



Ike Won't Get Christmas Present of Party Harmony

By JAMES MARLOW
WASHINGTON (AP)—Just about the nicest Christmas gift for President Eisenhower would be a package of party harmony, wrapped in a guarantee that all Republicans in 1954 would see eye to eye on everything of importance.

It's a gift he won't get. Two of the most powerful Republicans in Congress Thursday came out of a White House conference with Eisenhower disagreeing.

One was the 63-year old John Taber with a face stern enough to be Biblical. Taber, a New York lawyer, built himself a reputation thundering for economy. The other was Dewey Short of Missouri, 55, pink-cheeked and balding. The highly educated Short, who went to Oxford and taught philosophy, has long been one of the main oratorical attractions of the House.

WITH GESTURES
He first went there in 1929, five years after Taber. Short is an orator with gestures which are sometimes as good as the oratory. Short's speeches bring Democrats and Republicans from offices and cloakrooms to listen, and watch.

Leaving the White House, Taber, who once advocated a meat ax approach to government spending, said optimistically he thought next year's budget could stand big cuts. Short didn't see big cuts at all.

As chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, where all government spending bills have to start, Taber is in a prime position to try to make his predictions of Thursday come true.

All the agency and department heads must parade before him and his committee to explain why they think they need the money the budget says they need. It's the Taber committee's job to keep spending down.

Red to Begin Prison Term

NEW YORK (AP)—Robert G. Thompson, former New York State Communist chairman, was put on a train Saturday for Atlanta, Ga., where he will serve a three-year prison term he was given for conspiring to advocate forcible overthrow of the government.

He delayed the penalty by jumping bail two years ago. But his flight, which ended in his recent capture in a California hide-out, resulted in conviction here for contempt of court, and the addition of four more years in prison. He will serve the original three-year term first, and then begin the four-year lap. Thompson's original conviction was as one of the nation's 11 top Communists.

UO Graduate Takes Klamath County Job

KLAMATH FALLS (AP)—Robert Kerr, Albany, became deputy district attorney for Klamath County Saturday. District Attorney Frank Alderson said Kerr replaced Joe Thalhofer in the job. Thalhofer resigned to join the firm of Cunningham and Brewster at Redmond, Ore.

Kerr was graduated from the University of Oregon law school in 1932 and has been employed with a title company at Albany.

FEELS BETTER NOW

MINNESOTA (AP)—James E. Tunnell, 29, admitted Saturday he set fires to 11 private garages because it made him "feel better" after arguments at home.

Is That So? Tongue Fills Varied Needs Of Animals

By EUGENE BURNS
Ranger-Naturalist

Consider the tongue, most wonderful of organs. The cow, without upper teeth, pulls off grass with it. The dog sweats with his tongue and thereby reduces his body temperature. The parrot uses his soft tongue



for talking — spitting a bird's tongue is senseless. The hummingbird uses his for sucking up nectar. The fish, with reversed hinged teeth, for holding his prey. The snail, with thousands of tiny sharp teeth, for scraping off vegetable matter. The bat, flying back and forth over a still pool, for scooping up tiny mouthfuls of water.

CHAMELEON CATCHES FLIES

The chameleon for . . . but wait. Although the chameleon's body may be but seven inches long, when a fly settles down 12 inches away, that fly will suddenly find itself fast on the tip of the chameleon's flexible tongue, which has shot way out like a rubber band, without a movement of its head, almost twice the length of its body.

But even more amazing, I think, is the snake's tongue. It consists of two black cylinders held closely together at the base but separated toward the tips to produce a forked effect. Doubling the tips, of course, increases its sensitivity.

Sensitive as it may be, that still would count for little if it did not keep flicking that evil-seeming though harmless organ in and out at a furious rate. Why? Because in the roof of the mouth some snakes have pits in which the forked tongue ends fit, called Jacobson's organ. These pits contain quantities of nerve endings, presumably to pick up messages and relay them. And as the tongue flicks back, it may discharge into these pits receptors the latest information.

HEARS WITH TONGUE

As a result, the snake has no ears—it doesn't need them. This sensitive tongue has taken over the function of alerting for prey or warning of predators. Most snake eyes are weak, too—and again, the long flicking tongue seems to have taken over much of the work of the eyes. For example, blind the snake's eyes with adhesive tape and the snake will still continue to pick up the slightest sounds with its tongue and veer toward the direction from which the sound came.

So, as this delicate forked tongue is flicking in and out, our snake is experiencing . . . well, what? Perhaps temperature changes. Perhaps scent. Perhaps taste. Perhaps sight. Perhaps hearing. Perhaps feeling. Perhaps a combination of all these which we dullard's can't even comprehend.

But one thing, sure, the snake cannot use its complex organ for tongue lashing. That prerogative is reserved for us humans.

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