

# Capital Journal

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## CAN'T BALANCE FEDERAL BUDGET

Secretary of the Treasury George M. Humphrey told a closed-door session of the senate foreign relations committee Friday that administration hopes of achieving a balanced budget next year had been given up and "it can't be done." He added that "the risks involving our security would simply be too great, and it shouldn't be done."

"There is no prospect at all," Humphrey continued, "for anything but an increase in the national debt at the present moment." And this despite the fact that President Eisenhower announced last week that the budget had been cut \$8.5 billion off the appropriation requests made by President Truman. All department appropriations so far reported have been greatly reduced from the Truman estimate.

Increase in the national debt will require, probably necessitate, an increase in the legal limit on the size of the debt, fixed by the present law. The existing debt is \$265 billion, an increase of \$7 billion over a year ago.

Administration leaders promise a continuing review of the budget picture but make it plain that the threatened deficit should wipe out any chance for an income tax cut this year, in spite of congressional pressure for one.

Much of the Eisenhower administration budget troubles are due to indications of a substantial drop in government income, below the estimates in the Truman budget estimate. The latter estimated federal spending for fiscal 1954 at \$78.6 billion and the government income at \$68.7 billion, leaving the government \$9.9 in the red.

Senator Taft, republican senate leader, figured the budget-cutting done by the administration thus far would reduce federal spending to about \$74 billion, at the same time, he estimated federal revenue at about \$63 billion under present tax laws, which provide for expiration of the excess profits tax June 30 and a 10 per cent income tax reduction for individuals next January 1.

The Ohio senator has long advocated a complete re-study of the nation's defense program, which accounts for most of the federal budget. He favors the appointment of a new Joint Chiefs of Staff to review the whole program and see if all the projects are necessary.

From 65 to 70 percent of budget expenditures is for security, including military and foreign aid costs. About half of the remainder is for relatively fixed items, such as interest on public debt, leaving only 15 to 17 percent of the total budget subject to reduction, unless security is involved.

## NEW LEFTIST TREND IN BRITAIN

Either those reports we've been receiving on growing Conservative party strength in Britain were greatly exaggerated, or an opposite trend is now running.

For local elections held in the British Isles Thursday showed the Labor party gaining 280 seats on borough councils, while losing only 51, with the Conservatives gaining 82 and losing 206.

Local issues predominate in these contests, but a decisive trend like this is bound to reflect national party feeling to a degree at least. The results indicate pretty clearly that the Conservatives have been slipping of late, the Laborites gaining.

Conservative accomplishments have been unspectacular, some economies, an improvement in Britain's financial picture, nothing the average Briton can see any direct personal benefit to himself in as yet. And there is the inevitable disillusionment of failure to realize promises and hopes voiced during the national campaign.

This trend will make the Conservatives less decisive in the international field, for they have been ahead of public sentiment in Britain in seeing the Russian menace and trying to protect their country against it. Now they will be more sensitive than ever to leftist criticism and a less satisfactory ally than heretofore.

The outlook for Western Europe is not good, for what has just been revealed of British feeling is common to the whole region. It is a "let George do it" attitude with "George" as the U. S. and the U. S. ready to rebel if it doesn't change.

## DE GAULLE QUILTS POLITICS

Somebody, a Republican as we now recall, once said the Democratic party was a good outfit, but that it ought to get out of politics.

Charles De Gaulle is a good man, but he has been a disruptive force in French politics because he has never learned the art of compromise. Now he has read the handwriting on the wall and withdrawn his "Rally of the French People" from the struggle for power in the French parliament. He will henceforth operate his "crusade for national regeneration" on a non-political basis.

Just how this will work out remains to be seen, but De Gaulle's retirement as a politician will be generally welcomed. He hasn't been helpful, to put it mildly. France is more undecided, more uncertain, more unreliable as a member of the free world than if he had withdrawn from public affairs immediately after the liberation.

Nothing can ever mar the fame Charles De Gaulle won as the leader of the Free French movement after France's surrender to Hitler in 1940. The Cross of Lorraine, symbol of that campaign of resistance, will ever be a proud symbol in France and De Gaulle will always be remembered as its Joan of Arc. But as a politician? Ugh!

