

Washington Digest

Know Your Congressman To Make Democracy Work

By BAUKHAGE

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The time of the singing of candidates has come, and the voice of the mock - turtle is heard in the land.

The representatives of the people are about to assure you that you have been well - represented, and that they would like to continue to do the representing.

And who are you to say no, if you don't know exactly how well your representatives in the house of representatives or in the senate have carried out your interests?

Issues are being joined, there are sharp cleavages of thought these days. And if you don't take the trouble to vote for the men in congress who are voting the way you want them to, you have no right to lambast congress. True, it does take some trouble to learn to read your congressman's record correctly. A simple statement by a candidate that he voted for the X bill (the one you wanted passed) doesn't mean too much.

A number of energetic organizations are out to tell you how to read the lawmakers' records. One organization is the National Citizens' Political Action committee which reminds voters:

"A favorite device of congressmen is to vote for a series of mangle amendments, or to procrastinate with investigations or recommendations. Then, having partially or completely wrecked the usefulness of a bill, they may vote for the final version. Don't take these votes at face value."

In other words, don't be satisfied with the record of the final vote. See how your congressman voted on the amendments.

The NC-PAC literature concludes with a warning that any voter, whatever side he is on, may well take to heart:

"When your congressmen start promising in their forthcoming campaigns, check their past voting records very carefully. Don't take it for granted that if they voted for a measure, they were for it, and fought for it. Perhaps they helped cripple it first."

Disguise Enmity To Legislation

That is true, and with a little investigation, you will learn that a lot of congressmen, whose real views and activities you really wouldn't subscribe to at all, may have been voting in favor of some of the bills you would like to see passed. Later, when he is soliciting your support, he will point with pride to these measures, omitting to mention the fact that he helped to emasculate them carefully before they came to a vote.

He will also find sometimes that though he has loudly shouted down a bill (which you didn't like, and, secretly, he did), he did not actually work against it. Perhaps, finally, he even voted for it if there was no roll call.

Another way in which a congressman can fool his constituents is to offer an amendment which appeals to his particular locality, but which he knows can't possibly go through. That appeases the constituents and, at the same time, doesn't hurt the congressman with the particular interests with whom he may be friendly. They know, as well as he does, that the whole thing is just an empty gesture.

Kill Bill With Recriminal

The vote to "recommit" is a favorite trick, and usually reveals the true sentiments of a senator or congressman. Not much attention is paid to these votes. When a bill is "recommitted," it is sent back to committee, supposedly for reconsideration. Actually, recommitment usually means the measure is pigeonholed forever.

On the other hand, when a powerful committee pigeonholes a bill you would like to see passed, and your congressman is willing to sign a petition to try to get it out, you can be pretty certain he is sincerely working to get it through.

Of course, what goes on secretly in committees is most important, and can usually be found out, for the newspaper and radio correspondents make every effort to

report the inside facts. This is not difficult for the reporters, since committee members whose efforts were defeated are usually willing to divulge the machinations of the majority - if there were any machinations.

Admittedly getting all this information takes time and trouble on your part. But that is the price you have to pay for the kind of government you want. The government makes you take time to figure out your income tax and to do a lot of other little chores, but it doesn't force you to inform yourself on how your government is being run. However, the information is all there, if you care to take the trouble to get it. Reports of public hearings, as well as the record of what happens on house and senate floors, are available for the asking. That is a part of your congressman's job - reporting to you.

As Lowell Mellett says in his "Handbook of Politics": "The true test of a member of congress is not the good bills for which he voted, but the good bills he voted against - plus the number of bad bills he voted for."

Nobody can ever take democracy away from you - you have to give it away, by default. And such "defaulting" is no rare occurrence. Within the last few months, I know of four organizations which discovered there was a Communist in their midst. Furthermore, that Communist, using his own energy, and taking advantage of the indifference of the other members, had gained a key position in the group. As soon as the rest woke up and realized the real purpose of measures taken under what amounted to this man's minority rule they threw him out. You know, "eternal vigilance. . ."

Knowledge is power. Know your congressman, don't knock him.

