

Capital Journal

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A BAFFLING GENIUS

This month witnesses the retirement of one of the titans of American business, who unfortunately is known to millions of Americans mainly for his former connection with a deservedly unpopular political organization called America First.

The man is General Robert E. Wood, for 26 years head of Sears, Roebuck & Co. An article by Irving Pflaum in the current Harper's fills in many little known details about his fabulous career.

Wood set out to be a professional soldier, which seemed natural since his father was an officer in the Union army in the Civil War. After graduation from West Point he served in the Philippines and as a teacher of French at West Point, after which he was sent to the Panama canal zone where he worked under General Goethals in his great project and got his first experience in industry.

In 1915 he retired from the Army to seek a new career. He joined Dupont but in 1917 returned to the Army as a colonel, later advancing to brigadier general in the Quartermaster Corps. One of the civilians with whom he worked was the president of Montgomery Ward, who made Wood a vice-president of his company after the war. But his friend later went to a sanitarium and Wood didn't get along with the successor. So he quit in 1924, supposedly just before he would have been fired.

Then he found the spot he had been looking for, with Sears, and within three years he was its president. The rest is history, as they say. Under his leadership Sears went from 27 stores and an annual sales of \$270,000,000 to 700 stores and a gross of three billion.

As everyone knows, Sears launched a tremendous expansion program, especially since the war, while Ward's was pulling in its horns anticipating a depression that still hasn't come. Sears also went into Latin America and is now going into Canada. Further, he encouraged the launching of many small factories to supply merchandise, particularly in smaller towns. Profit kept pace with growth and now runs about three and a half percent of gross sales, a good ratio for a big merchandiser.

Now comes the contradiction in the Wood personality. As a businessman he has been extremely alert in every way. He initiated a profit sharing plan under which 120,000 employees now own 26 percent of the Sears stock.

An extreme progressive in business, Wood is an extreme reactionary in politics, an American Firster, an isolationist, a supporter of McCarthy. He does not believe the Russian army capable of aggressive war and he doubts that the Russians are making "A" bombs.

A hard man to understand, but certainly an interesting one who has made a tremendous mark in present day America.

CONTRAST OF IKE AND HARRY

Contrast between the Eisenhower and Truman administrations was again emphasized when the White House Monday announced the resignation of FEA Commissioner Guy T. Holliday and ordered Housing Administrator Albert M. Cole to impound FEA's records "to facilitate the investigations which are being conducted" of alleged scandals in the Federal Housing Administration.

It was further demonstrated when the Atomic Energy Commission suspended Dr. Robert J. Oppenheimer, brilliant physicist and top level government adviser on atomic weapons for "security reasons" and set up a special three-man board to hear charges against Oppenheimer.

During World War II Oppenheimer directed the nation's first atomic bomb project at Los Alamos, N.M., with the then president's approval. The charges against him were made by the FBI.

One of these charges was that Oppenheimer opposed the hydrogen bomb project and lobbied against it even after former President Truman ordered the AEC to go ahead with it in 1949. Another charge was that Oppenheimer associated with Communists in the early 40's, married a Communist and hired Communists at Los Alamos during the war.

Both Holliday and Oppenheimer should not be adjudged guilty of the charges until the investigations have been completed and they have been heard and presented their defense, not only before the investigators and perhaps in court later. They cannot be convicted on hearsay, rumor or gossip—the McCarthy way.

The difference between the Eisenhower way and the Truman way is that Ike seeks to probe alleged scandals in government immediately while Truman procrastinated, rushed to defend his appointees, called charges "red herrings," refused to remove many accused and kept some tainted officials on the federal payroll until found guilty in court trials. A saturnalia of scandals in public office was the result—G. P.

GETTING A GOOD START

This Ray Jenkins, Tennessee lawyer picked as special counsel for the Senate committee which is to probe the Army-McCarthy-Cohn controversy, is getting off to a good start.

