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Salem, Oregon, Wednesday, August 13, 1952

HOW TRUMAN HOAXED THE FARMERS

Senator John J. Williams of Delaware, who single-handedly first exposed the flagrant corruption in the Internal Revenue Bureau and the failure of the Department of Justice to prosecute accused officials and other disclosures of official abuse of public trust, has followed it up with a detailed report of the political chicanery practiced by President Truman to win the farmers' vote and re-election in 1948.

The current issue of the Saturday Evening Post contains an article by Glenn D. Everett captioned "Wow! Did Truman Ever Fool the Farmers?" It presents the report of Williams' investigation of the "great farm hoax of Dexter, Iowa," which swung the eight midwest farm states from voting republican to the democrats and re-elected Truman.

The president's Dexter speech charged that the "terrible 80th congress" was to blame for falling wheat and corn prices because it had failed to set up storage bins to take care of the bumper crops of 1948, so the farmers could put their surplus under crop supported loans and escape making sacrifice sales. Mr. Truman said:

"This republican congress has already stuck a pitchfork in the farmer's back. They have already done their best to keep price supports from working. Many growers have sold wheat this summer at less than support prices because they could not find proper storage. When the democratic administration had to face this problem in the past, the government set up grain bins all over the wheat and corn belts to provide storage. But when the republican congress rewrote the charter of the Commodity Credit Corporation this year, they tied the hands of the administration. They are preventing us from setting up the storage bins that you will need in order to get the support price for your grain."

The amendment Mr. Truman referred to was a clause in the CCC charter reincorporation act of 1948. It provided that the Commodity Credit Corporation could not own or lease any real property other than that needed for office space. The major aim of the amendment was to prevent further acquisitions of commercial grain elevators, the big ones in town and cities, by the CCC and thus prevent government intervention in the private grain trade. The government's threatened purchase of large grain elevators had been bitterly protested by the grain trade.

It was voted for by 45 democratic senators and Mr. Truman signed it without objection. When the special post-convention session was called on July 26, 1948, the president made no mention of the storage space amendment, though grain was selling at less than support price.

Williams dug up secret reports in the archives of the department of agriculture of October, 1947, showing that the CCC had owned grain bins at the close of World War II that had a total capacity of 292 million bushels, to carry surplus. These had been rapidly liquidated. Three-fourths were sold as surplus in 1946-7 before the 80th congress had anything to do with grain. Everett says:

"The liquidation has been found to have continued in 1948. In the months of June and July of that year, with the bumper harvest already under way, a total of 1224 steel bins with capacity of 2,581,000 bushels were sold by the government. In many instances, the bins were still in the crates from which they had come from the factory, and were sold at only a fraction of their original cost. They weren't around on farms for the storage of wheat and corn when such storage was badly needed by farmers who wanted to hold their crops for a better market price or obtain government price support loans offering the corn and wheat as collateral, another protection congress had supposedly given them from a sudden break in prices.

"The CCC didn't stop disposing of storage bins until Senator Williams, early in 1949, began asking embarrassing questions about why bins were being sold while the president was deploring the lack of them."

The CCC act of 1948, in section 5, asserted that, "The corporation is authorized to make use of its general powers . . . to make available materials and facilities required in connection with the production and marketing of agricultural commodities." The CCC had the power to assist farmers in obtaining grain bins by loans, subsidies and other methods but did nothing to aid the farmers, though in 1949 the CCC did just that. But Mr. Truman did nothing during the election year and farmers lost \$100 million or more and blamed the republicans.

Mr. Williams asserts that Mr. Truman seized upon the CCC clause as an excuse to blame the republicans having discovered a falling market was to the administration's political advantage. The market was further rigged downward by discontinuance of all government buying operations, until after election day and the CCC refused all emergency action it had power to take.

"President Truman and Secretary Brannan almost succeeded in covering up the true story of what they did in 1948," says the senate's one-man investigating committee, "but we've got it all in the record now."

Twins Born 17 Miles Apart

Deux, France (AP)—The wife of a Deux factory worker gave birth to twins Wednesday. They arrived 17 miles apart.

The older of the twins, a boy, was born here. The doctor, fearing complications, had the mother moved to a clinic at Niort, 17 miles away. The second child, a girl, was born there. The boy's birth will be registered at Deux, the girl's at Niort.

Quarreling Boys Scramble Eggs

Hayward, Calif. (AP)—Three quarreling boys and 36 dozen eggs, neatly stored in a garage ready for delivery by a dairy salesman . . .

