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Beck Defies Labor Purifiers

The A.F.L.-C.I.O.'s 29-man executive committee at the opening session of the winter meeting at Miami Beach, ordered from office any officials or member unions using the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution "for personal protection" to avoid testifying on union affairs at Congressional inquiries.

This new union policy was the result of the refusal to testify before a Senate investigation at Seattle of two of President Dave Beck's top officials of the Teamsters union refusing to answer a Senate operations committee investigating labor union racketeering, and pleaded, like Communists, immunity under Section 5 of the Bill of Rights "for personal protection" to avoid testifying.

The Teamsters union has the largest membership of any union in the A.F.L.-C.I.O., the strongest with 1.6 million members. It comprises such diverse organizations as chauffeurs, teamsters, truck drivers, brewery workers, warehousemen, lumber and mill workers, stenographers, egg-handlers and many other non-related workers.

Dave Beck, Teamsters union president, has issued a defiant statement, saying his union would continue its policy of allowing "any official or member of our organization to have the same right as any other American citizen to invoke the privileges of the Bill of Rights without subjecting himself automatically to trial or disciplinary action by the union."

George Meany, A.F.L.-C.I.O. president, said he personally drafted the policy statement when he first heard of union officials taking the Fifth Amendment to dodge testifying at recent preliminary Senate hearings.

Congressional investigation of labor racketeering has been long overdue. Oregon offered an opportunity in the middle 1930's, when Beck's Teamsters union goons staged a reign of terror in the state, finally suppressed by Governor Charles E. Martin, whose special prosecutor, the late Ralph E. Moody, convicted and sent to prison two score of goons, including Beck's top union official in Oregon.

Last spring the Portland Oregonian made an expose, backed by radio transcript of graft and corruption in Portland's municipal affairs, which involved Beck's top Oregon official. Defective indictments have delayed the trial of those indicted, forcing a new grand jury hearing.

Only Beck, among the A.F.L.-C.I.O. council members, voted against Meany's proposal. Two other council members, Presidents William McFetridge of the building service employees union, and Maurice Hutcheson, of the carpenters, reportedly abstained. Two others were absent. But the final vote was 22-1.

Meany made it clear expulsion from the A.F.L.-C.I.O. will be the ultimate penalty for a union refusing to oust its officers when they decline to co-operate or give testimony in a public inquiry into union affairs.

It will be interesting to watch the outcome, but it seems likely that it will turn out that the purification of labor unions is like that of politics—an "iridescent dream."—G.P.

NAM Has Interesting Report

The National Association of Manufacturers, which the Democrats call "big business" in every political campaign, and set up as a target to gull the voters, comes out with a bulletin containing interesting statistics about the national economy.

Citing a recent economic report, it says the total economic activity of this country reached a new high during the third quarter of 1956, about 4 per cent above the same period of the previous year.

During July, August and September this total economic activity reached an annual rate of \$414 billion, says the NAM. It uses eight key factors which go together to determine how the country is doing economically. These factors, with comparisons for 1956 and 1955, are:

• Total economic activity (third quarter), at an annual rate of \$414 billion, up 4 per cent from 1955.

• Manufacturers' sales (October), at \$28 billion, 6 per cent higher than previous year.

• Physical production of industry (November), at 147 on the Federal Reserve Index, 4 per cent higher.

• Hourly wages in manufacturing (November) averaged \$2.03 per hour, 10 cents above the previous year.

• Industrial prices (November), 4 per cent higher than November, 1955.

• Total personal income (October), at an annual rate of \$332.5 billion, up 7 per cent from the same period in 1955.

• Total employment (November), at 65.3 million, 1.4 per cent above November, 1955.

• Bank loans, up 12 per cent from previous year.

Apparently the NAM doesn't take too seriously the attacks by politicians, for it makes an estimate "that plant and equipment expenditures are expected to rise to a new high annual rate of \$38 billion in the first quarter of 1957—16 per cent greater than the same period in 1956."

TV Sponsors Must Share Blame

A recent article in Time says that in 1956 sponsoring concerns dropped some 50 television network programs "because the ratings fell so low that the price of reaching a given number of viewers rose correspondingly too high."

The show producers complain that the several rating agencies, on which the sponsors depend, get contradictory results, some rating high and others low.

This suggests two things that might improve the situation for both sponsors and shows.

One is that the sponsors, who are themselves mainly to blame, change the kind of advertising they offer.

The other is that someone ought to devise a rating system so sensitive that it would gauge the reaction of the national audience to both commercials and shows. As it is now, too many viewers sit transfixed by the suspense of a good show, but at too frequent intervals are bored and repelled by the commercials.

