AP Editors Vote Marshall Top Newsmaker of 1947

George C. Marshall, U. S. secretary of state, was voted top newsmaker of 1947 and outstanding man in foreign affairs by editors of Associated Press newspapers.

The wartime Army chief of staff flew home in January from China, where he had been ambassador, to find the Senate unanimously had approved his appointment as head of the State Department. From then on throughout the year he remained almost constantly in the headlines, causing most editors to place him ahead of President Harry S. Truman in the man-of-the-year category.

Headlines Start Early

In the foreign affairs department Marshall had no competition. Only a scattering few of the editors named anyone else.

Marshall was sworn in Jan. 21 and moved quietly to reorganize the department and transfer its principal offices into another building. He was off to Moscow and the crucial Foreign Minister's Conference March 5. The Hungarian crisis and the easing of strained U. S. relations with Argentina came in May and June after his return.

In a talk at Harvard University June 5 he gave the first outlines of his aid-to-Europe program which came to be known as the Marshall plan. August 13, he started for the Rio conference at which the inter-American defense program was approved. The United Nations Assembly meeting started Sept. 16 and approved Marshall's "Little Assembly" plan.

Nov. 11, he started for London and the second round of the Foreign Minister's Conference.

Taft Leads Politicians

Sen. Robert A. Taft was the overwhelming choice of AP editors as the outstanding political figure of 1947. When Congress convened in January he was, and remained, one of the leaders of the new Republican majority in the Senate.

His influence was vital in the handling of all important legislation. But it was as chairman of the Senate Labor Committee that he sponsored and forced through the Taft-Hartley Law over the opposition of all the leading labor leaders of the nation and the veto of President Truman.

Demonstrations Frequent

This law had personal repercussions for Taft when labor pickets appeared outside almost all the meetings at which he spoke on a political tour in the summer and fall. He was good natured about the demonstrations, calling one of them "our usual reception."

His formal announcement Oct. 23 of his candidacy for the Republican nomination for President came as no surprise.

Victory in Union

Walter P. Reuther was selected as the outstanding man in labor. More than twice as many editors chose him as voted for John L. Lewis. Reuther's spectacular victory in the November convention of the giant United Auto Workers' Union when his slate of officers was elected was the event which caught editors' eyes. Reuther had announced that his program was designed to eliminate Communistic elements from the union.

Reuther announced, however, that his union victory would mean no weakening of policy in its efforts to improve working conditions in the automobile industry.

Kaiser Selected

Henry J. Kaiser, auto manufacturer, ship builder, steel master, whose big enterprises continued to make news in 1947, nosed out Henry Ford II as the industrial leader of the year in the opinion of the editors. In addition to Kaiser and Ford, many of the editors voted for other industrial leaders, notably Howard Hughes and Robert Young.

The uncertainty of the editors in the industrial field reflected the efforts of the nation's production leaders to reach full stride with post-war shortages and other difficulties a continuing handicap.

Scattered Vote

In the entertainment field, the vote was even more widely scattered. Bing Crosby was first in the balloting, but the groaner was hard pressed in the voting by Ingrid Bergman and Bob Hope. Almost a score of other entertainment celebrities were among those considered outstanding by some of the editors.

Selecting Crosby, the editors showed a sense of balance in a famous radio "feud." They picked Hope last year. Hope and Crosby, best of friends in private life, for years have been sniping at each other over the air waves.

Author Hailed

In literature, Andre Gide, French Nobel prize winner, was the choice. He is known in this country principally as a novelist, although his reputation as a poet and philosopher is equally strong in his native country. Although he once advocated Communism and was hailed as a hero in Russia, he has since denounced it and declared his hatred of all dictatorship, regardless of the source.

Gide, known as a stylist, has had a profound influence on current literature. Many leading authors have acknowledged an indebtedness to him in the development of their work.

Sale of County Land Brings Over $80,000

The Lane County land department sold $80,457.90 worth of county-owned real estate during 1947.

In the description, there were 3421 acres of timber and cut-over land, sold for $75,470.40. In cities and towns in the county, 599 lots were sold for $4987.50.

One Porcupine Causes Mix Up

DAYTON, WASH.,—(AP)—Four motorists Wednesday were asking:

"Why does a porcupine cross the road?"

The animal was doing just that (without giving answers) Monday night, state patrolman Clarence Ellis reported, when it was struck by a car driven by Reade Abel of Dayton. A second car, driven by Stanley Lott, Walla Walla, hit the first machine.

A following car driven by Edward Goldner, Walla Walla, pulled up short to avoid the mixup, only to be hit by a fourth motorist.

Result: $1,000 damage.

Ellis didn't say whether the porcupine reached the other side of the road.

The cost of putting electric cables underground is often ten times as much as putting them overhead.

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