The Leaves Secrets Untold

The final report of General Eisenhower to the combined chiefs of staff, which has at last been released, is a splendid example of terse and comprehensive exposition. Into less than 123 pages is compressed the epic of the greatest military operation in history, extending from D-Day to V-E Day.

It is unfortunate, for the sake of mystery lovers, that the document does not go into detail concerning one phase of the invasion which has rightly been called "the greatest deception in history" - the clever ruses which caused the enemy to make his fatal miscalculations. The Germans knew that the Allied landing must be made somewhere within a relatively limited length of shore-line, but despite this, they were completely deceived as to where that landing was to be. The result was that the Allies were able to get a foothold which they might never have been able to secure, had the Germans guessed the prospective location of the real beachheads.

Obviously, the natural place for a landing would be in reasonable proximity to Calais, where the English channel is narrowest. Actually, the nearest beachhead was established more than a hundred miles farther to the west, but the whole German 15th army remained immobilized in that locality until it was too late.

But even after the landings were made, the Germans were not sure they were the main objectives. This was because of a five-prong plan of deception, all the prongs pointing to simulated diversionary attacks by land, sea and air, away from the actual invasion area.

One simulated attack was at Cap d'Antifer, northwest of Le Havre, far to the east of the invasion area. There, planes, ships and balloons moved in, gradually producing echoes on the German radar warning instruments similar to the approach of a convoy.

Another fake landing was staged in the direction of Boulogne, still farther east, with 16 ships and accompanying planes. The steady patrolling of the skies was taken by the Germans to be the air cover of an oncoming armada.

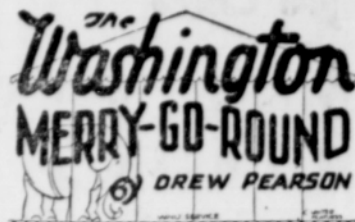
Far to the west, halfway down the Cherbourg peninsula, and at various other points, dummy airborne invasions were carried out. The Germans finally decided that the real thing was approaching Boulogne, and opened up with all they had. Meantime, the actual invasion forces crossed the channel without any interference by air or sea.

It was a grand fake.

A Case for The Forsaken 'R'

As a midwesterner born, I have battled many years for the letter "R."

Therefore I was overjoyed to find further distinction for the "Rs" as against the "R-nots." It was in that strangely intriguing "Book About a Thousand Things" by George Stimpson (whose "Book About the Bible" I have mentioned before in these columns) that I learned that "R" and "L" are the "last and most difficult consonants added to speech."



NEW NATIONAL ANTHEM

WASHINGTON—Gen. Joseph P. McNarney, who is doing a better job as commander of occupied Germany than most people think, likes to sing. And when he comes up to Berlin for his regular visits with the other Allied commanders, he always engages in a song fest with the Russians.

As a result, the Russians have adopted a new song which they virtually regard as the American national anthem. They sing it on any and all occasions. They think it brings pride and pleasure to the hearts of Americans; and the Red army in Berlin, at least, is anxious to please Americans.

Actually, the song may bring great pride and pleasure to General McNarney, but other Americans privately are getting a bit weary of it. The Russians have learned the English words, and to the tune of "The Stars and Stripes Forever," here is what they sing as the new American national anthem:

"Three cheers for the Sam Jones Junior high school.

The best junior high in Toledo." The fact that they have learned the words illustrates a point which some of our top-bracket statesmen don't always realize—namely, despite our difficulties with the Soviet government, we have no quarrel with the Russian people. Not much has been said about it, but relations between the American and Soviet armies in Berlin have been extraordinarily good. At first, the Russians were suspicious, didn't want any fraternization of their troops with ours. But that suspicion has largely disappeared. The Red army is a large, unwieldy, badly disciplined, very human cross section of the Russian people, and that part of the Red army which is in Berlin likes Americans.

PRUSSIAN JUNKERS Robert Murphy, political adviser to General McNarney in Berlin, has secretly sent a bitter complaint to the state department because the Russians have redistributed the estates of the Prussian Junkers in the Soviet zone of Germany. The Russians have broken up some 10,000 large estates among about 275,000 peasants. Despite the fact that the Potsdam agreement specifically called for breaking up large estates, Murphy has warned Washington that this land reform in the Russian zone is endangering the western type of democracy we want.

