been voted, each on its own column.

There would be but little difference from the present ballot, except that it would appear in sections rather than as one piece.

Boxes Sealed

After the polls were closed, ballot boxes would be sealed in the presence of the election board and the sealed boxes delivered to the official canvassing board.

The canvassing board would take out the punch cards, check all envelopes for write-in votes, and would proceed to put the cards through an electric computer. The whole precinct vote then could be counted and tabulated in a matter of two or three minutes.

Prospects are, he reports, that use of the Votomatic will become general throughout the United States in a few years. Dr. Harris, who has been having his machines made by hand, is preparing a factory where they can be produced in larger quantities, as he anticipates a large demand in the near future.

\$30,000 Needed

Douglas County, Wilson points out, will probably need an average of three machines for each of its 100 voting precincts. Presently the machines cost around \$100 each. It is expected that by mass production the cost can be reduced, it is said, but, using the present cost, Douglas County would be able to purchase the needed machines for around \$30,000.

Douglas County at this time has no computer with which to count the votes. Counties will be encouraged to buy them. However, they can be rented from an office machinery company or, in most cases, are obtainable through cooperation of one of the leading industrial or office organizations. In Douglas County, Wilson says, computers

COPE Voter Signup Drive Certain To Aid JFK's Bid

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Blue collar voting in suburbia — the last of it — occupied the attention of labor leaders from 22 of the nation's biggest metropolitan areas today.

The leaders gathered at the behest of the AFL-CIO's Committee on Political Education (COPE) for a three-day meeting to discuss ways of getting more union members to register and vote in 1964.

COPE called the conference to prepare for a labor-sponsored registration drive that is certain to help President Kennedy in his bid for a second term.

COPE director Alexander Barkan said the aim of the sessions was to increase registration among union members from its present average of 60 per cent to the level of 90 per cent he said prevails among members of the American Medical Association, U.S. Chamber of Commerce and National Association of Manufacturers.

"As long as this discrepancy exists, we're handicapped," he said. Barkan said special attention would be devoted to getting more workers living in the suburbs qualified to vote. He said union members, like other Americans, were moving from cities to suburbs in increasing numbers.

Labor representatives were invited from Baltimore, Boston, Buffalo, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Denver, Detroit, Kansas City, Mo., Los Angeles, Milwaukee, New York, Newark, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, St. Louis, San Diego, San Francisco, Seattle, and Washington, D.C.

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