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MENACE TO A FREE PRESS

Because of the bludgeoning of newspapermen, especially intimidation of James A. Wechsler, editor of the New York Post, by Senator Joseph McCarthy, in his crusade against communist suspects, the American Society of Newspaper Editors appointed a special committee last spring to investigate the investigator.

Wechsler admitted that years ago he had joined the Communist Youth organization, which was entertained at the White House by Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, and therefore considered respectable, but shortly after realized its menace and in the years since has combatted communism all along the line. But because Wechsler has criticized McCarthy's unfair tactics, the latter retaliated by a bludgeoning inquisition in which he reflected upon the press in general, especially his critics.

The Editor and Publisher states that two reports were made, a majority report avoided conclusions but the minority report signed by four editors, one of them William M. Tugman, editor of the Eugene Register-Guard, one of the most virile and able editors in Oregon, clearly stated the menace to a free press by McCarthy and his ilk. It is well worth reading. It follows:

"Freedom of the press in these United States, as it has been understood since the adoption of the Constitution, could not long survive the repeated exercise by congress of unlimited inquiry into the conduct of newspapers.

"Congressional interrogation, such as occurred in the U.S. senate committee on April 24 and May 9, if frequently repeated, would extinguish without the passage of a single law, that free and unfettered reporting of events and comment thereon, upon which the preservation of our liberties depends, for more is comprehended in the term 'freedom of the press' than just immunity to punitive statutes, it having been the intent of the founding fathers to free the press from all restraints and harassment by government.

"Newspapers put to the necessity of explaining to government agencies, legislative or executive, their news and editorial policies, under oath, would exist in such permanent jeopardy their freedom to report fully and comment freely inevitably would be impaired. They would exist under an intimidation and harassment wholly incompatible with American ideas of liberty. A press that is under the continuing necessity of accounting to government for its opinions is not a free press—whether the government be a good or bad government. A press put to the frequent necessity of explaining its news and editorial policies to a United States senator, armed with the full powers of the government of the United States, is not a free press—whether the senator be a good or bad senator.

"The people suffer some diminution of their right to know fully and comment freely upon their own government whenever a single newspaper, however worthy or unworthy, is subjected by one senator, however worthy or unworthy, to inconvenience, expense, humiliation, ridicule, abuse, condemnation and reproach, under the auspices of governmental power. If the spectacle of such an ordeal raises in the mind of the most timid editorial spectator an apprehension, a fear, a doubt and anxiety as to the safety with which he may report, and as to the immunity with which he may legally comment, American freedom to that degree has suffered an impairment.

"We leave to others the debate over how extensive this impairment ought to be before protest is made. We choose to protest at its very commencement. We would sooner suffer the criticism of having exclaimed too soon, too much and too loudly against an invasion of freedom of the press than endure the reproach of having stood silently by when government took the first step toward the silencing of the free press of this country."—G. P.

DEMOCRATIC FACTIONAL TROUBLES

Factional troubles continue in the Democratic party. Southern leaders who bolted to Eisenhower last year are still "off the reservation" determined to make the national leadership come to them rather than they go to it.

This fact came to light the other day when Senator Holland of Florida, who has not been one of the extreme Dixiecrats, announced that he has declined an invitation to go to the party conference in Chicago this month because the south will gain nothing from it in his opinion.

Senator Byrd of Virginia and Governor Byrnes of South Carolina said they had not been invited and did not plan to attend. Byrnes takes the view that the Democratic party of South Carolina is not affiliated with the national organization of the same name and is a free agent as to who it supports in national contests. He came within an eyelash of putting Eisenhower over in South Carolina last year and Byrd played a major role in Ike's sensational victory in Virginia.

The fact that these and other southern Democratic leaders who bolted Stevenson last year show no spirit of repentance strongly suggests that they feel confident of general support in their states, without which they would not long continue as leaders.

They and the large number of southerners who think as they do intend to compel the national party to meet their views as the price of any future support for the national party. Unfortunately for the national party, it cannot meet these southern demands and carry northern states it must have to win future national elections.

The factional situation within the Republican party is about as bad, raising a question of whether either party can again win a majority vote in the electoral college, or whether the U.S. is destined to join the European system with a batch of "splinter" parties, none of which can ever command a majority.

AGREEMENT ON SUEZ

Reports from Cairo are that Britain and Egypt are near an agreement in their dispute over British occupancy of the Suez canal zone and that a formal agreement may be expected before the end of the month.

The agreement, it is scarcely necessary to add, will be on Egypt's terms, else there wouldn't be one. Britain, though headed by a man "who didn't become the king's first minister in order to preside over the liquidation of the British empire," is doing just that.

