

Ike Approaches End of First Year As President Far More Seasoned Politically, Firmer in Leadership

By DOUGLAS B. CORNELL and ED CREAUGH

WASHINGTON (AP)—Dwight D. Eisenhower ends his first year in the White House next Wednesday—far more seasoned politically, unperforated as a civilian leader than the general-turned-politician who took office Jan. 20, 1953.

In spite of constant problems and harassing troubles, the contagious Eisenhower grin is still in evidence. But that square jaw seems "to jut out more than it once did."

After 12 months in office Eisenhower still can say, as in his candidate days, "I don't know" or "I'm no expert on that." But he also can say "I want" and "I expect."

Revealing Comment
A revealing comment was offered in private conversation the other day by an official of the Budget Bureau, the agency which translates into working dollars and cents the plans and wishes of others in the government.

"In preparing the new budget," this official said, "we often hear the expression 'Eisenhower wants this' or 'Eisenhower wants that.' You'd never have heard that a year ago. It never occurred to most people that 'the general' would have opinions on such subjects."

A break-in, shakedown year of general steadiness and foresight in policy—with a good deal more experimenting, some mind-changing and long periods of fact-gathering in home front affairs—have helped produce the Eisenhower of today.

Toughness Advantage
If the President is politically tougher, it's to his advantage. For a rough, make-or-break year of action and decision lies ahead, with a full Eisenhower program at last outlined and dropped into a closely divided Congress already snarling with controversy.

The political stakes are enormous—the success or failure of the first Republican administration in two decades. The way the President sees it, the GOP won't deserve to keep control of Congress unless it puts his program over.

To Eisenhower, it is a "dynamic, progressive, forward-looking" blueprint for a "stronger America" and the welfare of all Americans.

Yet on many of its details—taxes and farm policy among others—the President already is about the defensive against many Democrats and some of his own party.

Behind the program, however, are the President's own personal popularity and omens of a growing determination on his part to take a stronger grip on the reins—to let everybody know it is Dwight D. Eisenhower who runs this administration.

Desires to Get Along
The desire to get along with congressmen and the people is about him still in there, along with the emphasis on teamwork. Eisenhower's lieutenants on Capitol Hill plainly can differ with him on matters of policy at times and still stay on the team.

The late Sen. Robert A. Taft did it. Sen. Knowland of California, who succeeded Taft as GOP Senate leader, has done it.

Even so, many lawmakers agree there is something of a "new Eisenhower" in the White House who may be less willing to placate and compromise than he was a year ago.

It began to become apparent when the President rammed through Congress last year, over opposition of the House Ways and Means Committee, a six months' extension of the excess profits tax on corporations.

There seemed to be more evidence: The manner in which Eisenhower upheld Harry Truman's patriotism in the face of a blast against the former president by Atty. Gen. Brownell; backed Secretary of State Dulles' views over those of Sen. McCarthy (R-Wis); and took command of the preparation of his legislative program and conferences on it with congressional leaders.

How much of this attitude carries over into election-winning politics is something else again.

Raw Recruit
The commanding general of the victory in Europe was only a raw recruit in politics. And he still seems a bit ill at ease in his role as head of the Republican Party, with little taste for dabbling in strategy and rough and tumble electioneering.

His speeches at GOP rallies in the year gone by have stressed objectives and principles rather than whipping up his followers to wild heights of whooping enthusiasm.

And his role in this year's heavy battling for control of Congress still is something of a mystery.

Eisenhower's expressed ideas on that took some rapid shifts and turns in the space of an October fortnight.

First, he told a news conference he didn't intend to use the presidency to try to swing parison elections, particularly at the state and local levels. Rather, he said, he hoped to develop an enlightened, progressive program as an umbrella under which Republican candidates could gather and campaign to victory.

So it looked at that point as if the President intended to stay pretty much aloof from 1954 politics. National Chairman

That brought the Republican national chairman, Leonard W. Hall, running to the White House the next day. He came out saying he expected Eisenhower to take part in the campaign at least to the extent of talking about administration accomplishments.

A few days later, the chief executive told reporters of course he wanted the Republicans to keep control of Congress. He indicated he might make some speeches plugging the GOP record, or occasionally pat a candidate on the back or have his picture taken with him.

Only the next day the White House let it be known Eisenhower favored the election of all Republican candidates everywhere, including Paul Troast, the controversial GOP candidate for governor of New Jersey. Troast later was beaten by a Democrat despite the presidential endorsement.

There has been some backing and filling in the handling of domestic affairs, too, as Eisenhower and his cabinet team—recruited largely from the business world he greatly admires—found theories of government tested in the hot fires of reality.

There was much Republican talk—if not actual promises by Eisenhower himself—in 1952 and early 1953 about a balanced budget. But months ago the President gave up hope of accomplishing this in the next fiscal year, which starts July 1.

'Hard Money'
The administration had to modify, too, the "hard money" policy that had shoved up interest rates on business, farm and home loans.

Similarly, an administration that had called for fewer restrictions on farmers ran into problems of crop surpluses. The result was restrictions in the form of acreage limitations and production quotas.

But the original aim of an unregimented agriculture is still there. The new farm program calls for keeping off the markets the huge crop surpluses in government hands and using them for emergency stockpiles, school lunch programs and the like.

It calls also for sliding price supports in place of the present rigid props. Congress is squaring off for battle on that.

