

Ike at Midterm a Confident World Leader

By DOUGLAS B. CORNELL
Of The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Eisenhower at midterm is a changed man—a man of increasing political awareness, with a firmer, more confident grip on the staggering problems of world and international leadership which clutch at him unceasingly.

The idolized general who jumped successfully from the military into the political arena reaches the halfway point of his first term in the White House next Thursday.

Behind him are two years of mingled advances and reverses both on the home front and in the field of foreign relations.

TWO MORE YEARS

Ahead of him are two more years of guiding America through what the President calls our "age of greatest peril," two years of sparring with a Congress now in Democratic hands and with Republicans tugging on some issues in cross directions.

Beyond that is a possibility that Eisenhower will bow to GOP pressure, already heavy and growing, to try for another term. From the chief executive himself, there is only silence on that.

Probably if his own wishes were the only factor, Eisenhower would be packing up two years from now and hurrying off to his Pennsylvania farm.

Already he has devoted nearly half a century of service to his country. He has carved for himself a secure and lofty niche in history. But now he hears an increasing volume of personal criticism, mainly from Democrats, who think they have to contend with him again in '56.

VITAL QUESTIONS

Will he want to take such sniping? Will he get fed up with opposition, too, from within his own party? Can he whip the right wingers into line behind him? Close associates don't profess to



PRESIDENT DWIGHT EISENHOWER
General



Politician

know the answers. But, more and more, they are coming around to a belief that eventually Eisenhower will respond to party pleas and run again, because of a soldier's ingrained sense of duty, if nothing else.

If he doesn't, apparently the President at least wants to tap the man who will run in his place. He shows a growing realization of the fact that he not only is head of the nation but also head of the Republican Party. From this realization evidently stems a determination to mold the GOP to the "progressive moderate" pattern he has cut.

330 AVERAGE

Midway in this first term, Eisenhower claims a hefty \$30 batting average in Congress—"pretty good in any league." But look, the Democrats retort, at the assists he got from them on a program they contend is merely a continuation of their own in many respects.

While he marked up some solid

accomplishments, Eisenhower suffered some defeats at the hands of both Democrats and Republicans.

He cut spending for example, but couldn't balance the budget. He got tax revisions but not the power to lower tariffs further, a flexible price support farm program but no labor law changes.

Expanding social security but no health plan; the St. Lawrence Seaway but not statehood for Hawaii.

Then there was the 1954 election.

POLICY SHIFTS

The GOP lost control of Senate and House. But its losses were far below normal for non-presidential elections.

In the area of diplomacy, this first Republican administration in 20 years has demonstrated that the political changeover meant shifts in shading and emphasis only, not a return to isolationism or abandonment of America's support for the Free World against the Communist menace.

The two years that have raced by have seen an end to war in Korea, the de-fusing of powder kegs at Trieste, the Suez Canal, Iran, Guatemala, the building of a Southeast Asia defense Alliance, a start on one for the Middle East, limited headway on harnessing the atom for peace,

and a defense pact with Nationalist China. Western Europe has survived internal shocks arising largely within France and gone on to beckon a sovereign, re-armed Germany into their anti-Communist union.

There also were significant setbacks:

MAJOR SETBACKS

Failure to set up the Southeast Asia alliance in time to prevent the partitioning of Indochina, which the administration once called the key to defense of all Southeast Asia; a split with England and France over the kind of peace for Indochina; a rise of neutrality in India and South Asia; a growth of anti-American sentiment in Japan and Korea; a growing tolerance in Europe of the idea of coexistence with Russia.

In spite of ups and downs at home and overseas, in spite of occasional temporizing, improvising and changing of pace and direction for individual policies, Eisenhower's shining goals have remained unchanged—peace for a troubled world and a "dynamic, progressive, forward-looking" program to lead America down a "middle road" to greater strength and prosperity.

In reaching for those goals, the President sometimes postpones, sometimes compromises, but seldom gives up.

PLUGGING AHEAD

There still is that thrust to the jaw, perhaps even more pronounced than it was two years ago, and that same insistence that the loss of a skirmish doesn't mean the loss of a battle.

Now, in the State of The Union message he has just delivered to Congress, he is back in there plugging hard for what he wants and didn't get. And he has added a few extras—a vast new highway building program, a boost in the minimum wage from 75 to 90 cents an hour, a pay boost for the military, a rejiggered version of universal military training, another extension of corporate and excise sales taxes.

He still explodes that sweeping, infectious grin in all directions. But at the same time there appears in his eye a glint of steel that seems indicative of a new kind of Eisenhower, or per-

haps a reversion to the general who was accustomed to instant obedience to every order and wish.

Thus he could crack the whip and jam a tax proposal through Congress over strong opposition from a key House committee.

GOP TROUBLES

Time and again, moreover, the President stood up for various men attacked by Sen. McCarthy (R-Wis.)—such men as Gen. George C. Marshall, Secretary of the Army Stevens and Brig. Gen. Ralph Zwicker. He spoke up for fair play in congressional investigations. He let it be known that he felt Senate squabbles centering around the Wisconsin senator were distracting the country and Congress from more important business.

