

# Capital Journal

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BERNARD MAINWARING, Editor and Publisher  
GEORGE PUTNAM, Editor Emeritus

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## ANOTHER SUBWAY SERIES

Although the big league baseball schedule has nearly seven weeks to go, the races are as good as over now, barring one of those always possible but seldom experienced collapse of the leaders. In the normal course of events the New York Yankees and the Brooklyn Dodgers are "in." It will almost certainly be another subway series, fifth straight pennant for old Casey Stengel.

Both leading clubs have had their troubles. The Yankees sustained their longest losing streak in years right after a long winning streak, but they snapped out of that and are now playing steady, consistent pennant winning ball, two victories to every defeat. The Dodgers, vexed by weaker pitching than usual, trailed till the season was well along, but they appear to be safe from overtaking now, unless they fall apart, as they did in the Giants in 1951. It isn't likely this time, though.

The real excitement has been furnished in each league by the second place club, which will probably receive more honor from the fans than the winners to whom pennants are an old story. The Chicago White Sox are likely to finish second, highest since 1920 when the "Black Sox" scandal broke and banished several of their best men from organized baseball for life. Manager Paul Richards has performed a miracle since he became manager of a perennial second division outfit in 1951. He led the league till late June, finished fourth that year and third in 1952. Second this year. 1954? White Sox fans will wait with keen anticipation. Their favorites haven't won since 1919, the year they "threw" the series of Cincinnati.

But the greatest thrill of the major leagues was provided by the Braves, an also ran club which became a pennant contender overnight when moved from Boston to Milwaukee. The led the league for many weeks and are now running a vigorous second. The club's remarkable success is largely due to the Milwaukee fans who are still averaging an attendance of 30,000 a day for home games. The club will almost certainly lead both leagues in attendance this year and will threaten Brooklyn's all-time National League record. This experience will likely result in the transfer of the St. Louis Browns next year, probably to Baltimore but maybe to Kansas City or Houston.

It's a pretty good year for the majors even if neither has a slambang pennant race. The White Sox and Braves have provided unlooked for thrills, and the resurgence of the long subdued National league has given interleague competition a shot in the arm. But attendance as a whole is again running behind the previous year, an ominous sign.

## NIXON'S RISING STAR

One Washington figure who definitely gained stature during the first six months of the Eisenhower administration was a man who held a position that normally condemns its occupant to obscurity, Dick Nixon, the vice-president.

Not too much has been heard from Nixon by the public, for he has made few speeches and no attempt whatever to grab the spotlight. He has played a willing second fiddle to the head man, the president.

He has been extremely useful to the president. Because of his past service in both houses of congress he has contacts and understanding of both legislation and legislators that the president lacks. His role is bound to be a larger one now that the president has lost his No. 1 man in congress, Senator Taft.

President Eisenhower has encouraged Nixon to fill a larger than the traditional "veep" role. He has had Nixon preside over the National Security Council meetings in his own absence and has directed Nixon to preside over cabinet meetings while he, Eisenhower is in Colorado.

Eisenhower has also asked Nixon and his wife to tour the Far East this fall as personal representatives of the White House, which means that they will be received everywhere with honors comparable with what the president would receive if he were able to make the trip.

The president is in good health and there is every reason to believe he will finish his term in good physical condition, possibly seek and receive a second. But what happened to Taft is a grim reminder of what may happen to any other key or "indispensable man." Taft was also in excellent health six months ago.

This possibility may have influenced Eisenhower's decision to build up his stand in every way possible, but the larger factor probably is that Nixon has already shown his capacity to fill the larger role in a manner helpful to the administration.

In any event there is no danger that the presidency will in this administration fall to a vice-president who had been as little briefed for the top job as Truman was by Roosevelt. None ever should.

## MOST BEAUTIFUL WORDS

Dr. Wilfred Funk, the dictionary man who knows about all there is to know about words, has picked the 31 most beautiful words in the English language, both for sound and for meaning.