First, he accepted the appointment in a matter of fact way, saying he had no public or private position on the matters at issue, that he would get the facts and present them fully and fairly. What he has done up to now bears out this promise.

Then the committee made a wise decision that he and his staff were to make no public statements about the controversy in advance of its public airing commencing April 22. This tends to keep the air from getting clouded with smoke and dust.

Now it is decided that each side will furnish the other with an advance statement of its charges and the evidence it has to support them, which will be made public. This is sound too. Each has a right to know what the other is to spring, so it can seek evidence if such is to be had, to contradict it.

Many are dubious of any good coming out of the hearings, but we are hopeful that the public will soon get a pretty accurate account of what really happened between McCarthy, his chief counsel, Roy Cohn and the Army with respect to demands for favored treatment of the Army's most celebrated private, David Schine.

Somebody has obviously been lying. The public is entitled to know who and we believe the public is soon going to find out.

Air Force Academy

Boise Statesman

The establishment of a third service academy for the Air Force, has been authorized, and a special board of three civilians and two generals has set out to choose a location for it. This is a significant new step in the emergence of the Air Force as a separate military branch, and the school ultimately will provide the Air Force with a source of career officers comparable to the Military Academy at West Point and the Naval Academy at Annapolis.

The task of the site-selection board will be immeasurably complicated by the fact that the academy will also be one of the juiciest political plums of the year. It will be a \$126,000,000 construction project, and as a permanent institution will eventually have a student body of 2400 to 3500. What community wouldn't like to obtain such a boost to its economy and its prestige?

The academy will also, when it attains full operation, be an important link for the Air Force. It will add strength to the officer-training program, and will ultimately enable the Air Force to do a better job of carrying out its role in the national defense, which we judge is destined to become steadily bigger and more important.

TILL WE HAVE MOON-ROCKETS



THE WORLD TODAY

Complications if U.S. Outlaws Reds

By JAMES MARLOW

WASHINGTON (AP)—Atty. Gen. Brownell flatly opposes any attempt by Congress to pass an act outlawing the Communist party. He says it would make the job of rooting out Communists tougher.

He says he'd rather have a few strengthening changes in present laws.

The government already is working against the Communists in several ways, mainly: (1) the Smith Act, passed in 1940; (2) the Internal Security Act, passed in 1950; (3) the government employees' security program, and (4) deportation.

If the party should be outlawed tomorrow the first problem facing the government would be the constitutional one: Did Congress have the right under the Constitution to outlaw the party? Getting the answer would be long drawn out.

Meanwhile, pending the outcome of a test case going all the way up to the Supreme Court, the government wouldn't try any other Communists, using up time and money that would be wasted if the Supreme Court said the law was unconstitutional.

If the court upheld the law, then the government could begin wholesale prosecution of other Communists but that would probably not be for at least two years after the passage of the law.

But the government is making mincemeat of the Communist leadership with its present machinery. For example, the Smith Act of 1940:

Under this act it is unlawful to teach conspiracy to overthrow the government forcibly. In 1949 the government nailed the 11 top Communist leaders in the country on that charge.

They were convicted, in October 1949 after a nine-month trial. They appealed, were turned down by the U. S. Court of Appeals, and appealed to the Supreme Court, which upheld their conviction on June 4, 1951.

The government could have prosecuted other party leaders in the meantime but first it wanted to see whether the Supreme Court thought their trial under the Smith Act was constitutional.

It did, but more than two years were used up between the time the 11 were brought to court and the time the high court gave its opinion. Once that was done, the government brought batch after batch of lesser Communist officials to trial.

Brownell said 165 leaders have been indicted under the Smith Act since 1948 and 67 have been convicted so far.

Government workers' security program:

Brownell and President Eisenhower set this up in the spring of 1953 as a successor to former President Truman's government workers have been let out.

The administration has been extremely vague on how many of that number were actually Communists. But the program covers persons sympathetic to, or affiliated with, Communists, as well as simple drunks and blabbermouths.

