

EXCELLENT APPOINTMENT

President-elect Eisenhower picked a personality in Governor Douglas McKay as the next Secretary of the Interior who knows the people and interests of the Pacific Northwest. As for Oregon itself, there is no other person in the state more qualified to speak for the interests of this particular part of the West.

When it comes to what his administrative policies will be when he is addressed as "Mr. Secretary" instead of "Governor," McKay isn't talking now. They obviously will reflect the thoughts of his boss, Ike. And that is to be expected because Ike and Doug think along the same lines, generally speaking, on domestic and foreign affairs.

The Department of the Interior, established in 1849, is charged with responsibility for the government's major programs in land, water, and mineral resources. Its jurisdiction extends from the islands of the Caribbean to the Arctic circle and South Pacific.

Included in the custody of the department are: The reclaiming of the arid lands of the West through irrigation, the management of hydroelectric power systems, conservation and development of minerals and promotion of mine safety, protection of fish and wildlife resources, and administration of the nation's scenic and historic areas. Also included are the welfare of 2,000,000 persons in America's territories and island possessions and guardianship of 400,000 Indians and 30,000 Alaskan natives.

McKay can be considered as an outspoken advocate of free enterprise and local control. And he should be described as a "middle-of-the-roader" like Eisenhower. He is not opposed to public ownership if the people want it.

Over the past four years as governor, McKay has let it be known he believes that private utilities should be given a chance to develop water resources. But when the job is too big for private enterprise on the major rivers, the job of dam-building should be done by the federal government. But he believes the federal government shouldn't have the full say on how to develop or run the projects. That's why he opposed a Columbia Valley Administration.

He was one of three governors who went to Washington, D.C. to speak out in a congressional hearing against the proposed CVA. He contended the states should have a say in development of the Pacific Northwest. He called for federal-state cooperation. That was what Eisenhower asked, too, in his campaign speech at Seattle.

McKay's prominent leadership in developing the Willamette basin is evidence of his basic interest in utilizing resources of the region to the fullest. For 14 years, he acted as the original chairman of the Willamette basin commission which worked with the Corps of Engineers to plan and construct a series of multiple-purpose dams in the Willamette valley.

He has unqualifiedly endorsed the "308 Report" which the Corps of Engineers drew up to outline all possible projects in the Pacific Northwest to store water and to develop power.

For four years he has participated actively in the Columbia Basin Inter-Agency committee, which consists of a group of federal and state agencies advising on how to develop the Columbia basin.

It is possible that Alaska and Hawaii will be added to the union while he is secretary, since he has advocated statehood for both. In line with his strong stand for state's rights, he has favored state ownership of oil tides, which Eisenhower has, likewise.

Selection of Oregon's governor for a post on Ike's cabinet is an honor to the state, the Pacific Northwest and to Doug McKay personally. McKay was one of the general's first backers and certainly one of his most ardent.

Now McKay will have no trouble getting a front-row seat for the inauguration January 20, which he had merely hoped to see before he learned about his appointment as Secretary of the Interior.

IKE'S BOSS OF DEFENSE

Charles Erwin Wilson, whom President-elect Eisenhower has selected for the cabinet post of running the defense department should not be confused with Charles Edward Wilson who resigned the defense position last year. The latter was president of the General Electric company and the former president of the General Motors corporation. Both concerns are among the largest in their respective lines in the world. And both men rank among the nation's ablest executives. Both are republicans.

That the post assigned is among the toughest of them all is shown by the fact that the first secretary of defense, James Forrestal, resigned, and broken by immense burdens of the job committed suicide. The second, Louis Johnson, was fired. The third, Gen. George C. Marshall, after a year of service, resigned. The present incumbent, Robert A. Lovett, let it be known months ago that he intended to quit and get back to his business and "moderately prosperous obscurity."

Even the gigantic General Motors Corp. is dwarfed by the proportions of the business Wilson will manage as defense chief, but the bigger job produces a much smaller paycheck. As president of GM his 1951 salary and bonuses totaled about \$626,300. His new post pays \$22,500 and no bonus.

Of all the executive agencies of government, the defense department is the largest, the costliest, the most complex, the most technical. Its responsibilities can be grave. Decisions made by a defense secretary can be important in how a battle is fought and how men die.

The number of persons who work under the defense department and its armed forces approaches the five million mark, 3,600,000 of whom are in the armed forces, the others civilian employees in the farflung enterprises of the military establishment.

The defense spending budget runs about \$60 billions a year.

Wilson at a press conference said that he expected to run the defense department like General Motors, with the separate services acting independently while conforming to top policy. He stated:

"Unification is one of the most important jobs facing the next secretary of defense. I have ideas on the subject and believe they are workable. If properly unified, the services will operate more efficiently at reduced costs. The only binding factor would be conformity with the policy set by the top command."

BY BECK

Actions You Regret



POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER

Why an Ordinary Guy Can't Get Upset by H-Bomb

By HAL BOYLE

New York (AP)—The explosion of an H-bomb weapon in the Pacific may have startled the diplomatic world. The average American, however, took little more note of it than if, on a summer night he had glanced up and seen a star fall.