As much or more than Democrats, Republicans compounded his troubles in his first 24 months in office and appear likely to keep right on for 24 months more.

Senate Republican Leader Knowland of California, who is supposed to carry the administration banner in his chamber, veered away from the Eisenhower line on foreign policy. Sen. Bricker (R-Ohio) lost by a slim margin a fight to curtail the President's treaty-making powers.

But Eisenhower has refused steadfastly to indulge in personalities or cutting criticism of McCarthy or anyone else.

EXCELLENT HEALTH

Members of the White House inner circle say they have no doubt that Eisenhower has some thing less than unbounded admiration for the Wisconsin senator and the way he operates. McCarthy, they say, probably has generated more presidential headaches than any one person.

Not once, however, did Eisenhower attack McCarthy directly. In the end it was McCarthy, not the President, who engineered a break.

At this point, with two years behind and at least two to go in the White House, the 64-year-old Eisenhower has been described as in excellent health.

But he has told friends that at times he just has to get away from Washington and the White House. And he does.

In 1954, he was away from the capital on "work and play"

Meteorite Possession Case Arouses Interest

By J. HUGH PRUETT
Pacific N.W. Director
American Meteor Society

Interest aplenty has been aroused by recent reports in the press regarding the nine-pound rock which came tumbling down from the high heavens over Alabama one afternoon late last November. It tore a three-foot hole in a roof at Sylacauga where Hult Hodges and his wife were living, bounced off a radio and severely bruised Mrs. Hodges, who was resting on a sofa.

Almost immediately the Air Force took possession of the celestial missile for examination. Reports at Christmas time indicated that some institutions had offered \$5,000 for the bruising meteorite, although the Smithsonian Institution had said it was not worth \$500. The house where the Hodges lived — they have now settled elsewhere — was rented property. The owner, Mrs. Birdie Guy, has filed suit to get possession of the unique sky rock. Mrs. Hodges says, "It's mine!" Each side has retained legal help.

NOTED CASES

There are two noted meteorite-possession cases on record in the United States. The earlier one was the Wennebago case in Iowa. The tenant on a rented property had seen the actual descent of a comparatively small meteorite which buried itself three feet in the ground. The next day the tenant dug it up and assumed ownership. Later he sold it. The owner of the land, finding such objects were valuable, claimed it was his and brought suit for its recovery. After several years of litigation, the courts decided "such objects belong to the owner of the soil upon which they fall."

A still more noted case was that of the famous Willamette meteorite, almost 16 tons of metal, the largest object of this kind ever found in the United States and Canada, and the fifth in size for the entire world. In the fall of 1902 Ellis Hughes near Oregon City, Oregon, recognized as meteoritic this huge mass which rested on the property of the Oregon Iron and Steel Co. adjacent to his own land.

WILLAMETTE METEORITE

In 1903 Mr. Hughes—reasoning that "possession is nine points of the law"—decided to move the mass to a spot near his own house, three fourths of a mile away. He trusted no one to help him except his wife, his 15-year-old boy and his horse.

After three months of hard work he had brought the meteorite to its destination, ready for display for a fee. Soon the company from whose land the object had been moved brought suit to recover it. While the case was in the circuit court, public sympathy was generally with Mr. Hughes. The plaintiff was finally awarded the meteorite by the court's decision.

After the award the defendant appealed the case to the Oregon supreme court. This court on July 17, 1905, announced:

"Meteorites, though not imbedded in the earth, are real estate and consequently belong to the owner of the land on which they are found. . . . Seeing there is no error in the record, the judgment of the circuit court will be affirmed."



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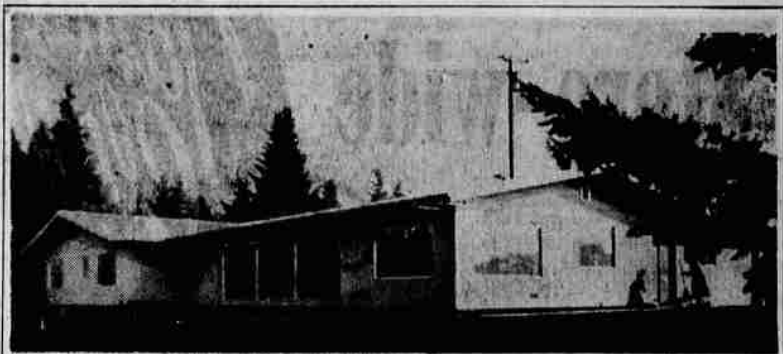


Photo shows completion of Dr. M. K. Hartzell's residence located in Eugene, Oregon.

Beverly and Milo Marlatt (l. to r.) brothers and partners of MARLATT HEATING — Heating Contractors, 651 E. 13th, Eugene — Phone 5-1812 — member of the HOT WATER HEATING ASSN. installed Dr. M. K. Hartzell's Radiant Heating system in his new home.

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