

EDITORIAL PAGE

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Now to Get Them to Eat From the Same Dish



Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON — Harry Truman will be known as the man who didn't want to be president.

Unassuming, modest, in love with his job as senator from Missouri, Harry never wanted to be vice-president in the first place and after he was elected, he dreaded the thought that anything might happen to President Roosevelt. Once, during the campaign, he awoke in a cold sweat. He had dreamed that Roosevelt had died and he was called upon to assume his mantle. Harry said he never had such a terrible dream before in all his life.

Truman had arrived in Speaker Sam Rayburn's office to discuss that same awesome possibility when the call came to hurry to the White House.

On Wednesday, the night before, Speaker Rayburn had had a premonition of things to come. Dining with friends, Rayburn said:

"This country is in for a great tragedy, and I feel it's coming very soon. I don't think the president will be with us much longer."

Rayburn's listeners were shocked. When they asked the speaker for an explanation, he replied:

"Roosevelt's not a well man." Refusing to be more specific, he turned his head away from the table for a moment and then said:

"I think I'll have a talk with Harry (Truman) tomorrow. He's got to be prepared to carry a tremendous burden. He's got to get himself ready for this."

Next afternoon, about three, even as Franklin Roosevelt was entering his last hour of life, Rayburn called over to Truman's office in the senate, said he wanted to see the vice-president. Truman said he'd drop over when the senate recessed. He had just arrived to see Rayburn when word came from Steve Early that the event which Truman so long dreaded, finally had transpired.

Inside Story of Chicago

Like Calvin Coolidge, Truman has been the product of political miracles. The first was when boss Pendergast of Kansas City picked him, a totally unknown country judge, to run for the senate seat of the famous Jim Reed. The other was when he was

trapped for the democratic vice-presidential nomination last summer in Chicago.

That fateful hour found Truman emotionally disturbed, reluctant, totally unprepared.

It has never been revealed, but Truman's first inkling that Roosevelt wanted him came while he was sitting in his room at the Blackstone hotel. The phone rang. Someone answered it, told Truman that Hopkins was on the phone.

"Hopkins!" he exclaimed, then remarked that it must be Hopkins, the hotel man in Kansas City.

He strode to the phone, there was a moment of silence. It was the Harry Hopkins telling Truman that Roosevelt wanted him as his running mate. Truman seemed dazed. But recovering he said:

"I don't want the job. I don't think they're serious. I'll wait until I hear it from the chief himself."

Late that night, with the convention on the verge of a three-cornered deadlock, Truman was again back in his room when he received another call—this time from the president.

"Hello, Mr. President," Truman said, "how are you?"

There was a pause. "But what should I do, Mr. President? I don't quite know what to say," were Truman's next words.

"Stay in there and pitch, Harry," Roosevelt replied. "Everything's going to be OK."

"OK," answered Truman, "if you say so. I'll stay in there."

From Hot-dogs to Vice-Presidency

He hung up rather weakly, said he was going over to see Mrs. Truman and his daughter Margaret at the Morrison hotel. Walking down crowded State street, Truman reiterated to friends that he didn't want the job. He was nervous, tense, and worried.

"Why don't you go to a night club and have a drink?" advised a friend.

"No, I don't think I will," said Truman. "I think I'll just duck in and see a movie."

Next day, when the vice-presidential ballot was finished, the little man from Missouri was elected. See WASHINGTON... Page 6



"I'm sure I saw you hiding something under that counter, young lady! I don't know what it was, but if there's any under-the-counter selling going on here I want my share!"

McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

By WM. E. MCKENNEY, America's Card Authority

ARGUMENT AGAINST OPENING A QUEEN

The team-of-four championship in the recent eastern states tournament went to the team of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Jaeger, Joseph E. Low, Mason Lichtenstein and Henry Sonnenblick. I have taken this hand from the team-of-four match for two reasons.

First of all, if there is such a thing as bridge phobia, mine is a phobia against leading queens. I remember once leading from a queen, jack, ten, nine that did not do me any harm but I am always

make the contract, but it looks as if his best play is to go up with the ace of clubs and discard his two losing clubs on the king and queen of hearts. Then all he has to do is to get the spade finesse. Of course, as the spades die, he must go down.

One played did open the queen of spades, which upheld my theory that leading queens is dangerous, for the small slam contract was then made.

IN FORMER YEARS

30 Years Ago

Orlando Anson, breeder of registered Poland hogs, has taken a progressive step in the program for the boys for raising hogs. He has 10 registered hogs which he will sell for as little or less than the common cross breeds will bring, and will exact no pay from the boys who get them, until they have been exhibited at the fair and sold.

Fred Kiddle and Homer Lefel, students at Oregon, who were home for the Easter vacation, returned to Eugene.

15 Years Ago

Harold Hoyt, young grocery clerk, brought the first fish of the season into La Grande, returning from an early morning trip to Five Points with two nice trout. He was back in time to report for work at 7 a. m.