In the touchy field of labor-management relations, Eisenhower's general get-it government-out-of-the-way philosophy didn't stop him from recommending—among his recent Taft-Hartley change proposals—a system of government-held strike elections.

This looks like putting the government nearer the middle of unregimented strife than it has been since World War II days.

Balanced Budget
On taxes, Eisenhower repeatedly took the stand that a balanced budget must be in sight—"a proved capacity"—before there could be any reductions.

"We claim," he said in his early days in office, "that unless we balance the budget, there will never be any lowering of taxes."

Now he is saying Republican economizing made it possible to let the income tax come down and the excess profits tax on corporations end on schedule Jan. 1, balance or no balance.

The whole home front program, in fact, seems to show some shift in emphasis.

With some exceptions, the program was heavy on retrenchment at first.

Spending came down, wage, price and rent controls were dropped, the government took steps to get out of competition with private business, tens of thousands of people were dropped from the federal payroll.

Atomic Weapons Stressed
This was accompanied by slashes in the defense program, by more stress on atomic age weapons and air power and less on manpower, and—the administration claims—by a net increase in fighting power.

But the program Eisenhower outlined in his State of the Union message to Congress Jan. 7 embraces anti-depression measures, public works, highway expansion, housing and health plans, help for states in building schools and hospitals, unemployment insurance for 6 1/2 million more workers.

Still, the President is proposing another 5 billion dollar reduction in government spending.

Democrats took a look at the revised program and chortled that Eisenhower has taken over both the Roosevelt New Deal and the Truman "Fair Deal."

It is in the field of foreign policy that Eisenhower and his administration have followed a relatively straight line, insisting on free world unity and on American leadership in getting it.

Gradually there has been a change from the Truman policy of containment, of fencing in Communism, to one of attempting to grab the initiative in the cold war.

Eisenhower sparked the hopes of the world with challenges to Russia last April to join in disarmament and to show by deeds rather than words that the Kremlin wants peace.

Bright Spark
He struck an even brighter spark in December with his plan for pooling atomic materials for peaceful purposes as a start toward easing tensions and avoiding the horror of another war.

The President can look back, too, on a year that brought about an armistice, though a shaky one, in Korea, stepped up aid to the French fighting Reds in Indochina, food for East Germans rebelling against Soviet tyranny, and a law to give more European refugees an American haven.

By reorganization plans, and by personal initiative, Eisenhower has started changing the face of government.

He has in effect enlarged the cabinet by making Budget Director Joseph M. Dodge, United Nations Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr., and Civil Service Commission Chairman Philip Young regular attendants at its meetings.

More important, perhaps, he has enlarged the National Security Council and given it new, commanding status in the making of security policies.

Enjoys Work
On the personal level, does Eisenhower like his job after 12 months in it?

Ask him and he's likely to say, with a somewhat embarrassed laugh, that his isn't the sort of job a man takes because he enjoys the work.

One thing he doesn't like—any more than Harry Truman or Franklin D. Roosevelt did—is the confined, goldfishbowl-like existence of a White House tenant.

He gets away from the White House—indeed, away from Washington—as often as he can. And he makes no apologies to those who think he vacations too much in Augusta, Ga., or elsewhere. He says plainly that he needs the change of scene and pace.

An active man, Eisenhower sorely misses the golf he's been forced to curtail. His doctors, while pronouncing him in fine shape for a man of 63, would like him to play more often than he does. Those close to the President say nothing seems to relax him so thoroughly as a round such as he played—in chilly, overcast weather—the January afternoon of his State of the Union address. It's just what he needs to "get out the kinks," as one of his secretaries put it.

Ford Defends Intertational Cooperation
PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Henry Ford II Saturday night assailed "powerful and grimly negative" Americans who would junk the policy of international cooperation.

He called, instead, for the United States to "step forth with a hard-hitting program to speed the peaceful and orderly development of the underdeveloped areas of the earth."

Ford's remarks were contained in a speech accepting the Poor Richard Club's 1954 gold medal award.

The Eisenhower administration, he declared, is trying to provide America with the "positive foreign policy" it wants. But, he continued:

"Unfortunately, our positive initiative is being hampered by a powerful and grimly negative group in American politics.

"Speaking, I hope, as a good Republican, surely we can have sound and efficient policies at home without throwing international cooperation into the ash can."

Top Officials Discuss Atom Peace Plan
WASHINGTON (AP)—Top officials of the government held two secret conferences Saturday on ways to use atomic power for peace and defend the country against atomic war.

One meeting at the White House, with President Eisenhower presiding, reportedly set diplomatic strategy to be used in forthcoming talks with Russia about the President's atoms-for-peace plan.

The other equally guarded session at the Capitol brought together defense chiefs and key senators. One of the senators, declining to permit his name to be used, said they discussed matters "too secret to even talk about" that had to do with defense of the continent against possible atomic attack.

Piece of Knife Blade Found in Skull of Man
STAMFORD, Conn. (AP)—Physicians treating 53-year-old Lacy Baker for a stab wound in the head were puzzled when they found a one-inch piece of knife blade imbedded in his skull. The blade on the jack-knife used by Baker's assailant was intact.

Baker recalled that he had been the victim of a previous knife assault—in a fracas in Philadelphia 19 years before. The piece of steel never had bothered him, and he didn't know he'd been carrying it around.

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