His top 10 are tranquil, murmuring, dawn, hush, lullaby, mist, chimes, luminous, golden, melody. Others which he rates a little lower but still extra good include jonquil, chimes, luminous, chalice, marigold, oriole, thrush, tendril, cerulean.

We suppose these are very good, particularly from the viewpoint of a word artist. But we suspect the average gent would have simpler, more widely used ones, preferably in certain word combinations.

Among such that come readily to mind: "The drinks are on me," and that extra special delight conveyor: "Enclosed find check."

## Paper Demands Info on Winnie

London (AP)—The Daily Mirror demanded today an official "full statement" on the condition of ailing Prime Minister Churchill.

The tabloid said in a front-page editorial that Britons have been "driven to pick up their information at second-

hand from tittle-tattle abroad." It cited a report by American columnist Stewart Alsop that Churchill had suffered a slight stroke in June and said, "Even more alarming reports have appeared in the French press."

Churchill's doctors ordered him on June 27 to rest for at least one month. A government spokesman indicated he was suffering from extreme fatigue, but the exact nature of his illness never was announced.

## IS LATER THAN YOU THINK, TOVARISCH



## POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER

### Avoid Pest Who Tries to Foist His Hobby on You

By SAUL PETT For Hal Boyle

New York (AP)—My hobby, if anybody cares, is avoiding hobbies.

To be more precise, my hobby is avoiding people who insist I should try their hobby. It will change my whole life, they say, give me a new perspective, added freshness, escape, relief from frustration and the commonplace.

Baloney. If I want to be dull and unhappy, that's my privilege. Leave me be. Anyway, I have by doubts about the enthusiasm of new hobbyists out on the stump. I mean those hobbyists who live and breathe the stuff all the time.

You know the kind. The hobbyist and his wife will drop over for a drink. He will remain glum and silent during the small talk about operations and jobs and the way polio is going around. Then he finds an opening and wham! There goes your evening.

Why is it that the first time a man is seduced by an eight-inch ball-bearing power saw with a miter gauge and splitter, or by a one-rupee uncanceled stamp from the Maldive Islands, he becomes an evangelical bore about the whole thing? He pounces on his friends, neighbors and relatives as though he just found a cure for the five per cent mortgage. They, too, he argues, must try this hobby and ascend with him to the bright and glorious plateau of a new life.

I wonder. Why is he so anxious to convince us? Is it because down deep he is still a little uncertain about the wisdom of a grown man spending so much time and energy on a new weapon for etching in leather? Does he need the moral support of imitation to fortify his expenditure of money and passion on a new soil tickler?

I have heard it said that you can achieve new peace of mind by observing the yellow-bell-

ied sapsucker, in its natural habitat. That may be true. But I'd rather try to work out a negotiated peace with my own natural habitat and let the yellow-bellied sapsucker envy me.

But, of course, birds have more sense than to take up a hobby of people-watching.

I'm sure it will alarm nobody if I happen to feel that this whole business of making a hobby the be-all and end-all is a dangerous mistake.

It tends to lead people in the wrong direction—away from themselves and the reality of their own existence. If they are bored or oppressed by their home life or job, is there nothing they can do about it but creep into an esoteric basement.

Instead of trying to fertilize their barren acres, this over-emphasis on hobbies persuades them to take up something else three nights a week and all day on week-ends. Is this really enough to satisfy?

Seems to me it's like trying to irrigate a desert by wetting your head.

What does it profit a man, married to a terrible shrew, if he conquer the whole world of butterflies? He's still married to the same wife. Why doesn't he try to find out what she's mad about?

Seems to me he might do better to stand up to her and sound off to stick pins in poor butterflies.

### HE GOT EVEN

Hollywood (AP)—Police warned William Skipper, 33, today not to carry out his threat to get even with a Hollywood night club.

The police said Skipper was thrown out of the club when he refused to pay for a mirror he allegedly broke.