Rube and Nate Zweifel, noted for their yearly habit of getting the limit of fish the first day of the season, returned at 10:30 and with limits of Eastern Brook and Rainbow trout apiece, caught on the Wallowa river.

A big catch in salmon was an eight-pound and one-ounce steelhead caught by Frank Flannery. Steelhead weighing four and six pounds were caught by V. B. Dohgart.

10 Years Ago

Nearly an inch and a half of rain fell in about 36 hours. Although it delayed spring seeding in the wheat areas, its benefits were regarded as great.

Army officers flew over the Grande Ronde valley to check for army air base facilities.

Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Perkins purchased the Adolph Siegrist summer home at Wallowa lake.

WE, THE WOMEN

By RUTH MILLETT

Mrs. Jones has had a busy day. The united national clothing collection, headed by Henry J. Kaiser, has designated April as the month for collecting the nation's old clothes, shoes, and bedding for the relief of destitute war-victims throughout the world.

And the drive — combined with Mrs. Jones' annual spring drive to get rid of everything possible around the house — resulted in two big boxes of warm clothing for war relief, and a nice satisfied feeling for Mrs. Jones.

Not only are her closets clear now of everything unusable, but she has got rid at last of that too bright plaid suit she never did like on Mr. Jones. She has donated the evercoat he never wears but has insisted for year "is too good to give away."

She'll have to talk fast when he discovers

his fishing hat was among the "What you can spare, they can wear" contributions. And the kids may kick about a few of their things with which she got generous.

But look at the room in the closets! And think of the relief of not having to worry about making over all those old coats and dresses she was so sure would come in handy when there was a scare at the start of the war about wool becoming scarce.

Mrs. Jones is a happy woman tonight. She has helped a good cause — and she has indulged her spring urge to discard everything that hasn't seen use in the last six months.

How about spending a day sorting and collecting clothes yourself? "What you can spare, they can wear!" And think what it will do for your attic and closets.

Behind Scenes in Washington

By PETER EDSON, La Grande Evening Observer Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON — What it takes to get along with congress is worth special consideration. One of the several strange aspects about the resignation of Justice James F. Byrnes from his position as assistant president is that it removes from the Washington scene a politician who was supposed to be plus ultra on "handling" congress.

When Byrnes first got his job as director of the office of war mobilization, it was hailed as a great step forward in improving the relations between the White House and Capitol Hill. Jimmy Byrnes had been congressman and senator himself. He was the great compromiser. He, if anyone, could get along with congress and lead the lawmakers safely through the mine field and booby traps of a legislative war-plan essential for victory, yet the sad fact remains that almost simultaneously with Justice Byrnes' resignation, the administration took one of its worst legislative lickings of the war in the senate's defeat of the work or fight bill. What that makes of Justice Byrnes' reputation as a get-along-with-congress, anyone can figure out for himself. One little word from Byrnes — that manpower controls of the work or fight bill would be necessary in the reconversion period — was all it took to convert the national service legislation idea into a dead duck.

How much of the Byrnes program will be picked up and carried forward by his successor, Judge Fred M. Vinson, has yet to be disclosed. The very fact that Byrnes resigned lessens the importance of his recommendations to congress for continued high taxes, price and rationing controls, restrictions on production of civilian consumers' goods.

Judge Vinson's appointment will put another test on the idea that it takes a congressman to get along with congress, for he has served in the house. The big Kentucky was confirmed without opposition. But now his troubles with congress begin.

Running down the list of wartime cabinet heads and administrators, all have had their difficulties with congress, though some have had better luck than others. Even Secretary of State Cordell Hull, respected though he was as an ex-senator and congressman, had

hard sledding for his pet reciprocal trade agreements. And ex-Senator Prentiss M. Brown of Michigan, though he successfully managed the original price control legislation through congress, couldn't satisfy his colleagues when he became OPA administrator.

Ex-Congressman Marvin Jones is a great behind-the-scenes worker with congressmen and he has kept a great deal of the congressional heat off the war food administration. Ex-Congressman Frank Hancock has done nearly as well as farm security administrator, once a sore spot with congress.

Ex-Congressman Maury Maverick has lasted longer than any of his predecessors as head of the smaller war plants corporation.

Strangely enough, the administrators who seem to have had the best records in getting along with congress weren't congressmen at all. Jesse Jones for one. Chester Bowles for another. Nelson Rockefeller for a third. The power that congress handed to Jesse Jones in his 12 years and more at the head of the reconstruction finance corporation is almost unbelievable.

The millions Rockefeller got for South America are astounding. Bowles has been in hot water with many, but with the renewal of the price control act, he got his bill through the senate without change and he got his appropriation increased—the most any administrator ever asked for.

What Jones and Bowles and Rockefeller have that inspired confidence in congressmen is an intangible attribute well worth belaying and inoculating into the bloodstream of some of the other department heads as the administration moves into a critical period requiring congressional approval for many of its pet projects.

Stettinius has the San Francisco conference results coming up for ratification. Morgenthau has Bretton Woods. Wallace has 60 million jobs program. And expansion of foreign trade. War and navy have problems of their own. Lodes has ambitions on blocking public works and the valley plans.