Deportation:

The administration is working to drive out of the country subversives who are here as aliens or naturalized citizens. Since January 1953, Brownell says, 200 persons with records of subversive activity or affiliation have been deported.

POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER

You're a Moral Coward, Says Mrs. Boyle to Hal

By HAL BOYLE

NEW YORK (AP)—Something has happened in our house that I am not sure I can face.

I would just as soon not talk about it at all, but it seems that there is nothing else I want to talk about more.

"The basic thing about you, Rover," said my wife, Frances, "is that you are a coward."

Elect Utilities Commissioners?

Eugene Register-Guard

Urged on by Monroe Sweetland and other Democrats, a movement is afoot to make the Public Utilities Commissioner of Oregon elective instead of appointive by the governor.

Sweetland and his pals make political capital of the surcharges which customers of private power companies had to pay during the power shortages a year ago to make up the extra cost of steam generation because of Bonneville's hydro-shortages.

In our opinion, the people of Oregon need to think twice before they make any such change in the selection of the Public Utilities Commissioner. They should consider well what the duties of the Public Utilities Commissioner are and what his attitudes ought to be. The job entails:

1. Maintaining a staff of engineering and financial experts to make detailed and critical analyses of the operations and business structures of all utilities subject to state regulation.

2. Conducting hearings on rates and operating practices at which the Commissioner hears the companies' representatives, the public's representatives, and the reports of his own analysts as to the facts.

3. Rendering the rulings as to rates and operating practices which he is empowered to make under Oregon law.

It is a job in which great harm to all concerned, including the public, would result if the Commissioner were merely a time-serving politician, striving to please the most people with an eye to votes, instead of making his rulings conscientiously on the basis of available facts. Even as an appointee of the governor, the Public Utilities Commissioner is not immune to public clamors and group pressures or political influences, but he is at least shielded from some of the worst storms.

Under the present plan, the governor shares with the Public Utilities Commissioner the responsibility for his policies and his acts and governors of Oregon as a rule have tried to find men of character, ability and courage for this difficult post.

To open this office to election, especially under party labels, would be to put this highly technical and difficult work into the hands of political quacks or worse. Anyhow, those are our sentiments.

2,901,000 words of testimony by the government and the party. The board ruled the party was a Moscow tool and ordered it to register. The party refused and went to the U. S. Court of Appeals.

The court will hear the case in a few weeks. No matter how it rules, the party or the government will appeal to the Supreme Court. So a final decision is months away.

The Communist party has said neither it nor its members will register, no matter what the court decisions. If the high court upholds the act and the board and the members still don't register, they may be arrested in wholesale lots.

"I still can't figure how you went through the Second World War without catching jaundice, which I understand turns people yellow. You were born yellow, and any physician who looked at you and didn't mistake you for a lemon was either near-sighted or color blind."

Then she sighed, and I thought added very graciously:

"I don't doubt you have physical courage, whatever that is, and I suppose that is what you must have demonstrated on the battlefield, or they wouldn't have let you stay overseas with the soldiers for four years."

"The thing about you, Rover," my wife continued, "is that you are a moral coward. You may be able to face a loaded gun without fear. Boyle's note: She is mistaking me with a captain I introduced her to who once won the Medal of Honor in a few moments of abandon, but you can't face tomorrow. Anybody who loves yesterday as much as you do has to be a coward."

I suppose she is right. A woman who puts up with the same man for 16½ years in a row probably has eased him pretty well.

But to get back to what happened in our house. It's the baby. Eight months ago a surprising thing interrupted our lives.

A sleek black limousine pulled up to our door, from which alighted a five-week old baby girl, clad, naturally, in a small and unobtrusive mink diaper. We are unable to prove this because my wife, unfortunately for her, is allergic to mink, discarded the damp diaper and surrounded the infant with a local towel.

We came to love the baby, and she gained weight—a sure sign of prosperity, even among the young, and bowed her head and took the name of Margaret Tracy Ann Kathleen Boyle. Or, as we call her, Tracy.