Dignity has a place in advertising. Who is lured to spend money for admittedly good industrial products by a lot of doggerel song, exaggerated exhortations from otherwise employed or unemployed actors, and cartoons that appeal only to childish minds? The television audience isn't morose.

And when the star himself leaves the show to assume the role of salesman, he puts himself in a class with the medicine show spielers at the county fair or the street pitchman of an earlier day. It cheapens the performance immeasurably.

By and large TV commercials are about the silliest spectacle on the American scene.

By Bread Alone

A Capital Journal editor, no mean culinary expert himself, is afraid our housewife-cooks are going to pot.

He claims there is too much emphasis being placed on pre-cooked foods, which milady has only to warm before serving. As a matter of fact, a housewife can make a pretty good show at being a cooking "expert" nowadays with a quick trip to the grocery store, a flurry of activity in the kitchen, and a good hot oven.

All is not lost, however. There are probably hundreds of newly-wed husbands who are silently thankful for the coming of pre-cooked whole meals.

NATIONAL WHIRLIGIG

Benson Under Savage Attack

For Statements on Congress

By RAY TUCKER

WASHINGTON, January 29 — Ezra Taft Benson has suddenly found himself under savage attack on Capitol Hill for casting aspersions on the political integrity and private lives of Members of Congress. To the mild Mormon churchman from Utah, who does not smoke or drink or give offense to his fellowman, it is a painful experience.

His troubles began when he agreed to sponsor a campaign book, entitled "Farmers at the Crossroads." As told to Carlisle Barger, well known public relations expert at Washington and a Republican ghost writer, it expressed Benson's views for a long-range solution of the farmers' price, overproduction and surplus problems.

Ironically, although thousands of copies were distributed by the Constitution and Free Enterprise Foundation, they reached the hinterland too late in the campaign to have much political effect. But to the Senators, both Republicans and Democrats, may vent their wounded feelings and pride by making hash of Benson's \$5 billion farm program.

First Irritating Assertion
 The very first paragraph in the foreword of the Benson-Barger book files the men on Capitol Hill for questions their devotion to the public interest intimates that playing politics is their principal pastime. It says:

"When President-elect Eisenhower offered Ezra Taft Benson the post of Secretary of Agriculture in November 1952, he demurred. He explained that he was a clergyman, and doubted whether he could engage in politics, where expediency is often the rule."

"Benson, though a politician," after recalling the so-called "cheese" and "grain bill" scandals in Agriculture, Senator Hubert H. Humphrey of Minnesota added:

"I do not know whether he would include expediency as one of the criteria or credentials for a politician. But I may say that Mr. Benson is a good politician, and he is tough and tough. He plays for keeps."

Humphrey and Senator Stuart Symington of Missouri also charged that Benson's policies have been influenced by "political expediency." In their opinion, he has distributed soil bank and drought relief money largely in states where it will do the most good to the Republicans.

Further Offensive Statement
 But the bitterest Congressional animosity against Benson is directed toward a passage in the book which questions their extracurricular behavior. It says:

"Secretary Benson neither smokes nor drinks, nor do any of the rest of his family. And when he goes to gatherings where there is drinking, as is necessitated by his official position, he doesn't hold a glass of gin and tonics, but the appearance of having a highball."

"Although he adheres to his standards, he does not impose them on others. It is perfectly all right to drink in his presence, but somehow very few people do."

Still Another Thrust
 As if this suggestion that Washington is another Babylon were not sufficiently offensive, another passage wounded the men on Capitol Hill even more grievously. It explained that Benson originally refused to come to Washington as lobbyist for a national farm cooperative "until given assurance that it did not entail playing Senators and Congressmen with cocktails."

Thus, although in a reverse and negative way, liquor may be the endow and his elaborate farm program.

(Released by McClure Newspaper Syndicate)

Ike Needs More Authority to Help Stop Future Flareups

By DAVID LAWRENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Did Secretary of State Dulles "Direct" the U.S. to seize the Suez Canal, and did he "Direct" the British and French troops to go into action there last autumn?

This casual reading of the statement made by Dulles to the Senate Foreign Relations committee by Senator Fulbright of Arkansas, Democrat, gives the impression that Mr. Dulles is responsible for everything bad that has happened in the Middle East. For Mr. Fulbright says:

"This disastrous and remarkable collapse of our relations with our closest allies has taken place under the direction of the present secretary of state, and apparently during the relatively short space of a few months."