Britain is to withdraw her 80,000 men from Suez, leaving the most powerful troop marshalling point in the Middle East to a country which is far from friendly to the western cause, depending on an agreement that the British may come back in the event of a general war.

There is no assurance that Egypt, which may by then have a Communist government, will honor such a pledge if war comes. The British and their allies could probably recapture the base by force, but the Egyptians could destroy its installations first.

A weakened, discouraged Britain is giving up first one, then another of her possessions rather than fight for them, depending on the United States rather than herself. This purported agreement is a heavy setback to the western cause and might result in the loss of the vital Suez route in case of war.

It will be interesting to watch Turkey's reaction to the move, which places her in a more exposed position.

'54 MODELS ALREADY?



POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER

Why Do Beautiful Women Make Admirers Kerchew?

By HAL BOYLE

New York (AP) — Odd facts from the oddity almanac: Do some beautiful women make you sneeze?

Maybe it's their face powder that does it. It is estimated that some 7,000,000,000 American women suffer from cosmetic allergy. Must be that many men victims, too.

But it was worse in the old days when many a gal powdered with cornstarch. In a tender clinch she could never be sure whether her beau was wheezing from love or sneezing because of her kitchen beauty dust...

Some people insist they do their best thinking while lying flat on their backs. A department store here has come up with a special thinking bed for them. It has a canopy embellished with famous portraits and great thoughts. It also has an automatic phonograph which dials ideas and information into sleeping ears, so ambitious folk can go on learning while slumbering.

The same "sleep shop" formerly featured a heart-shaped bed for romantic wives and husbands. Racing fans also can buy circular beds—and chase the horses around the track in their dreams...

Are you neurotic? The odds are about 16-to-1 you aren't, so why worry? The best and simplest way to avoid nervous troubles is to inherit money. And do it early in life, while you can still get more enjoyment out of spending it than counting it... but if you must fret about something, fret about the motor car. It now takes a toll equal to the combined deaths from flu, ulcers, polio, war casualties and the contagious diseases of childhood...

Jobs-we'd-all-like-to-have department: Stan Anderson is inspector of doughnut holes for the Doughnut Corporation of America. He measures to see they are now only a quarter inch across instead of three-eighths of an inch, the old standard. The industry is also launching a new midget or "small fry" doughnut the size of a four-bit piece. Progress never halts in this restless,

ever-changing field... Where does your money go? The Tax Outlook Magazine says a fellow earning \$4,500 a year now spends 2 hours and 40 minutes out of each 8-hour working day just to earn enough to pay his taxes, only an hour and 38 minutes for his food bills. But the high cost of red tape isn't the villain. The federal government spent only \$4,700 for red tape last year to tie up documents.

Almanac health note: Some doctors believe that victims of heart trouble and high blood pressure may shorten their lives by habitually taking bicarbonate of soda and water to relieve stomach distress... the safest form of exercise after 40 is going to the funerals of other people over 40 who insist on taking too much exercise...

What do you know about fathers? Dad is younger and taller today... The average age of a first-time father was 28.1 in 1890—but 24.7 in 1949. The modern dad has 3.2 children as compared to 8 for the average father in 1800... In terms of occupations, farmer fathers lead... It is estimated American families spent \$250,000,000 for Mother's Day gifts, only \$150,000,000 for Dad on his day... but that's the way Dad wants it...

Ever yearn to have a book dedicated to you? Well, it's no avenue to fame. Dale Carnegie dedicated his famous best-seller, "How to Win Friends and Influence People," to a fellow popular author, Homer Croy...

"The book sold over three million copies," recalls Croy wryly, "but only four persons ever mentioned the dedication to me—and one of them wanted to borrow money..."

The almanac's regular long-range weather forecast: All present signs indicate that the current widespread heat wave will subside, in most parts of the nation, with the arrival of the first killing frost.

The original 99-year concession under which the Suez Canal was built expires in 1968.

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WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Columnist Sees Mystery in White House Paneling Job

By DREW PEARSON

Washington—A contract for \$41,614 worth of new paneling for executive mansion corridors was let at the White House the other day under peculiar circumstances.

The company that got the contract didn't have its bid opened until one day after the 3 p.m. Aug. 17 deadline when the other four bids were in. This is highly unusual. Bids on government contracts are supposed to be opened simultaneously in the presence of all concerned.

But in this case the successful bid, that of the V. J. Miller Construction Company, was rushed in at the last moment, remained unopened all night, and when opened the next day turned out to be the low bid. The next highest bid, that of the Davis, Wick, Rosengarten Co., was for \$43,255.