Previous tidings of other new and marvelous ways in which the human race could destroy itself have exhausted his capacity for terror and dismay.

The ordinary mortal today is tired of being frightened by graphic previews of what may befall him. He has eaten the bread of crisis so long it has come to have a stale taste.

People were so upset over the atom bomb that the wider threat of the H-bomb can hardly appall them. You have to rest from fear sometime, and the average man feels like taking a seventh inning stretch right now.

"So maybe it'll get conked sometime by an H-bomb instead of an atom bomb," he thinks. "What difference does it make to a fly whether it is swatted with a rolled up newspaper or a baseball bat?"

He is also losing his ability to marvel at the fresh marvels of science, because so many of its wonders turn out to be blunders.

This has been a fearful and tremendous century of strident and continuous change, multiple death and vast growth.

It is perhaps the most adventurous and exploratory century in history, one that has thrown a small candle of light into the darkness of strange new worlds which seem to many more terrifying than inviting.

A man who is only as old as this century—just 52 years—has endured a lot. He has weathered at least three depressions and two and a half world wars.

When he pauses to catch his breath and look back, it seems to him that nothing has remained unchanged with the possible exception of mother love.

OPEN FORUM

Restored Faith in the Voter

To the Editor: Let's not be too hard on Mr. Rex Lambert for his efforts of the past year or so. When he predicted, come the 1952 election, Mr. Truman would still be playing the Missouri Waltz in the White House, he believed it.

His chlorophyll treatment of the mink coat episode, his recollection of Teapot Dome (a scandal, involving a mere few, that was quickly aired and cleaned up by the Republicans themselves), his belief it was a planned economy, and not the most devastating war in history, that cured the depression, and a few other misconceptions, were all the mark of an indefatigable Democrat.

Mr. Lambert had his day. He should be commended for his loyal efforts and left to sober reflection of the consoling fact that we still have a two-party system.

We said in 1932 the character of the nation's leader represented the level of the nation's voter intelligence. We kept saying it for 20 years. We still say it.

We do, however, have restored faith, because so many, many Democrats themselves finally saw the light Mr. Lambert was unable to see.

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WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

H-Bomb Gives Ike Good Argument for World Peace

BY DREW PEARSON

Washington—Last Sunday, the day the hydrogen-bomb explosion was announced, I happened to go to church. I say "happened" because a television program and a radio broadcast both coming on a Sunday ordinarily make it hard for me to go to church.

But the telecast is being switched to Wednesdays, so I surprised Mrs. P. by taking her to church, where I listened to Rev. John R. Anaschutz preach a sermon on prayer. Knowing that the hydrogen-bomb announcement was due to be made later that day or the next morning, I did quite a bit of thinking about prayer, and the fact that maybe if we had relied more on prayer and the things that go with prayer, we wouldn't be in the predicament of building bomb-shelters and going underground for fear of explosions that could burn up our civilization.

Over at the Alexandria, Va. church where George Washington used to worship, Rev. O. V. T. Chamberlain chose, as his closing hymn: "The Day Thou Gavest, Lord, is Ended."

That expressed some thoughts of mine, too. For the day the Lord gave us could very well be ended if we and the Russians ever get to trading hydrogen-bomb blows across the Arctic.

Bombs vs. Ideas

On the other hand, I also figured that bombs never killed an idea, and our greatest natural resource is not plutonium or tritium, but our moral and spiritual strength.

Religion and communism cannot survive together. But one trouble is that religion has got to mean more than a refuge from ruthless force. It must be a pattern for life, not a ritual for one hour on Sunday.

Another trouble is that men of all faiths and of little faith have been seeking ideas to defeat communism, when right around the corner the best idea of all is being neglected—the Sermon on the Mount, given us 2,000 years ago as a daily guide for living with each other.

The big trouble, of course, is to get that daily guide adopted not only here, but also behind an iron curtain where religion is barred and where we can't even mail a package.

I have been harping for so long that I guess people are tired of hearing me, about the fact that there will always be danger of war—no matter how many H-bombs we build or how many men we draft—as long as we can't speak to the Russian people, can't mingle with them, can't cooperate with them in a free press, free radio, free church, free books, and free contact with the outside world.

As long as 12 men in the Kremlin can declare war with no congress, no church, no press, or power of public opinion to put on the brakes, there will always be danger of war and the day Thou gavest, Lord, may be ended.

Breaking Iron Curtain

I have tried in what feeble ways I could to show that the iron curtain was not as impenetrable as it's supposed to be. I once traveled along it from Turkey to Berlin showing up its loopholes; and in cooperation with the Crusade for Freedom I helped float 11,000,000 leaflets via balloons into Czechoslovakia and Poland.