Asks About Nasser
 Mr. Fulbright wants to know "about the course of our relations with Colonel Nasser: How and why we became involved in the Aswan Dam project, and what led to the secretary's abrupt withdrawal of the offer just as it was being accepted by Colonel Nasser, a procedure calculated to give the greatest possible offense."

Senator Fulbright is a conscientious man, and he and the country are indeed entitled to know what happened, but if all the facts were put out in a "white paper," as he suggested, it might place certain members of congress themselves in the embarrassing position of having been to no small extent responsible for the debacle by refusing to give the President the discretionary powers he had asked for on Foreign aid.

The less governments say publicly, moreover, in criticism of each other in "white papers," the easier it is to conduct diplomatic relations. But newsmen can gather the facts from a variety of reliable sources in London, Paris, and Washington, and publish them.

Aswan Dam Reviewed
 This correspondent presents today a brief summary of what happened on the inside with reference to the so-called "abrupt" termination of the Aswan Dam negotiations:

1. In November, 1955, the United States government, the British Government and the world bank carried on at Washington a negotiation with the Egyptian Minister of Finance, and an agreement was worked out to help finance the building of the Aswan Dam.

2. An agreement was accelerated because Egypt had made an arms deal for Russian arms to be supplied through Czechoslovakia. The World Bank had been working for three years on the Aswan Dam problem.

3. The agreement provided that the United States would grant \$56,000,000, Great Britain \$14,000,000, and The World Bank about \$20,000,000, making a total of \$270,000,000.

Nasser Didn't Like It
 4. The terms were taken back to Cairo for Nasser to approve. The Egyptian President didn't like the agreement, particularly the conditions of repayment laid down by The World Bank. So, in February 1956, Nasser invited Eugene Black, president of The World Bank, to come to Cairo to discuss it. During a two-week visit, Mr. Black urged Nasser to accept the agreement as being very liberal indeed, but Nasser said he wasn't satisfied. One of the things that worried him was that the \$270,000,000 left him about \$130,000,000 short of the \$400,000,000 he needed in foreign exchange. He wanted a commitment for that \$130,000,000.

5. Word was transmitted to the United States and British governments, and they promptly said they would give "sympathetic consideration" to his request. But at that time the foreign-aid bill was pending in congress. Although President Eisenhower and Secretary Dulles couldn't say so, they wanted the broad power or so-called "blank check" authority for "long range" aid primarily to handle a situation like the one which would have taken 18 years to build the Aswan Dam and a long-range commitment couldn't be given without the consent of congress.

Against Long Planning
 6. At this time there was a decided sentiment in congress against long-range commitments. The administration's foreign-aid bill was in trouble and several southern senators feared competition from Egyptian cotton with American cotton if this country, in effect, relieved Egypt of some of her obligations in the foreign exchange markets of the world.

7. In July, 1956, Nasser accepted the original conditions of the World Bank but still wanted to get a change in the terms of the grants by the American and British governments. The Egyptian ambassador at Washington, after a trip to Cairo, told Mr. Dulles that Nasser now was prepared to go ahead. But between February and July, 1956, Nasser had involved himself more deeply with the Russians and had mortgaged more and more of his cotton to pay for the arms from the Communist nations. Likewise the British felt Nasser had been instrumental in expelling General Glubb from Jordan, the French felt Nasser was instigating much of the trouble in Algeria and supplying arms to the rebels, and many members of congress were alienated because Nasser deliberately recognized Communist China—the first U.S. member to do this since the Korean War. All this, together with the attitude of southern senators on the cotton question, caused the collapse of the Aswan Dam negotiations.

Hinted at Seizure
 8. Nasser hinted in a statement long before the Aswan Dam negotiations failed that he would seize the Suez Canal at any time he wished. Britain and France became so exasperated over Nasser's behavior in the negotiations with him after the seizure of the canal that, though urged by Secretary Dulles not to use military force, they did so anyway.

If congress had been willing to let Mr. Dulles make a pledge of \$130,000,000 more back in February 1956, would there have been a crisis in the Middle East? Would it have made any difference, since Nasser was operating closely with the Communists and trying to play one side against the other? But it is interesting to speculate what a big crisis in the world might have been averted if members of congress who like to blame the secretary of state had been willing to give the administration discretionary powers over long-range foreign aid.

The President is asking again for some of the same kind of broad authority to deal with an ever-changing situation in the Middle East. Will he get it, or will congress block it again?

MAN FITS THE HAT

Sherman County Journal

The present style in men's hats is an extension of the style that started with straw hats and was gradually brought to wool. The hat is still narrow brimmed and is worn in a tilted position. It seems to fit men with square little voices and a mewing wail.