Mix well and you get . . . three splattered boys and damage estimated at \$36.

By the time police came, said Mrs. Edith Rockwell, the salesman's wife, there wasn't a whole egg left.

Husband Gets Perfect Bridge Hand

Temple, Tex. (AP)—Mrs. T. Y. Flynt bid three diamonds in a bridge game Tuesday. Her husband mopped his brow and said "seven spades."

Mrs. Flynt said she thought her husband was suffering from the heat. Then he turned up a perfect hand of 13 spades.

BY H. T. WEBSTER

The Unseen Audience



POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER

Returned Vacationist Perils All Within Listening Range

By HAL BOYLE

New York. (AP)—One of the perils of American office life these summer days is the returned vacationist.

He insists that you hear about his vacation—but he closes his big ears like a car door when you want to tell him about your vacation.

How can you deal with him? You can't get away. He will even trail you into the men's room to relate the strange things that happened to him.

You would think no one else had taken a vacation before in the history of the human race.

The only sure way to halt him is to try to borrow money from him, or else top him by interrupting, "oh, by the way, Joe, while you were gone I saw a flying saucer."

What the average office needs from June until Labor Day is a "vacation hour" each morning. For the first 60 minutes of each workday the office staff could assemble and listen en masse to the returning pilgrims tell the sad and wonderful story of what befell them.

Anybody who even mentioned the word vacation the rest of the day would be automatically fired.

The office vacationists fall into pretty standard types. Here are a few you may recognize:

1. The postcard fiend—he writes you a postcard as he leaves his home, and stops off at every other filling station along the way to mail more.

2. The calamity kid—beating and covered with poison ivy, he returns on crutches. "Just stopped by on my way to the hospital," he mumbles through his bandages.

"The doc says I got to spend a month in bed. Will you handle my work while I'm gone?"

3. The sultry stenographer—she looks the color of a hand-rubbed walnut bookcase from days of beach swimming, and there are wedding bells in her eyes. But the new boy friend

she met at the shore quits calling her up after three days, and for the rest of the summer she snaps at you if you even say "hello."

4. The camera nut—he has to be forcibly restrained from pulling down the office window blinds and trying to show everybody the interesting new movies he made of Niagara Falls.

5. The statistician—this boy not only has the figures of how much he paid for gas and oil at every stop—he also wants to tell you the air pressure in each tire the day he drove up Pike's Peak.

6. The everloving homebody—"vacations are more fun at home," he begins. And for the next three hours he bores you with the details of how much money he saved and what a grand time he had repainting his little grey nest in the suburbs.

7. The funny fellow—everything comical happens to him. "I threw my mother-in-law to the bears in Yellowstone Park," he says, "and guess what—they arrested me. How did I know you aren't allowed to feed the animals?"

8. The don't-let-'em-get-away-with-anything guy—"they try to rob you every step of the way," he moans, and neglects to mention the dime tip he pocketed that the tourist before him had left for the waitress at a hot-dog stand in Tennessee.

9. The boss—"aren't they cute?" he says, pulling out some snapshots of his children wearing striped bathing suits. And how can you tell him they look like baby saber-toothed tigers?

Well, there they are—the office Marco Polos. The odd thing is how dull their tales are.

I just got back from a vacation myself, and had a really unusual experience. I was just . . . when . . .

(Editor's Note: Enough of this. Boyle is a No. 7 vacationist himself.)

In the Parking Meter Habit

Grand Forks, N. D. (AP)—Parking meters have been outlawed in North Dakota, but Perry Dornhelm, a hotel bell captain, said Wednesday he saw a woman park her car and carefully examine the pipe on which a meter once stood.

Finally she fumbled in her purse, pulled out a nickel and dropped it down the empty pipe.

Ex-Giant Pitcher Loses Shirt Running Ball Team

Atlanta (AP)—Ace Adams, who practically invented the "rubber arm," said Tuesday his flipper gets more of a work-out now digging into his pockets than it ever got with the New York Giants.

The "iron man," from Iron City, Ga., who in one season pitched in 70 games for the Giants, is trying to run a class D baseball team. He says he's losing his shirt.

"I knew I would drop a little at first," said the big friendly right-hander, "but I didn't know it would run around \$7,000. Boy, that hurts!"

"But it's what I wanted. I tried to stay away from the game for awhile and I just couldn't do it."