Well, you know how this life is. You try to plot and plan it, and suddenly a stranger comes in and changes the whole tempo. Folks are different. I know a guy who dreams that some morning he will wake up and find that somebody has put a slot machine in his rumpus room. But I would just as soon wake up and find that an orphan's home had moved into my house.

I love babies—fat, crikey babies, and I like 'em wet or dry. I love them when they cry. I think any grownup must really love a baby more when it cries than when it laughs, because he can help it more—and that's what grownups are probably for.

Now this time for sure I'll get back to what has happened in our house and made me feel so blue. Tracy, that infantile betrayer, will soon be 10 months old, and the signs of despicable accomplicity everything she does.

She came to us as a baby, and now she is turning into a human being. This was not part of the bargain, and she has broken the rules. It is so much more difficult to love a human being than a baby.

"Listen, Proud Flesh," said Frances. "Quit yearning for yesterday. Tracy has to grow up. It's her duty. Don't you want her to walk and talk like normal people?"

Oh, No, Angel, not like the others. Grow feathers. Fly. Fly. Always fly. Daddy will catch you if you fall.

WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Pearson Charges Deal with Teamsters Union by G.O.P.

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON—Republican ranks are not happy over a deal put across between the Teamsters union in Detroit and Postmaster General Summerfield to call off an investigation of labor racketeering in the Detroit area. In return for quashing the probe, the Teamsters union in Detroit is to support Sen. Homer Ferguson, Republican, for re-election.

Thought publication of the facts is certain to bring ringing denials, this deal was what was behind the speech made on the floor of the house of representatives last week by Congressman Clare Hoffman of Michigan when he said that his subcommittee on labor racketeering and welfare funds "had but barely entered upon its investigations when, apparently for political reasons, it was liquidated."

It was the same Summerfield-Teamsters deal which also was behind the statement made by Congressman Wint Smith of Kansas, after a brief hearing last November, that the investigation of Detroit labor racketeering was being called off because of "pressure."

"Where does the pressure come from?" Smith was asked.

"From so high," Smith told newsmen, looking at the ceiling, "that I can't even discuss it."

Members of the committee staff, however, said it came direct from GOP House Leader Charles Halleck of Indiana. Halleck in turn was acting as a result of the Summerfield-Ferguson deal with the Teamsters.

Here is the inside story of what happened.

Last June, Congressman Hoffman, chairman of the government operations committee, held a preliminary probe of the Teamsters union in and around Detroit, where it looked into alleged pressure on the juke box employers to make union pay-offs to Teamsters' locals; also pressure on automatic car-wash employers to make pay-offs. This brought protests from Jim Hoffa, head of the Teamsters union in Detroit.

Following this, on July 15, the government operations committee voted to side-track its chairman, cantankerous Clare Hoffman. This vote was not inspired by the labor matter in Detroit so much as by the fact that Hoffman is difficult to get along with and was conducting the committee's affairs as if he were its sole member.

But Hoffman, blocked by his own committee, made an end run by getting the House labor committee, of which he is also a member, to probe the Detroit Teamsters. So a subcommittee, including Hoffman, Smith of Kansas, and Landrum of Georgia, continued the Detroit probe, using information gathered by the staff of the government operations committee.

12 TEAMSTERS INDICTED

Meanwhile, however, Teamster Head Hoffa and Bert Brennon, his right-hand man, got in touch with Postmaster General Summerfield, former GOP National Committeeman for Michigan and the man who had run the Republican party in that state.

After that the Detroit probe was called off. After that also, the Teamsters, usually strong for the Democrats, leaked word that they are supporting Republican Homer Ferguson for the senate.

Meanwhile, a county grand jury sparked by the initial Hoffman investigation in Detroit has indicted 12 leading teamsters, including William F. Buffalino, head of the juke box local; Mike Nicoletti, head of local 24 in Detroit; and David J. Keating, head of local 614 in Pontiac. Dave Beck, national head of the Teamsters, has now suspended all of the 12 except for Buffalino, and has named Hoffa as trustee for the locals involved.