## East German Youths Fleeing to Berlin

Berlin (AP)—East German Youths are fleeing to West Germany at the rate of more than 500 a day to escape a ruthless Communist drive to conscript them for military service, authoritative German sources said today.

Many girls are fleeing also, fearful of being drafted into women's auxiliaries in the armed services.

**WIDE OPEN**  
Albany Democrat-Herald  
The contrast between eastern and western Oregon is illustrated anew in the news of sale of the Roaring Springs ranch in Harney county. This big cattle ranch, which sold for millions, covers 420,000 acres. This area is approximately 656 square miles, close to the entire area of Benton county. Half a dozen western Oregon counties are of comparable size, and Multnomah isn't much over half as big.



## Vote School Budget, This Woman Pleads

To the Editor:—May 15 is the day! If any section of school district 24 has a right to "kick" it is the Auburn school area.

However, we are urging our people to get out on Friday, May 15, and vote the school budget—and through this letter we hope to get a few from all sections of town out to vote and show our hard-working school board and the school administration members that we—the people of the Salem area—are backing them in their effort to bring better school conditions to all our children.

We've been paying high taxes for years to help support children of other countries—now are we going to let our own children down for the sake of a few pennies and a trip to the poll?

We hope you'll all join our district and make this a record turnout May 15.

MRS. WALTER H. MOSHER  
President Auburn School Mother's Club

## THEY FINALLY "SHAKE"

(St. Louis Post-Dispatch)  
American Delegate Henry Cabot Lodge Jr., corrected a diplomatic as well as social mistake when he shook hands pleasantly with Andrei Vishinsky, at the UN dinner in New York. Former Senator Lodge's refusal to exchange greetings with the Soviet deputy foreign minister some two months ago was one of those acts which do no good and are inflated propaganda-wise into harm.

As long as the United States and the Russians maintain representatives at the UN—and it should be for a long, long time—these representatives should work together for the UN's common purpose of peace. That cause will be advanced more by firmness, accompanied by courtesy, than by belligerency and cold shoulder stuff.

## POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER

### They'll Treat Mom as a Person on Her One Big Day

By HAL BOYLE

New York (AP)—On Mother's Day the rest of the family treat Mom like a person instead of an institution.

But that is only one day out of the year. And Mom goes along gamely for the ride, knowing that tomorrow she will be back in the same old spot—taken for granted, like the weather and the First National Bank.

Some Mother's Day a Mom is going to revolt. Her little batch of monsters and their daddy will be having her out for dinner. One of the little monsters is going to gaze across the table at her, as if seeing her for the first time in his life, and say in surprise:

"Why, Mom, do you know... in a way... you're even kinda pretty."

But, instead of dimpling her cheeks, Mom is going to reach over and bite her baby scoundrel fair and hard on his nose. And if enough mothers follow her example maybe more families will start thinking of the lady of the house as a real human being the other 364 days of the year.

Most women gallantly submerge much of their own personality and individuality in the duties of motherhood. With so many qualling small egos in the land clamoring for expression, they silently squelch their own unsatisfied ambitions, and don't make much fuss about it. If they do any crying, they do it in the dark, when the kids can't hear.

Motherhood, like virtue, is often its own—and only—reward. Mom has more voluntary critics than a portrait painter in a public park. Whatever she does to raise her kids,

someone is sure to say, "I'd do it different."

Right now one school of psychiatrists blames Mom for everything that happens to her children later in life, from falling hair to mental acidosis. If she picks her lad up by the wrong foot as a baby, that is why he turns out to be a lopsided lady-hater at 90.

Under this theory no mother can possibly win. Nobody ever raised a perfect child, and yet mom gets blamed for every fiasco and flaw that junior develops. And trouble is that nobody can tell Mom when she is helping Junior build a sturdy character, and when she is bruising his fine sensitive little nature.

She worries and worries about this, wondering if she is doing well by her brood or is really an uncaught criminal. If a stranger asks if she is a mother, she doesn't know whether she ought to deny all or guiltily admit, "I confess."

A mother has to live many terrible years of qualm and doubt before she really knows whether she did her job well or not. Only the century plant has to wait longer for results.