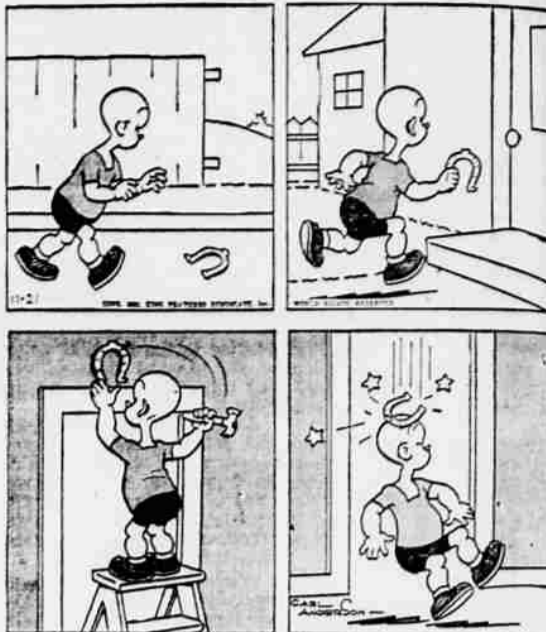
These at best were puny efforts, though they showed, from the reaction on the other side of the iron curtain, how eagerly its people welcome contact with us.

Today, however, we have two opportunities which need not be puny. First we have a new and powerful hydrogen bomb, thereby giving us tremendous bargaining power to break down the artificial barriers preventing peace.

Second, we have a new president. He is a man of great prestige, known throughout the world and in Russia. And he has what Franklin Roosevelt had, a flair for dramatics, the ability to win people, to capture their imagination. Whether you agree with him politically or not, Eisenhower is and can be an international salesman. And that's

BY CARL ANDERSON

Henry



Deer Story Like the Fish Story

Arlington, Vt. (AP)—Robert Frechella has a deer story to match the story of the fish that got away.

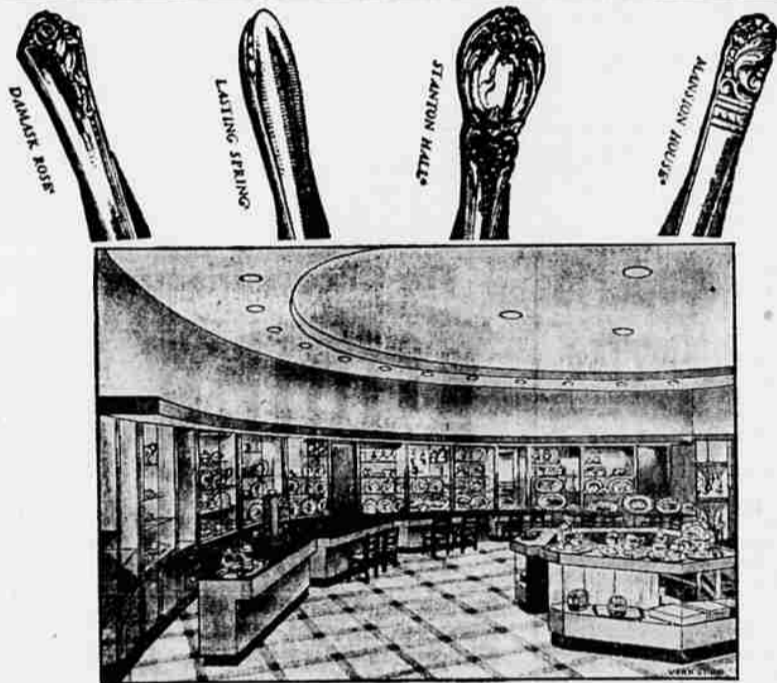
Frechella shot an eight-point buck, took it home and hung it in a tree.

When he went to show it to friends, the deer was gone—someone had stolen it.

What About the Kitchen Sink?

New York (AP)—Five salesgirls at a large department store here, ranging in age from 25 to 45, have been arrested for looting \$16,000 in merchandise.

Among the many items the women slipped past a watchman at the employees' entrance was a complete home gymnasium.



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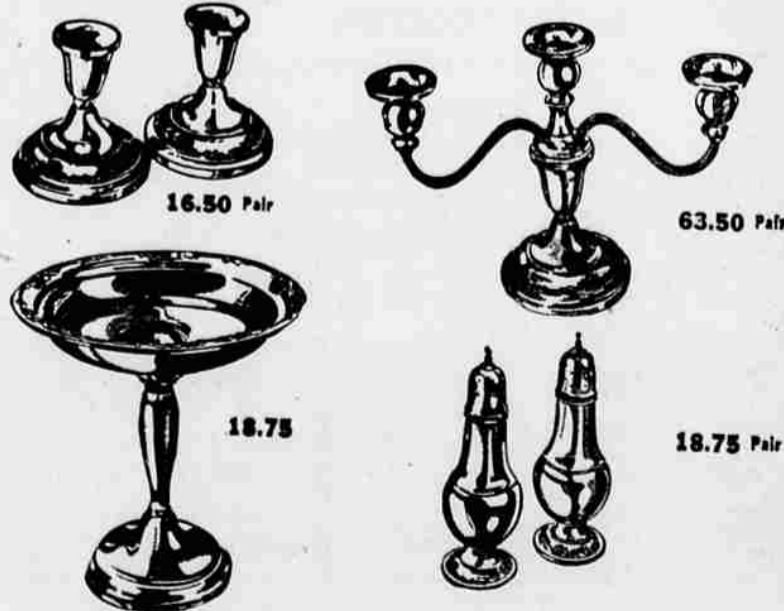
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