

Press Conferences Offer Treat for Washington's Newsmen

By ROBERT SMITH
Special Correspondent
WASHINGTON — The biggest newspaper reporters in a good press conference were those of plain Harry S. Truman.

Secretary Acheson and weekly meetings with other cabinet members. The press conference with senators and representatives, the press conference

things have been... two roving drummers Ingalls and Tate... 10 days ago and... dress news conference... their boy... Presidency all but

whooped it up for... 30 states, and then... to the echo. A man... opinion polls, said... Taft leading in pop-

about the Gallup... they conceded, that was a... exception, which only... the Gallup Poll was... as a propaganda de-

ment. Taft by the Truman... fear him more than... Republican." They pre-... rely on "the Montana

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poll, Lewistown Daily News, Iowa poll of GOP, National Republican Roundup, Utah poll, New Hampshire poll, Illinois poll, Missouri poll and others."

Then on Tuesday Mr. Republican called his own press conference to predict he'd soon be Mr. President. With press cameras flashing, Bob Taft responded to the widespread demand for a new face. He grinned.

Would he enter the Oregon presidential primary?

Conduct Real Fight
"No, the Wisconsin primary will require about as much time as I think I ought to take off from the Senate. I don't want to go into one unless I am going to conduct a real fight."

Is he seeking Senator McCarthy's support?
"I would just as leave have the support of Senator McCarthy, yes. And all Republican Senators, including Senator McCarthy — and Senator Morse."

The afterthought brought a ripple of laughter from reporters, for Morse's preference for Eisenhower is well known. What is less well known is that Morse has said he won't support Taft even if Taft becomes the GOP convention choice.

What would Morse do?
Morse Plans Walk

Last week he told the Senate the Truman Administration must be defeated, but not with a reactionary Republican. And to Wayne Morse Bob Taft is Mr. Reactionary. So faced with a Taft-Truman contest, Morse plans his long walk of silence probably via inspecting military bases abroad.

As for other Northwest Republicans in Congress, the formal Taft declaration seemed to have a definite bandwagon affect. Everyone was rushing to the high ground marked "No comment" where the troubled waters of intra-party politics seldom reach.

Rep. Harris Ellsworth came as close as any to committing himself. One week, he explained, he thinks like is just the man, the next week he likes Taft, and now that he thinks Stassen has showed

some guts perhaps he would be a good compromise.

Week's conclusions:
• When the Gallup Poll reported in last Sunday's Register-Guard that 62 per cent of American wives believe their husbands are handsome, that was just more New Deal propaganda to make everyone forget high taxes.

• Morse had better help get like home and in the running soon, otherwise get his own passport in order.

• Congressmen are a wee bit more concerned about the nomination and election of the incumbent from their own Congressional district than tooting Bob Taft's horn just now.

• Press conferences are the nuts.

Miners Seek Grub Stake

HAILEY, Idaho — (P) — A "grub stake" for the prospector — forgotten man in the government financed search for scarce metals — appeared Saturday as the most likely suggestion to come out of a congressional committee hearing on the program.

"If the government really wants these minerals, it's got to grub-stake the prospectors," Roy Hawley, Arco, Idaho, miner, told a House interior and insular affairs strategic metals subcommittee.

"It's got to say 'here's a grub-stake; we'll split 50-50 on whatever you find'."

Rep. Wesley D'Ewart (R-Mont), who is conducting the hearing, said there was no question of the nation's needing the minerals.

"We're having to redesign some of the machines of war because certain minerals are so scarce," he said.

D'Ewart said he thought President Truman could set up a grub-stake program under present laws by a directive.

As the program now stands, the government makes production loans only to operators who can pay part of the cost.

EVEN LAWN UNSAFE

LOWELL, Mass. — (UP) — Virginia Maniatis was injured in a highway accident in which she wasn't even in an automobile. The 17-year-old girl was raking leaves in front of her home when a truck crashed into a parked car and pushed the vehicle onto her.

GI History Repeats

Make Feet Fit Shoe

By JAMES G. WELCH
Register-Guard Staff Writer

If the shoe fits, by all means wear it. You're lucky. If it doesn't, chances are you're in the Army or the Air Force, and you'll have to limp it and like it.

The quartermasters, with the traditional keen eye for fit and history repeat itself, have come up with what they obviously believe is a supreme, new idea.

According to a smug Armed Forces release, quartermaster experts have after long and trying research "accomplished simplification" of shoe and boot sizes for our fine men in khaki or blue.

The release doesn't say so, but one gets the idea that almost anyone could have made the find if they had possessed the research equipment now apparently in the exclusive hands of the QMs.

They've reduced the number of shoe widths from 10 to 5! Many will recall the aging remark of the footsore rookie: "There's only size two; two-big and two-small."

But this latest simplification maneuver, ostensibly carried out to expedite outfitting and save taxpayers' pennies, has helped history meet its motley self face to face.

Back in the cold blue dawn of U. S. Army history—180 years ago—each soldier was presumed to possess a charming and battle-winning quantity called wherewithal. Which meant that there were few quartermasters and less supplies and that stag-

boats could very well steal their footwear in any width they could find — preferably from the Redcoats.

The Army stumbled along pretty well on blistered, swollen feet until World War II when "everything, just everything for the boys" became the cry of every politician, bureaucrat or general worth his feed.

Specialists were hired and feet were X-rayed and there was a much-publicized attempt to match the contour of each and every bunion. For the first time in history there were almost as many shoe sizes as gripes about poor fit. Actually, the Army stocked some 13 widths, including the outsize sizes such as AAAA and EEEE. This is the choice offered by any decent civilian shoe store.

Then somewhere about 1948 when Congress decided the Armed Forces were no fun and a bore, the pinch was felt on the GI's feet; the quartermaster lopped off three of the widths.

Now comes the "simplicity" move and there are only five widths. History will come around full tilt back to the too-big and too small point. Then some olive drab genius will make the press wires with the ultimate in simplicity—only one size.

Redcoats, beware!

NO BARGAIN
BOSTON — (UP) — A Boston five-and-dime store advertised a filled tool box on sale for \$4.98. In small print, the advertisement said the regular price was \$4.89.

Angell Thinks Taft Has Best GOP Chance

PORTLAND — (UP) — Representative Homer D. Angell (R-Oregon), making arrangements here for a visit Oct. 27 by the House Public Works Committee, said he believes Sen. Robert A. Taft has the "inside" track for the Republican presidential nomination.

"General Dwight D. Eisenhower has told no one in the GOP he is available," Angell said, "and Eisenhower has been pretty close to the Truman administration."

SAVED FOR IT
PADUCAH, Ky. — (UP) — A Paducah woman bought a gas range for cash, \$215. The clerk's eyes bugged as she paid for the stove with 2,150 dimes.

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MARRIAGES FALLING OFF
SINGAPORE — (P) — Marriages are falling off in this British crown colony. The number of Christian weddings the first half of 1951 was 51.5 per cent less than in the corresponding period of 1950.

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