What added to the unusual circumstances was a mysterious phone call by the chief White House usher, Howell G. Crim, one hour after the first four bids were opened, to a Bert Matthews telling him to get his bid in right away. However, Crim called the wrong Matthews.

Bert Matthews is with the Tuckman-Barbee Construction Company which did not bid on the White House contract. And when he protested that he didn't know what it was all about, but perhaps Crim wanted another Matthews who was with the V. J. Miller Company, White House Usher Crim abruptly ended the conversation.

The contract negotiations occurred when President Eisenhower was in Denver. The White House usher is the top permanent functionary in the executive mansion, and Mr. Crim has served there some years with a good record. However, attempts by this column to get to the bottom of the contract award resulted in one of the most unusual run-arounds in run-around Washington.

WHITE HOUSE EXPLAINS

White House Usher Crim, asked by this column for an explanation for the delayed bid, at first said he had nothing to do with the Miller contract, that he was on vacation and that the bids had been handled by Roger Steffan, special assistant to the President. He added that he had gone to the bid-opening only as a spectator.

"I went down out of personal interest because I had

never seen it. I was only a spectator," Crim said. But when asked why was the J. V. Miller bid not opened with the others, Crim seemed to have more than a spectator's knowledge.

"We wanted to get this work done while the President was away," he replied. "So we invited four contractors to bid, and we specified the time the bids were to be opened. Miller came in the last minute. He had not been invited to bid but asked for permission to submit a bid. We decided to take it under advisement."

"Why wasn't the Miller bid opened on the spot?" Crim was asked.

"We wanted time to decide whether to consider the bid at all," Crim explained.

Asked about the mysterious phone call to Bert Matthews an hour after the first four bids were opened, Crim acknowledged that he made the call and had cut the conversation short when he found Matthews wasn't the right man.

"I was simply calling to find out if he was the agent for the V. J. Miller Co.," he explained. "We didn't know anything about the company, and I was calling to check on the bid."

"But I thought you attended the bid opening only as a spectator and that Roger Steffan handled the whole thing," Crim was asked. "It now looks as if you were taking a very active part in the whole matter."

Crim then reversed his previous statement that he was on vacation, said he had come back to work for a day or two.

THE MERRY-GO-ROUND

Roger Steffan, when questioned, flatly denied that he had anything to do with the contract. He said it had been handled by F. T. Gartside of National Capital Parks at the interior department.

Gartside, upon questioning, promptly stated that the contract was a White House matter and he had been instructed to refer all inquiries to the White House.

"We just talked to the White House," Gartside was told, "and they referred us to you."

Gartside thought this over, then asked for time to check with the White House. A second call to him was met with instructions from his secretary to talk to Larry Smith, interior department public relations officer. Mr. Smith was obliging but frankly unfamiliar with the techni-

cal details of the White House contract. He finally put Gartside back on the phone.

Gartside explained that the unusual delay in opening Miller's bid was due to the fact that Miller had not yet inspected the White House.

"But Miller had inspected the White House and the secret service knew it."

"I realized that," Gartside replied, "but my chief, Mr. Horn, didn't."

"Who finally made the decision to open the Miller bid?"

"We received instructions," Gartside replied.

"What do you mean, you received instructions?"

"The White House says that you were in charge of the contract arrangements. Why did you need instructions?"

(Continued on Page 5, Column 1)

Salem 62 Years Ago

By BEN MAXWELL

September 3, 1891
Rev. G. W. White had organized St. Paul's African M.E. church in Salem and was pastor. Membership consisted of A. Bayless, Mrs. Bayless, R. T. Starkey, Mrs. Jones, Mrs. H. E. Sheppard, George T. Reynolds and William Gorman.

Steamer Three Sisters had a schedule that took her down river from Salem on Tuesday and Friday.

There had been only moderate attendance at the park Wednesday to witness a ball game between Salem and Portland that resulted in a score of 13 to 1 in favor of the visitors.

Field fires near Eola had destroyed several thousand bushels of grain. William Putnam alone had lost 300 bushels.

Space in the grand pavilion at the state fair could be had by addressing William H. Savage, superintendent.

Bearsley at Eola had about half of a normal hop crop. Other crops in the neighborhood were so poor that they would not be picked.

Oregon Pacific railroad had steamers Farallon and Willamette Valley on the run between Yaquina and San Francisco.

J. A. Rotan, undertaker, had purchased the Minto hearse and had advertised that hereafter he would sell caskets, coffins and all undertaker's supplies cheaper than anyone else in Salem and would furnish the hearse free of charge in the city.

E. M. Goodell, city recorder, had advertised that the city would receive bids for grading, graveling, draining and curbing State street between Capitol and Commercial streets.

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