Anyone having a recipe for a congressman to drop in the congressional bean soup, will have no trouble peddling it in Washington.

EVENING OBSERVER'S PROGRESS PROGRAM
IRRIGATION—Complete the Grande Ronde Valley irrigation project.
LA GRANDE — A city of 10,000 — Extend the city limits.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

Tell me thy company and I will tell thee what thou art.—Cervantes.

Wrong Again

Appointment of General MacArthur and Admiral Nimitz to top command in the Pacific theater must have come as quite a blow to several journalists who specialize in psychic predictions.

These writers had lately been busy reshuffling the Pacific command in anticipation of V-E Day. It was their biggest reorganization job since they predicted, several months before the Normandy invasion, that General Marshall would be "kicked upstairs" into supreme command of the allied invasion forces, and that General Somervell would become chief of staff with the assignment of organizing "a worldwide WPA."

This time the psychic prognosticators again brought in the dignified and distinguished figure of General Marshall as a sort of political football. He would get the supreme on-the-spot command of all Pacific armies, they said, while General MacArthur would be stranded in the Philippines.

Most of these predictions seem to come from people who, for some reason or other, have carried General MacArthur around like a chip on their shoulders almost since the day that war began.

These people, including a few members of congress, have apparently sought to give the impression that only their constant vigilance has prevented the political appointment of top com-

manders in wholesale lots. And since there is no evidence of any political consideration in the final appointments, they may receive some credit among the gullible.

To that extent their activities are harmless. But the oblique aspersions they have cast upon the chiefs of staff and the field commanders are neither admirable nor helpful.

The brilliant record of the American command capably refutes any question of the proper discernment and use of our generals' and admirals' talents. And among the most brilliant records are those of General MacArthur and Admiral Nimitz.

They were the logical men to entrust with the job of finishing Japan. They got the job. And we're extremely doubtful that the psychic prognosticators' tears and eloquence had much to do with the final decision.

The Miracle of Aviation

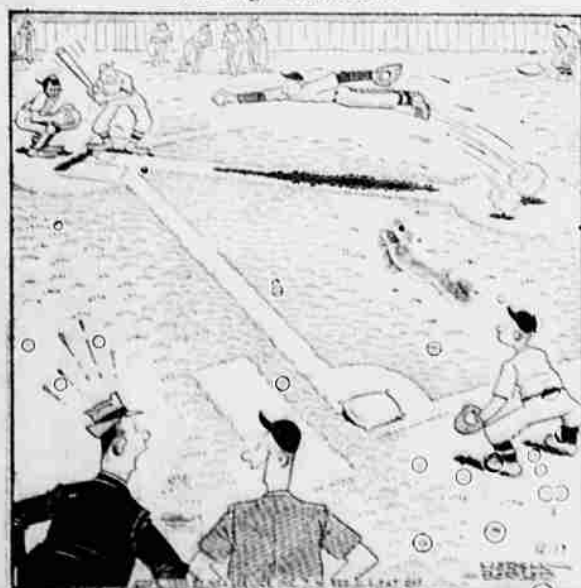
Post-war aviation, it is claimed, will turn this strife-torn globe into one world and, by making travel quick and easy, unite the formerly insular and suspicious citizens of various countries by the bond of common interests. But the most persuasive claim we've yet seen for aviation as an agent of world brotherhood originated right in Washington.

There the Congressional Flying club of 91 air-minded legislators is reported to be on the verge of inviting Secretary of Commerce Henry Wallace to become its only non-congressional member.

It seems only yesterday that a great many congressmen were saying some rather unflattering things about Wallace. They were not inviting him to join anything unless, by implication, the unemployed.

If Wallace's simple announcement that he is taking flying lessons could work this sudden transformation on capitol hill, we're ready to believe that aviation can do anything.

Funny Business



"It's our Scotch pitcher—he hates to let go of the ball!"

SO THEY SAY

I'd hate to think that Americans fighting an invader of the United States couldn't fight any better or harder than these krauts, who are supposed to be saving the Fatherland.
—Sgt. Joseph R. A. Hackett of Brooklyn, with First army.

One of the pieces of folklore that has existed always in this country is that we are constantly at the mercy of wily diplomats. I don't believe it at all.
—Carl Van Doren, author.

The great challenge to our form of government today is to find a program for postwar employment at decent wages.
—Rep. Helen Gahagan Douglas (D) of California.

We should not be nervous about the temporary phase of the war. For we have lost two Jims, but I still believe we won the battle of two Jims when I think of the spiritual death to the enemy of what island.
—Premier Kantaro Suzuki.

This Curious World

MAN SPECULATES AS TO WHAT WEAKNESSES IN THE MAKE-UP OF DINOSAURS LED TO THEIR DISAPPEARANCE AFTER 150 MILLION YEARS OF SUPREMACY ON EARTH... YET MAN HAS REIGNED ONLY A FEW THOUSANDS OF YEARS!



ANSWER: Denver, Colo. NEXT: What is the best time of day to pick roses?