Skipper leaped in his car, drove into position and then charged the nightclub. There was a resounding crash but his car only knocked down a sidewalk canopy.

## Backstairs With Eisenhower

By MERRIAM SMITH

Denver (AP)—Backstairs at the summer White House.

The president wanted something cool to drink the other day when he was fishing up above Pine, Colo. No sooner had he expressed the thought that his alert military aide Col. Robert L. Schutz, dumped six cans of tomato juice into the Platte river. The juice cans walled in the cool stream bed for about 30 minutes and were almost frosty when they were hauled out.

Mr. Eisenhower is amazingly non-profane, considering his many provocations. When he dubs a golf shot miserably, he says something like "Ooie, boy, look at that" or "That was typical Eisenhower." When a big rainbow trout gets away, he remonstrates with himself: "Now, what kind of fishing is that?" You can hear him two creeks away.

Bob Hope may catch up with the president again as a golfing partner. Hope is coming here soon to play in a tournament at the Cherry Hills Country

club where Eisenhower has been playing almost daily.

An amazingly prominent man in private life on the west coast writes the White House almost every day, telling the president and members of his staff how to run the government. The advice, for the most part, is duly filed away.

So many people have been trying to lure the president into speaking dates, barbecues and fishing haunts since he's been here that Gov. Dan Thornton had to issue a public plea—lay off, let the man have a vacation.

The president won't permit anyone to rig his fishing line. If he wanted to, he could say to any of several angling experts around him "here, put on my yellow grasshopper." Instead, he does it himself. He ties some of his own flies, particularly when he is working out a downstream combination lure using the brilliance of a spinner and the appetizing, for a fish, appeal of a gaily colored fly.

## WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

### Pearson Says G. M. Not Cut Back on Gov't. Contracts

By DREW PEARSON

Washington—It may be pure coincidence, but Secretary of Defense Wilson's former company, General Motors, seems to be the only outfit that hasn't been hit by the drastic cutback in defense spending.

Factories all over the nation have felt the impact of Wilson's order last month to start demobilizing plants engaged in producing tanks and vehicles. But so far, his own company, General Motors, has escaped.

Strategy behind Wilson's order is to reduce the number of plants until only one is left making each item. This has the laudable goal of increasing efficiency and saving money, though it's in direct contrast to the previous policy of spreading production so as to make it harder for Russia to strike a crippling A-bomb blow.

While the general policy of reducing costs has merit, what really raised eyebrows in industrial circles was the selection of plants to be closed down.

For example, three big auto companies—Chrysler, Ford and General Motors—are producing the Patton M-48 tank. Following Wilson's new policy, Ford was arbitrarily declared out of the running—by direct order of the Pentagon. This means that Ford won't even be given a chance to bid for the right to continue producing. It will be left up to Chrysler and General Motors to bid against each other, and the losing bidder will go out of production next March.

Likewise, Studebaker was ruled out of the bidding over the 2.5-ton truck, and was ordered to wind up its production by September. This will leave G.M.'s truck and coach division to bid against Reo Motors, Inc., for the truck contract.

The Pentagon also ordered production stopped on the M47 tank, which happens to be manufactured by Chrysler and American Locomotive. General Motors was not affected.

On the other hand, the production of M-41 tanks will be continued full speed at G.M.'s Cadillac plant in Cleveland. In addition, General Motors will take over the added production of antiaircraft guns, now manufactured by American Car and Foundry. The excuse is that many gun-carriage and M-41 parts are interchangeable.

Brig. Gen. Carroll H. Dietrick, commander of the Detroit Automotive Center, insisted to this column that the army was not deliberately showing favoritism to General Motors. He acknowledged, however, that the instructions came straight from the Pentagon as to which companies should be allowed to bid.

"I haven't received any orders not proper and in the best interests of the government and the taxpayers," he hastened to add in defense of his boss, Secretary Wilson, onetime boss of General Motors.