WE DIDN'T DEFEAT JAPAN Most people won't believe it, but in Czechoslovakia, a country not unfriendly to the U. S. A., the people have no idea that the United States had anything to do with defeating Japan. They think it was Russia that did it all.

Reason is that the Russian radio and propaganda machine has done a skillful job of propagandizing the Czechoslovak people, while we have done absolutely nothing to counteract it. Reason we haven't told our side of the story is that congress has hamstringed the state department on shortwave broadcasting. The house appropriations committee cut the heart out of the state department's appropriation for propaganda, especially radio broadcasting.

MAILMAN SULLIVAN Too little attention is paid in this politics-ridden capital to the quiet, unassuming officials who consistently do a bang-up job.

One of them is Assistant Postmaster General Gael Sullivan. Coming from Chicago and trained under Mayor Ed Kelly, Sullivan at first looked like a pure political appointee. In six months, however, he has become one of the most effective members of the little cabinet.

CAPITAL CHAFF Both the Chinese Nationalists and the Chinese Communists are bursting to learn what's in the script for "The Life of Dr. Sun-Yat-Sen," a new movie to be made by Producer Lester Cowan. Perhaps General Marshall could use oriental curiosity to persuade both sides to get together. . . Assistant Secretary of the Navy John Kenny is the latest to knife President Truman's atomic control policy. Kenny testified on Capitol Hill that he was personally in favor of giving the military greater control over atomic energy—which was directly contrary to his commander-in-chief. . . British Tories are urging ex-Prime Minister Winston Churchill to resign as Tory leader of commons and devote himself solely to writing his memoirs. They seem to feel he can be more useful in private life.

MERRY GO ROUND It got little publicity, but President Truman pulled an A-1 man out of the navy when he made Comdr. Jim Reynolds a member of the National Labor Relations board. Reynolds is brother of famed War Correspondent Quentin Reynolds, has been doing a good job handling the navy's labor relations. . . Harold Ickes had his first censorship difficulties when the Washington Star didn't like what he wrote about Senator McCarran of Nevada, and omitted that particular column.

Kathleen Norris Says:

Three Unmarried Sisters

Bell Syndicate.—WNU Features.



"We all liked Harold, and could share Margery's disappointment when he wrote from the South seas to break his engagement."

By KATHLEEN NORRIS

"I HAVE three very attractive daughters, aged 29, 27 and 23," writes Mrs. Baker of Illinois. "Two are schoolteachers and one is head librarian of our public library. My only son was drafted five years ago, married the following year, and while he lives in our small town and everything is friendly enough, there is no especial sympathy between his sisters and his wife. He has two little girls who stay with us overnight occasionally. Otherwise we have small contact with his family."

"About three years ago, a young naval lieutenant paid marked attention to my middle daughter, Margery. Her sisters, Emilie and Barbara, found this rather amusing, but we all liked Harold, and could share Margery's disappointment when he wrote from the south seas to break his engagement. I believe she has recovered from this experience, but she has had no other admirer, and Bobs and Em have never had a love affair. I am writing to ask you if you can explain why, and also if you have any suggestions that will bring these lovely young women into the ordinary current of courtship and marriage?"

"They are all nice-looking, pleasant-mannered, dress well and hold good positions. They have many friends, if no special intimates. Their father was an invalid until three years ago, when he died. Since then, ours has been a happy, busy household of women. We love our garden, put up apples and peaches and berries from our few trees every year, love books, enjoy good radio and record music, take a deep interest in each others daily recital of events. We attend church, and the girls have a hundred small activities of ironing, embroidering, knitting, cooking, trying to win prizes for contests of all sort, writing poems for competitions and so on."