Ace's attempt at staying away from the game came when he retired after pitching a year in the Mexican league. Before he left the majors to mingle with seniors and senoritas, Ace worked in 299 games in five seasons with

New York. He is generally credited with starting an era where bullpen pitchers work nearly as often as catchers.

When Ace did get back in baseball, he went hook, line and sinker.

"Right now I'm a club owner, groundskeeper, manager, publicity man, bookkeeper, pitcher and," he added proudly, "the league's leading hitter."

Ace, who has appeared in 10 games this season as a pinch-hitter, relief pitcher or what-have-you, sports a lofty .571 swat mark.

Ace's Fitzgerald, Ga., team is in sixth place in the class D Georgia State league at the present, but he says he is more interested in building ballplayers than winning pennants.

"You just watch," said the man who wore a permanent path from the Polo Grounds bullpen to the mound, "I'll end up selling more players than anyone else in the league."

Cop Solves Broken Club Problem

Muncie, Ind. (AP)—An attorney defending a client in an assault case in city court asked a patrolman:

"You struck the defendant so hard you broke your club, didn't you?"

The policeman admitted it, but said it won't happen again. "I've got a bigger club now," he added.

WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Red Satellites Figure Out New Propaganda

BY DREW PEARSON

Washington — Soviet satellites in Washington have a new dodge for issuing propaganda. The state department has now forbidden Communist embassies to publish news letters, so here is the latest medium for telling about the glories of life behind the Iron Curtain.

It's an invitation by the Roumanian embassy to attend a reception in honor of the day that country came under the heel of the Red army, August 23. Here is how the invitation reads:

"On the occasion of the 5th anniversary of the glorious liberation by the glorious Soviet army and of the overthrow of the Fascist dictatorship by the people's patriotic forces

"The charge d'affaires ad interim of the Roumanian people's republic: Requests the pleasure of your company at a reception on Saturday the 23rd of August from 7 to 9 o'clock."

Note: The reception is to be held in the Roumanian embassy on Sheridan circle, facing the Turkish embassy, one of the swank parts of town. This is the same embassy used by Queen Marie during her famed visit here in the Hoover administra-

tion. A lot of water has passed down the Potomac since then, and it will be interesting to see who attend on August 23.

They not only heard the report that Governor Stevenson was reluctant to come to the White House luncheon, but they know for a fact how much friction there was between Truman and Stevenson's right-hand man, Wilson Wyatt.

They also know that Stephen Mitchell, the new Adlai-picked Democratic national chairman, didn't pull many punches about embarrassing the justice department when he served on the chief investigating committee.

The palace guard have particular reason to remember the battles with Wilson Wyatt, because they were largely responsible for them.

Inside fact is that Wyatt's forced exit from the Truman administration was about the biggest letdown a top official ever had. When he took over the job of housing expediter to build homes for veterans, Truman gave him a letter which instructed Wyatt to use: "The same daring determination and hard-hitting teamwork with which we tackled the emergency job of building the world's most powerful war machine."

PALACE GUARD SABOTAGE

But, after six months of trying to carry out this instruction, Wyatt found himself blocked at every turn by Truman's own staff.

Truman's RFC director, George Allen, held back on loaning him housing money. Harry Vaughn, the president's military aide, used to sit in a corner of the President's office holding his nose and pulling an imaginary chain when Wyatt outlined plans for veterans' housing; while Secretary of the Treasury John Snyder warned Truman that Wyatt would get him into trouble with the real-estate people.

Finally, John Steelman, another White House assistant, tried to persuade Wyatt to remain on with drastically limited powers. This Wyatt refused to do and resigned.

Even here the palace guard stepped in. When the customary press release was drafted to announce Wyatt's resignation, it stated that he had asked to be relieved because he had "finished" the veterans' housing job. "But I haven't finished my job," protested Wyatt, "and I'll stay on if I'm permitted to operate on all-out emergency program."

This did not please the palace guard at all, and for one hour Clark Clifford, then a member of the Truman personal staff, argued with Wyatt over the phrasing of his resignation. Clifford's idea was not to protect homeless veterans but to protect the man who had failed to help them.

That was the friction between the White House and the man who is now No. 1 political adviser to the new candidate of the Democratic party.

SUGGESTION TO ADLAI

A lot of people have claimed credit for helping Gov. Adlai Stevenson write a brilliant welcoming speech delivered at the Democratic convention in Chicago last month.

