Edgar's Comment on Budget Draws Chuckles From Ike, Praise From Conservatives

By ED CREAGH

WASHINGTON, April 20 (AP)—It is possible —, even easy sometimes—to make Dwight D. Eisenhower mad, as many a soldier and civilian has learned the hard way. But you can't do it by suggesting there may be a wedge between him and any of his brothers.

This notion is so fantastic to the President that he grins at the very mention of it. His grin has seldom been broader than it was this week when brother Edgar did a little public grumbling about that man in the White House, or at least about the way brother Dwight and his friends were running the country.

"Edgar," said the President with chuckling affection, "has been criticizing me since I was 5 years old."

Gives Brotherly Advice

Whereupon Ike Eisenhower invited brothers Edgar and Milton to dinner and about all that happened, by Edgar's account, is that the two other Eisenhowers laughingly advised big Ed to keep his lip buttoned in the presence of reporters if he doesn't want to get his name in the paper.

That seemed to end an amusing little human interest episode, so far as the Eisenhower family was concerned. But there may yet be political echoes. For Edgar, a well-to-do Tacoma, Wash., lawyer, had been saying just what some other less friendly critics thought: that brother Ike wants to spend too much of the taxpayers' money.

You can even hear talk, especially in more conservative Republican circles, of Edgar Eisenhower for president — just as there was talk in other party circles of trying to get Milton Eisenhower to run in 1956 in case Ike bowed out.

Avoiding Family Squabble

Of Edgar:

"He'd be a natural with the Eisenhower name and his economy ideas," one GOP legislator told this reporter. "Don't quote me, for heaven's sake — I'm a strong Ike man, and I'm not getting mixed up in any family squabbles. But Edgar sure talks the way a lot of us are thinking."

Edgar Eisenhower gave no sign that he heard about any presidential boomlet, but it's safe to predict his reaction would be a characteristic burst of deep-from-the-chest laughter. He didn't even want brother Dwight to run for president in 1952, to say nothing of going after the job himself.

But Edgar, at 67 the second oldest of the five Eisenhower brothers, has some ideas how the country ought to be — or ought not to be run. He thinks, for instance, the job can be done for less than the $71,800,000,000 his brother is asking in the 1957-58 budget.

"I can't understand why the budget is so large, particularly in view of the fact that everybody is crying for economy," Edgar told an Associated Press reporter. "I certainly feel the cost of government is getting 'way out of line."

"Haven't Changed Opinion"

That was before he went to dinner at the White House. But he declared afterward:

"I haven't changed my opinion — not a bit."

Just what Edgar did tell reporters is a matter of some dispute. One published account pictured him as disturbed that brother Milton was leading the President astray in a "liberal" direction. This account also had him fretting about the "liberal" influence of presidential aide Sherman Adams and former industrialist Paul Hoffman.

Not true, said Edgar. He acknowledged he didn't see eye to eye with Adams, and he voiced no great respect for Hoffman's judgment. But he indicated it didn't really matter whether they, or Milton, had the President's ear.

"Dwight can take care of himself," said Edgar, one of the few people in the world who calls the President "Dwight."

Share Nickname "Ike"

The reason he avoids the nickname "Ike," incidentally, may be simply to avoid confusion. That was his nickname too, back in Abilene, Kan., where schoolmates pinned the "Ike" name on all the brothers because "Eisenhower," as Edgar says, was "too big a mouthful" to shout across the street.

He was "Big Ike" then and Dwight was "Little Ike." They studied together, worked together — and fought. With typical Eisenhower grins, they recall that they spent a good deal of time scrapping.

"There was no animosity in our fights," Edgar said. "We fought for the sheer joy of slugging each other."

And, he adds today, he and the other brothers still feel free to disagree with each other even though one of them is president.

Still Ike "Kid Brother"

Edgar voices a deep, even a religious, respect for his brother's office, but he doesn't fail to add:

—"I still think of Dwight as my kid brother."

He is less than two years older than the President and, in many ways, is more like him than the other brothers. They have a similar vitality, the same sort of infectious laugh. They share a devotion to golf. Edgar is a former Washington State Seniors' Golf Assn. champion.

Friends of both men say they have formidable tempers. Edgar describes himself as a "stubborn Dutchman." Each brother, as it happened, chose his career against parental wishes. Dwight's mother, who belonged to a pacifist sect, wept when he got his appointment to West Point. Edgar's father opposed his becoming an attorney, and it was an uncle—as well as brother Dwight — who helped finance Edgar's studies at the University of Michigan Law School.

Japan to Hike Trade

TOKYO, April 20 (AP)—Japan is taking still another step to increase its world trade. Prime Minister Kishi plans to send five roving ambassadors, recruited from business circles, abroad to study economic conditions and bid for orders. They are going to North and South America, Southeast Asia, the Middle East and Europe.

Pool Vote Planned

PENDLETON, April 20 (AP) — A measure for a $350,000 swimming pool that could be used the year around will appear on a special election ballot here May 22.

Fair Queen Picked

PENDLETON, April 20 (AP) —The queen of this year's Umatilla County Fair, which will open at Hermiston Aug. 15, will be Tarry Clifton of Weston.

Brothers

WASHINGTON, April 19—President Eisenhower, foreground, and his older brother, Edgar, are shown as youngsters in Abilene, Kas. Date of the picture is not known. (AP Wirephoto)

Importers of Plywood Say Solon 'Duped'

WASHINGTON, April 20 (AP) — A hot fight over plywood today brought charges — and a denial —that Sen. Thurmond (D-SC) has been duped by "deceitful" propagandists seeking to cut down sharply on imports of the building material.

The charge was made by a group of plywood importers.

A spokesman for domestic manufacturers replied that the accusation was "nonsense."

Thurmond said in a statement there has been no reason for him to "doubt the validity" of information supplied to him by domestic industry sources.

He expressed hope the Senate Finance Committee will schedule an early hearing on the bill.

"Th committee can then determine the accuracy of the arguments presented both by the domestic producers and by the importers," he said.

Representatives for the importers' group told a news conference Thurmond was the victim of a "hoax" when he told the Senate 28 hardwood plywood plants were "shut down completely" because of foreign imports.

They said a check of 10 North Carolina plants mentioned by Thurmond showed that none were shut down because of foreign competition. They said the indication is that "the rest of the list is just as misleading."

Defiance of Teamster Chiefs Cited

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. April 20 (AP) —The "defiant and contemptuous" attitude of Teamsters Union leaders is the "most significant" development in the current Senate investigation of alleged labor racketeering, Sen. McClellan (D-Ark) said today.

"They take the attitude that they are bigger than the government," McClellan said of Teamster officials. "They feel themselves beyond the law and they feel that what they do as union bosses is not the business of the public or their own union members."

The senior Arkansas senator said that his Senate committee has received more than 20,000 letters since Feb. 28, when the labor investigation was launched.

"Public reaction is satisfactory," the senator commented.

McClellan indicated yesterday that the Senate hearings may focus on the mid-South soon. He said the committee had received many complaints from unions in the area would have to be "selective" in future investigations.

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