Meanwhile the hours, working conditions and keep-at-home pay for motherhood can be defended only by those who would give three ringing cheers for the return of slavery. Even the thanks are small.

## WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

### Recalls Effort to Get F.R.-Willkie to Run

BY DREW PEARSON

Washington — An old man who came to this country from Germany at the age of eight died in New York the other day. He was almost 76, and during those years he had written more laws to help the common man than any other person in the history of this nation.

Most people will remember Bob Wagner for those laws — old-age pensions, unemployment insurance, the Wagner labor relations act — and rightly so. But I shall always remember him because of a role he played in trying to get Wendell Willkie to run with Franklin Roosevelt on a coalition democratic - republican ticket in the closing years of the war.

Had those efforts been successful in 1944 the postwar history of the United States might have been entirely different.

I have never written this story in full, partly because I played a personal and confidential role in it. However, most of the people involved are dead now, and there is no reason why it cannot be told.

#### LOBBYING COSTS

Corvallis Gazette-Times  
The 5 percenters had a rough time of it last year. In the wake of revelations of influence peddling, lobby spending fell to a new low in Washington. They spent \$4,823,981 in 1952 as compared to \$10,303,202 in 1950.

Nevertheless, nine organizations reported lobby expenditures of \$100,000 or more and the highest, the National Association of Electric Companies, spent \$477,941 to overcome the trend to nationalization of electric power. The American Medical Association spent \$309,514 to combat socialized medicine. And the Association of American Railroads was third with \$235,977 to checkmate truckers, air lines and water ways.

Lobbying is a flourishing business, however, with some 3,000 registered. There is no telling when they will erupt with a check book barrage for big parties, the Washington setting for influencing people — and votes.

A mother lives a true buried life, rooted deep in the flesh and hopes of her family. The odd thing about her career is that all the years she is trying to fashion her off-shaped blobs of protoplasm into respectable human beings they rarely think of her as a human being. They take her for granted as a green leaf blindly accepts strength from the sun.

Usually it is not until a man is grown and has troubles of his own that he has the common sense to look back and realize how wise his mother was, how kind, how selfless, and often far-seeing. She is no longer an institution to him, or a tired voice telling him to wipe his nose and pick up his clothes, but a warm and wonderful person he has at least begun to understand.

And a man is lucky indeed if his mother is still there to be told she is no longer taken for granted, but loved, honored and appreciated for her very self's sake. Some sons wait too long, and never get to say this, and are sorry.

In the early summer of 1944 when it was apparent Franklin Roosevelt planned to run for a fourth term, the jockeying for No. 2 spot on the democratic ticket became intense. The friends of Henry Wallace demanded that he be renominated as vice-president. Friends of Justice William O. Douglas, led by Secretary of the Interior Ickes, were less vocal but more persuasive.

Many southern democrats still urged Jimmie Byrnes; while the big city bosses — Ed Flynn of the Bronx, Ed Kelly of Chicago, Frank Hague of Jersey City and Bob Hannegan of St. Louis — were bent on nominating Harry Truman. All knew that the life expectancy of the president was such that the man who became vice-president was likely to end up in the White House.

**WILLKIE GETS FDR'S O.K.**  
During the period between his defeat in 1940 and 1944 I had come to know Wendell Willkie well. One day in New York some weeks before the democratic convention I sounded him out on the idea of being the vice-presidential candidate on a coalition ticket.

At first he pooh-poohed the idea, said the democrats would never go for it. But the more we talked about it, the more he warmed up. Finally he agreed to stand still until Roosevelt himself could be sounded out.

The man who did the sounding was Leo Crowley, then head of the Federal Economic Administration. He came out of the White House with the confidential information that the president would welcome the idea of Wendell Willkie as his running mate, provided there was a spontaneous move from the democratic convention to nominate him. He added that he didn't want anything that smacked of a political deal.

Simultaneously he scribbled a note to Willkie in longhand, and it was later typed by his secretary, Grace Tully. The president left for the west coast and Alaska almost immediately, so he never actually signed the note, but it was mailed to Willkie.