The truth is that he wrote it all himself, though he did get one suggestion indirectly from a man now dead — Josephus Daniels, famed secretary of the navy under Woodrow Wilson.

When Franklin Roosevelt was President and Daniels was ambassador to Mexico, the latter wrote a letter, Jan. 1, 1936, referring to Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, as follows:

"Dear Franklin: Here is an expression from Holmes which, if it has missed you, is so good you may find a use for it in one of your fireside talks. Holmes said: 'I find the great thing is not so much where we stand as in what direction we are moving. To reach the port of heaven, we must sail sometimes with the wind and sometimes against it; but we must sail and not drift, nor lie at anchor.'

"New Year's greetings to you and Mrs. Roosevelt.

"Faithfully,

"Josephus Daniels." This letter was embodied in Carrol Kilpatrick's recent stimulating book, "Roosevelt and Daniels—A Friendship in Politics"; and Walter Johnson, history professor at the University of Chicago, reading the book, passed this particular quote on to Stevenson.

Thus a speech suggestion made by Josephus Daniels in 1936 to Roosevelt provided part of Governor Stevenson's speech in 1952 which helped to clinch his nomination.

(Copyright 1952)

Cops 'Baby-Sit' for Boy, 3

Racine, Wis. (AP)—The harried parents of three-year-old Buddy Moat called police at 1 a.m. Wednesday when their train-loud off-spring refused to go to bed.

A squad of burly officers rolled up and surrounded the youngster sitting on a porch chair. After 15 minutes he agreed to go to bed but only after the cops had promised him he could sit up all day and watch the "choo choos" go by.

The Moats live along side a railroad track.

Increase of Water Fowl Predicted Over the Nation

Washington (AP)—Director Albert W. Day of the Fish and Wildlife Service said Tuesday that hunters can expect more bird targets during the 1952-53 hunting season than a year ago.

The increase will range from "slight" to "major," he said, depending on the section of the country.

Day based his forecast on data gathered at water fowl breeding grounds this spring and summer. He reviewed the information last week before members of the water fowl advisory committee, but Day's forecast was not made public until today.

He gave this forecast by flyways—the skypaths water fowl follow in migrating north and south:

Pacific—"The fall flight of ducks in the Pacific flyway will show a moderate to considerable increase over 1951 while the goose flight may be about the same."

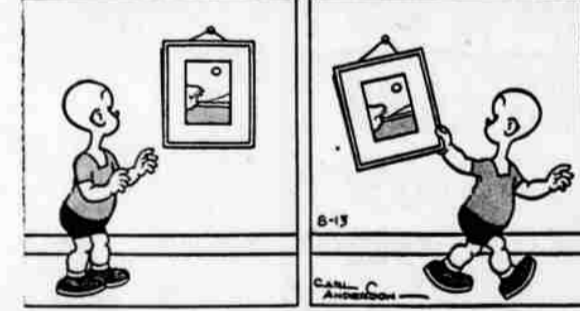
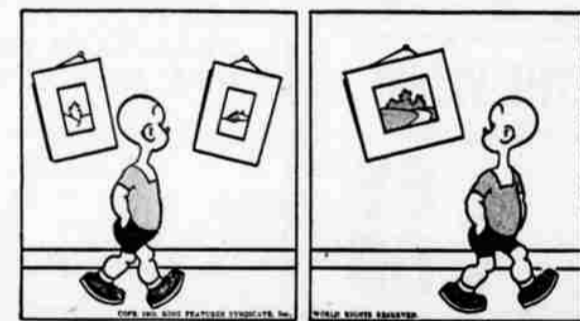
Central—"With increased breeding population and production, it seems definite that there will be a major increase in the number of ducks moving southward through the central flyway."

Mississippi—"The fall flight of ducks in the Mississippi flyway will undoubtedly show a moderate improvement over last year."

Atlantic—"Hunters in the Atlantic flyway may expect a small increase in dabbling ducks and at least a moderate increase of divers this fall."

BY CARL ANDERSON

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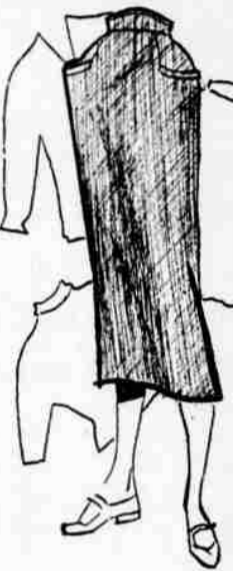
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