Tough Kid Barring the Way



Salem 11 Yrs. Ago

By BEN MAXWELL, Capital Journal Writer

Jan. 29, 1946
 Federal housing authority has allocated 90 housing units to Salem for veteran usage, 60 to the city, 30 to Willamette university. The allocation called for removal of units from Vancouver barracks. (Last of Salem's temporary veterans' housing was razed late in 1955.)

Representative of four flax cooperatives had appealed to the state board of control to remain in the flax business. Willamette Flax Fiber association wanted the state to get out of flax.

Both have pumped aid into the area. Both have done some piecemeal planning. Both played by ear. Neither can be said to have had a real Middle East policy.

The new Eisenhower program—judging from the vagueness of President Eisenhower and Secretary of State Dulles on what it will do and how—seems less a policy than an appearance of action until a policy can be worked out.

Involve American Failures
 The reason for Middle East turmoil and lack of planning for long-range solutions by both administrations have roots that are complex and deep. They go far back and involve some American failures.

For example: Both administrations have failed to live up to the 1950 U.S.-British-French agreement that the three allies would take "immediate action" to stop violations of frontiers or armistice lines by Arabs or Israelis. Those violations have been committed constantly by Jews and Arabs.

Neither Gained Solution
 Neither administration came close to working out a solution for the resettlement of the 800,000 Arab refugees from the Arab-Israeli war of 1948. They are still homeless, scattered in Arab countries around Israel's borders.

Most of the 70 million Arabs live under wretched conditions, cause enough for unrest. But their rulers, suspicious of one another, are united only in their hatred of the new Jewish state of Israel created in 1948.

Arab intellectuals and students are discontented. They recognize the condition of their people, the absence of solutions, and the lack of opportunity and security for Arabs in general and themselves in particular.

The West's need for oil is one reason it can't afford to let communism have the Middle East. But little wealth trickles down to the masses from the fortunes in revenues handed over yearly by the oil companies to the ruling dynasties.

Need Long Planning
 Most Middle East observers will probably agree the best hope for a solution is in long-range planning. Congress is opposed to long-range commitments and neither the Truman nor Eisenhower administration has bucked Congress on this.

Even if they did, the lack of stability in Middle East governments would be a primary stumbling block to giving long-term aid. If this dilemma can be solved, it will be an international miracle. That's the economic background.

Meanwhile, Arab rulers like Egypt's President Nasser use a political device to divert their people's attention from the failure of the leadership to improve their condition or give them a sense of security.

They do it by appealing to their people's nationalism, their hatred of colonialism, and their prejudices against the Jews of Israel. But, the nationalist and anti-colonial themes would be invalidated if they didn't have strong foundations in fact and memory.

Remember WWI
 The Arabs don't have to remember any further back than the years after World War I when the British and French sought to control and dominate the Middle East, and did for a good while.

So long as this country's two allies were a forceful influence in the area it could afford to sit back and not worry about the approach of communism. To push into the Middle East they might have jeopardized the Western alliance.

The Truman and Eisenhower administrations apparently felt compelled even to avoid criticizing the colonialism of its allies for fear of alienating them. But the failure to do so, in the eyes of many Arabs, could only help identify the United States as a supporter of colonialism if not outright colonialist.

But the fiasco of the British-French attack on Egypt, the new hatred it engendered for the West and the new good will it brought to Russia shocked this country into realizing it needed to act or face disaster.

NEW YORK—Charles Van Doren, deciding not to pocket his winnings of \$122,000 but to continue answering questions on a television quiz show:

"I hate to quit. It takes more guts to quit than to go on."

SAN FRANCISCO—Henry Ford II, president of Ford Motor Co., suggesting the withholding of aid from Soviet satellites is not in our own best interests:

"I think we need to be realistic and decide whether our trade and aid policies toward such satellite areas as Poland, Hungary, East Germany and even Red China are really in our own best interests."

A Smile or Two
 A pale, shabby customer approached a bartender on the afternoon of New Year's Day. "Was I here last night?" he asked.

"You sure were," the bartender said. "You ordered drinks for everybody at the bar, time and again, like you owned the joint. You paid up with a one-hundred-dollar bill—left a big tip."

The customer looked puzzled. "I'm so glad," he said with a sigh. "I thought I'd lost it." —Ollie James in Cincinnati Enquirer.

They Say Today

Quotes From The News BY UNITED PRESS
 LONDON—Great Britain's Home Secretary R. A. Butler, representing Prime Minister Harold Macmillan in Parliament and supporting the U.S. policy of stationing American servicemen in Britain:

"The purpose of this policy, far from provoking war, is to prevent it. The U.S. forces in the United Kingdom are part of the deterrent against war."