A high Pentagon source, who asked not to be identified, explained that Wilson wasn't trying to enrich his former company so much as he was sincerely convinced that General Motors could do everything better than anyone else.

"Wilson really believed it when he said what was good for General Motors was good for the country," said this Pentagonian.

Note 1—When Charlie Wilson protested to senators last January that he did not want to sell his General Motors stock, he said he saw no conflict between the public interest and General Motors' interest.

Note 2—A report suppress-

## Salem 39 Years Ago

By BEN MAXWELL August 17, 1914

A special session of the legislature had been under consideration for December to clear up matters now before the desert land board.

Max Gehlar, county clerk, had called for bids for installation of a steam heating system for Marion county court house.

Ashland had had a temperature of above 82 degrees every day since June 27.

A heavy run of salmon had entered the Columbia.

H. L. Burt of the Capital Journal had ridden his bicycle from Salem to Portland in six hours to see a double header at the Portland baseball park.

German cruiser Leipsic, laying off the Golden Gate for days, hopeful of taking British and French merchant ships as prizes of war, had slipped into San Francisco to re-fuel and supply.

Fred Zimmerman, United press operator at the Capital Journal, had gone to Newport with his wife for a two weeks vacation.

Biggest battle in the Austria-Serbia war had been reported as raging near Belgrade.

## ALBANY'S INDIAN NAME

Albany Democrat-Herald In an editorial favoring the change of the name of Vancouver back to its pioneer name of Fort Vancouver, the Salem Capitol Journal laments that the old-timers did such a stodgy job of naming their towns. "Portland," says the C.J., "should have been Multnomah, Salem, Chemeketa, Albany the original Indian name, which as we recall meant 'hole in the ground.' (No present reflections intended, it should be unnecessary to add.)"

The name our esteemed contemporary was feeling for is "Takenah," now retained without the final "h" as the name of a park and a slightly residence street in Albany. Old-Timers tell us that "Takenah" was a Calapooia word, meaning not "hole in the ground," but place of meeting, as the confluence of two streams. It was applied to the confluence of the Calapooia and the Willamette.

The Monteth family, Linn county pioneers from Albany, N. Y., gave the name of their old home town of the Monteths, slipped one over at the next session of the legislature by having the community called Takenah. So Takenah, much more euphonious and distinctive than Albany, actually was for a time the name of this town, though not the original name. But it never did mean, from anything we're been able to learn, "hole in the ground."

We stand with the Capital Journal in regretting that the pioneers were weak in nomenclature. Up in Washington they did a much better job with "Seattle" and "Tacoma," and "Bellingham" doesn't compare with the original Indian "Whatcom," from which the name was changed after most of the pioneers were dead.

REDUCING OVERLOADS Astorian-Budget The state highway commission reports there has been an 80 per cent reduction in overweight loading by loggers since the 1951 state legislature set up heavier fines and stronger provisions for regulations and enforcement. There was considerable objection at the time by logging operators, but the result of the legislation evidently has been excellent. Furthermore, one hears little objection to the law's operations any more. The highway commission warns, however, that there is a growing tendency to soften the punishment in some jurisdictions by means of suspended sentences. This would be a mistake, since the law is providing so effective.

HELLS CANYON FALLACY The Dalles Chronicle One fallacy in much of the pro-Hells Canyon thinking is the assumption that if the river is denied to Idaho Power Co. there will ultimately be a federally sponsored project there. There certainly can be no good grounds for believing that Congress will look upon Hells Canyon with any more favor next year or five years from now, than it did in the past—and there have been two flat rejections thus far.

CHEST NEED FELT Astorian-Budget Up in Portland, the start of the United Fund drive is being announced. Here in Astoria, where the Community Chest no longer exists, we can look forward to a multiplicity of drives during the coming year. The time will come when local business men and citizens will look enviously toward Portland and other cities where one big drive takes care of all the needs of all the social and welfare agencies.



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