Skeptical of Marriage. "That they have a somewhat skeptical and humorous view of marriage and motherhood is natural; they see their friends burdened with domestic cares, nurses, husbands not always easy to please, and they remember the exactions and difficulties of their father's peculiar nature. Perhaps they are unconsciously too exacting in their demands upon men, but then men don't come near enough even to be judged as possible husbands. Margery now blames herself for her broken engagement, as she wrote Harold about the closeness of the relationship among us all, and reminded him frequently that he was marrying the whole family. This may have seriously impressed a man at a long distance from home, a man who was not too well acquainted with his wife's people. "But I know, or I suspect, that it would make all three girls happy to have one of them marry well, and a man in the group might bring in other possible husbands. As their mother, I am completely content with this smoothly-running, harmonious household, but sometimes I suspect myself of selfishness, and wonder where I failed them, if I failed them. Please advise an adoring mother."

My advice to the adoring mother may surprise her. I am going to advise her to let well enough alone. She has more than her share of fel-

LEAVE THEM ALONE

A widow with three unmarried daughters is concerned about them. She says they are attractive and well educated. Two are teachers and the other a librarian. They have a pleasant home in a small city. While they have many friends, they have few close ones. Since their father died, these girls have been interested in church affairs, books, music and household matters such as canning and sewing. They enter various magazine contests, especially in verse writing.

Their ages are 23, 27 and 29. The middle one was engaged to a naval officer, but he broke the engagement while in the Pacific area. All the girls take a somewhat "skeptical and humorous view of marriage," disliking its worries, risks and problems. They were depressed by the long period when they had to care for their invalid father.

This mother thinks, however, that if one of them should enter a happy marriage, the others would be pleased, and perhaps follow suit. She asks Miss Norris how she can help to interest some desirable men. Miss Norris replies, rather startlingly, that the best course for her would be to do nothing. Perhaps these girls are best fitted for the single life. A marriage among them might be a mistake, and would very possibly destroy the present fairly happy situation.

city now, a lovely home, no money worries, a son and grandchildren, and three satisfied, busy, useful daughters. Why go out of her way to bring in some element that, with these girls' peculiar upbringing may well upset the appellation once and for all?

Some Like Single Life.

There are women who really like the independence, freedom, comfort of single life. To be sure, there are not often three of this sort in one family, but here are three who, with their mother, have evidently built themselves a snug and complacent pattern of life. They smile with superiority at the idea of a man's dominion over and influence upon, his wife, of the undeniable responsibilities and fatigues of home-keeping and child-bearing. Ninety-nine men out of a hundred would have no patience with them and their opinionated position, and the hundredth man would be of the spineless sort that would fulfill their direst expectations of matrimony.

If I were you, adoring mother, I would accept the idea of their bachelor-girl status, improve upon it with plans for a mountain or beach cabin, new collections and hobbies, pleasant ways of wearing hair or designing frocks that will express their own individualities. Let the idea of attracting men go; try instead to help the girls grow pleasant, gentler, less assertive and smug.

Their fate is probably singleness. But accepting that idea, and working from that angle, may well prove to be the bait that will draw them to truer and gentler ideals of womanhood, and so find for each one of the three a wider happiness with a real mate.

New Bible Well Received.

The Revised Standard version of the New Testament with a half a million copies sold since publication in February, has entered the bracket of the "best seller" field. Like all translations of the Bible the new version has been the center of controversy based on popular conservatism. One noted theologian, the late Dean William Ladd of Berkeley Divinity school, once told his class that "People want to read the Bible the way they have always read it," without any "tampering."



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IN GREAT GRANDMOTHER'S day knife boxes were a popular project for home craftsmen. Today, they are proving so useful and attractive that the old designs are being copied in modern workshops. The design shown here also has an Early American stand with small leaves that pull out with tiny brass knobs. Both pieces are easy to cut and assemble from white pine which, when oiled and waxed, has a real antique appearance. Pattern 281 is actual size for the shaped pieces, also gives cutting diagrams for all other parts, illustrated directions and list of materials. Price of pattern is 15c post-paid. Order pattern direct from:

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WNU-13 28-46

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DOAN'S PILLS

BARBS . . . by Baukhage

After all that battling around in congressional committees, OPA, as expected, came out battered rather than bettered.

The Supreme court controversy boils down to what is really only a difference of opinion - something which is taken for granted among individuals, and which is said to make horse-racing interesting.