Meanwhile also, a subcommittee of the government operations committee has been probing labor practices in Minneapolis and other areas—but has been careful since last November to avoid Detroit.

A WOMAN MOLDED HISTORY

When Joseph Patrick Tumulty, former secretary to Woodrow Wilson, died the other day I couldn't help remembering a rainy night many years ago when another man was dying and Joe stood out in the rain until four in the morning. He stood outside because his old chief was dying and Mrs. Woodrow Wilson would not let Joe in.

And at the funeral, uninvited,

Joe followed with the Negro servants in the rear.

Behind that incident is not merely a story of human emotions but of a clash which, if avoided, might have saved the peace of the world. For, had Mrs. Wilson and Joe Tumulty pulled together instead of apart, had Mrs. Wilson not shut her husband off from the senate during the tragic debate over the League of Nations and the Versailles treaty, they might have been ratified and the entire world might have been different.

The two people who loved Wilson most, his second wife and his secretary, have lived in Washington during the years since then, yet have never spoken to each other.

Tumulty, whose only love was Wilson, wanted him to wait until after the 1916 presidential election campaign to marry Mrs. Edith Galt. When Wilson finally decided otherwise, Tumulty said: "I'm sorry you're going to do that, governor. I was very fond of Mrs. Wilson."

"I told Edith you'd say that," replied Wilson.

"Well, that's a nice way to get me started with her," shot back Tumulty, and from that day the second Mrs. Wilson was in open conflict with her husband's secretary.

Gradually they drifted further apart, so that when the League of Nations fight took place, it was Mrs. Wilson who virtually became secretary, decided who should or should not see her husband.

Sen. Hiram Bland of Nebraska, who led Wilson's fight for ratification, used to tell how he came to see Wilson during the league of nations battle bringing the reservations proposed by Sen. Lodge (grandfather of the present U. S. ambassador to the UN); reservations which would not have altered the effectiveness of the league, yet would have permitted its speedy adoption by the senate.

"You haven't come to talk compromise, have you?" asked Mrs. Wilson. And in the opinion of the senators who fought for Wilson, her wily, cunning opposition was chiefly responsible for the defeat of the League of Nations.

Joe Tumulty had not been well for a long time. But before he passed away last week, he could look back over the vista of his 75 years and know that he was always faithful to one man.

WON'T LET 'EM BE QUIET

Sherman County Journal

Politicians never get to disagree quietly and peaceably. The newspapers won't let them.

"Yes...I Condemned THE CATHOLIC CHURCH"

"And you would, too," wrote a non-Catholic recently, "if all the things I heard about it were true."

"For years, I kept hearing that the Catholic Church was opposed to the Bible and tried to suppress it. I was told that the Church had changed Christ's teaching and practiced pompous pagan forms of worship. It was told to me that Catholics worship statues and images, and that the Catholic Church defied God's law and changed the Sabbath."

"But now I have learned that these stories and many others about the Catholic Church are not true—and never were."

Every day, thousands of our non-Catholic friends and neighbors are discovering, as this man did... that Catholic belief, worship and history are widely misrepresented and misunderstood.

That is why we publish these advertisements... and invite you to write for free explanatory pamphlets. We want you to know us as we are—not as false rumors and slanders represent us to be. We want you to know... if only for your own information... what the Catholic Church actually teaches, and what we Catholics actually believe.

This enables you to get authentic information about the Catholic Church—to investigate in the privacy of your own home. Then... even though you may not agree with Catholic beliefs and practices... you will at least understand

them. Only then will you be able fairly and in good conscience to judge our Faith and what it is founded upon.

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Free

An interesting pamphlet to read in the privacy of your home. It explains Catholic teaching on such matters as divorce—mixed marriages—gambling and drinking—why Catholics do not attend non-Catholic worship—and answers many of the false rumors you have heard about the Catholic Church. No cost—no obligation. Write today—ask for Pamphlet No. KC-15.

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