**WAGNER SPARKS MOVE**  
The Chicago convention began at once. The problem there was to arrange the spontaneous move for Willkie that FDR wanted, and to this end I told Senator Wagner, the grand old man of the democratic party, about our conversations.

He reacted with enthusiasm. His plan was to make the Willkie nominating speech himself, and he delegated Leon Keyserling, his former secretary, later head of the Council of Economic Advisors, to start writing the speech. Wagner called in various members of the New York delegation in my presence to unfold the Willkie idea, and they too were enthusiastic. I was a little surprised that Edward Loughlin, then head of Tammany, volunteered to second Willkie's nomination.

Wagner talked to other key democrats at Chicago while I talked to several newspapermen, among them David Stern, then publisher of the Philadelphia Record. They agreed that, faced with the deadlock between Wallace and Truman, the Willkie nomination should be a natural. They

also felt that Willkie's name on the ticket would be a great thing for the unity of the nation. Most of this took place during the preliminary days of the convention, actually before the convention got down to business.

Officially Willkie wasn't supposed to know what was happening. However, I had been on the phone to New York keeping him posted, and at one point Senator Wagner seemed so confident that our plan would succeed that this message was conveyed to Willkie: "When the nominating speech is made placing your name before the convention, the only thing we ask is that you make no comment. Give the movement a chance to grow."

Senator Wagner felt that the psychological moment to make the nominating speech was after the expected deadlock between Truman and Wallace had developed. But he made one mistake, and there was also one factor that he could not get around. This was the fact that Roosevelt was on his train crossing the continent and either could not or did not want to take telephone calls.

**BIG CITY BOSSES WIN**  
Therefore Wagner relied on the president's supposedly closest political advisers — Ed Flynn, Bob Hannegan and the big city bosses. This was his great mistake.

For at about 3 a.m. on the day before the balloting on the vice-presidency got down to grips, Wagner got word from the bosses that Roosevelt wanted Truman, not Willkie.

The senator was a man of party discipline. During his long career in the senate he had almost never bucked the president. He had been brought up that way — from the days he and Al Smith had served together in the New York legislature. So he did not argue. He did not question the word of the party bosses. Nor would he make the Willkie nominating speech in view of their veto.

Personally I always doubted that Hannegan et al had ever really reached the president. For there was no step they would not have taken at that time to put across their man.

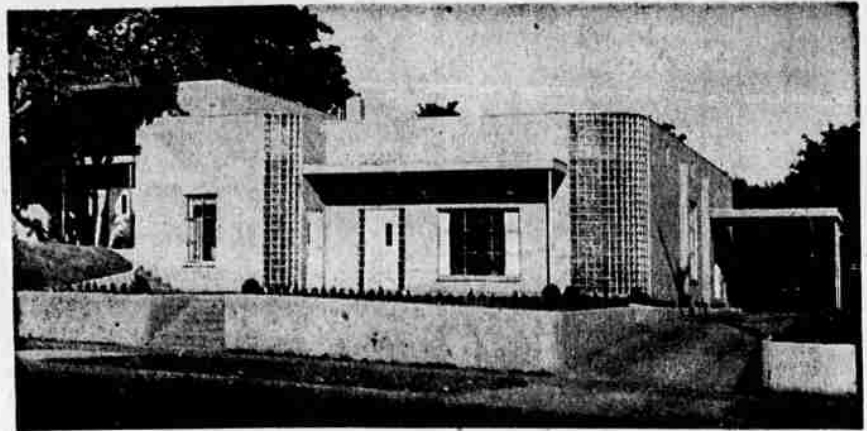
Thus a great chance to unify the nation failed.

Wendell Willkie died shortly after this, and I have always been convinced that as much as anything he died of a broken heart — not so much over this, but because this came on top of other disappointments. For him the excitement of living was no more.

And not long afterward, the other great man, Robert Hans Wagner, who came to this country as an immigrant boy from Germany, who had pioneered a new social program for his fellow men — unemployment insurance, old-age insurance, a standard work week, the curtailment of child labor, a nation-wide system of employment bureaus, workmen's compensation, the right of labor to bargain — got sick.

The other day he died. But the help he gave millions of other people will continue through the decades long after his name, his courage and his compassion for mankind have been forgotten.

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