MIAMI BEACH, Fla.—Walter Reuther, commenting on a statement by the Executive Council of the merged AFL-CIO that union officials should speak up "freely and without reservation" before a congressional investigation of labor racketeering:

"It is an important historical step to rid the labor movement of a small minority of crooked, corrupt leaders."

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POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER

Answer Man in White House Runs Super Duper Quiz Show

By BELMAN MORIN, For Hal Boyle

WASHINGTON — There is a man in the White House who spends most of his time in the answer box of a kind of super quiz show.

His task, in part, is to come up with the information if a member of the President's staff should happen to ask:

"Is it okay for the secretary of the treasury to own a yacht?"

Answer: No. An old law sets him apart from the rest of us in this respect. The intent of it was, apparently, to keep the man who handles the nation's money from goofing off on sunny summer afternoons.

"Does the whole cabinet have to be renominated when a President starts his new term?"

Answer: Only the postmaster general. His tenure has a specific expiration date, so he must go through the farms again.

And so on, six days a week, sometimes on Sunday.

The man who gets these queries—and most are infinitely more complicated—is A. Wayne Hawks, chief of the office of records in the White House. He is alert, sharp-eyed, a former sportswriter and telegraph operator, two professions that help a man in almost any job.

He came to the White House shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor when, naturally, the President's communications ballooned to fantastic proportions. Later, Hawks came into his present assignment.

To a considerable degree, Hawks' office mirrors the incredible complexity of the President's many-sided tasks.

Thousands of papers relating to virtually the whole business of big government come across his desk. He files complete copies of some, keeps only the gist of others. Even so, his files long ago spilled from the White House to the attic of the old State Department building.

It takes 18 books of appointments, alone, to contain the difference qualifications for different offices. For instance, it is much simpler to nominate a man for a cabinet post than for some obscure body.

Apart from these myriad details, he has to be a kind of combined lawyer and historian.

Hawks is forever poring over dusty records, chasing that elusive ghost known as the "intent" of the law. As time passes, a statute may come to assume forms wholly unlike the aims of Congress when the law was passed.

He also has saturated himself, from necessity, with the background of a famous running dispute—the actions of different Presidents with respect to denying information to congressional committees. Remember the Army-McCarthy hearings of several years back?

"You have to remember another thing," Hawks said, "from the date this administration took office, the staff began studying ways of relieving the President of unnecessary paper work. I suppose I see as much of the picture as anybody. Plenty of dead wood is gone."

With respect to history, background information, legal opinions and so on, why not simply go to the Department of Justice, the Library of Congress, or whatever department was primarily involved?

"We do, sometimes, Hawks said. Then he added, like a hallmark of Washington today— "But mostly it's a question of time. There's so much to do you have to save minutes wherever you can."

Parents Are Lazy
 St. Louis Globe-Democrat

During the current March of Dimes drive, the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis pleads that the battle against polio is far from won. In this statement they are quite correct.

The same issues of the newspapers which carried their appeal also carried pictures of thousands upon thousands of Salk vaccine shots languishing on the shelves of warehouses, distributors and doctors' offices.

At the same time, many thousands of children who might be subject to polio have had only one or two shots or perhaps no shots at all, rather than the three prescribed by the Salk process.

In other words, the thoughtlessness or laziness or indifference of thousands of parents in seeing that their children have proper protection from polio is one of the great contributing factors to the yet-unwon battle against this dread disease.

What is required to awaken parents so that they will take advantage for their children, of the prevention of this disease which is virtually at hand, it is a perfectly shocking thing that so relatively small a percentage of children have real protection against a disease which might cost them their life, when shots are available to all.

The schools and the doctors have tried to sell the parents on the need for a complete course of shots. Because of the considerable time lag between the three, parents simply forget.

This season, when so much publicity is being poured out for polio, it would be well if each parent examined his or her own children's Salk vaccine shot record, and having examined it, if it is incomplete, complete the course, bearing in mind that the last shot must be spaced seven months after the second.

Polio can be largely beaten with the tools already at hand if the three shots are given before summer. Parents will be doing a great service not only to their children but to the community at large, in completing the basic program.

A Smile or Two
 Teen-ager, writing home from boarding school: "Please send food packages. . . All I serve here is breakfast, lunch and dinner." —Bay State.

A man was quarreling with his wife. After a particularly biting remark, she burst into tears and said, "How can you treat me like this when I've given you the seven best years of my life?"

"Good heavens!" replied her husband, "were those your best?" —Montreal Star.

I have a NEW place to hang my hat!

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