

Capitol Hill Hears Earnest Request

Senate Chaplain Marshall Offers Challenging Prayer

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WASHINGTON. — Many words spoken beneath the high-arched dome of the capitol become first page news. But seldom quoted are the words which appear beginning with the third paragraph of the first page of the Congressional Record. However twice recently they were quoted — and widely.



Baukhage

They were preceded by two first paragraphs which for the past 10 years have varied only as to the proper names and hour mentioned therein:—

"The senate met at 11 o'clock a. m. on the expiration of the recess."

"The chaplain, Rev. Peter Marshall, D. D., offered the following prayer:"

"Then came 'paragraph three,' including the part of the prayer offered for that day that appealed to me:

"Forbid it, Lord, that we should walk through thy beautiful world with unseeing eyes. Forgive us, our Father, for taking our good things for granted, so that we are in danger of losing the fine art of appreciation. With such dire need in every other part of the world, make us so grateful for the bounties we enjoy that we shall try, by Thy help, to deserve them more. Where we are wrong, make us willing to change, and where we are right, make us easy to live with."

I repeated that last paragraph on my broadcast because one of my associates had called it to my attention that morning. Since then I have been getting letters from all over the country asking for copies of that prayer. Earlier (though I had not noticed the items) Time magazine had carried a story about Chaplain Marshall, and Newsweek magazine had quoted part of another prayer:

"Help us to do our very best this day and be content with today's troubles, so that we shall not borrow the troubles of tomorrow. Save us from the sin of worrying, lest stomach ulcers be the badge of our lack of faith. Amen."

I think my choice is a fairer sample of Marshalliana. But both selections reveal one characteristic of the doctor's utterances, which perhaps is a reason for his popularity. He is able to reduce religion to the simplest and most understandable terms—his similes (like those of his Teacher) are taken out of our daily life.

Peter Marshall is an interesting person as well as a popular preacher.

Immigrant Boy Fulfills Ambition

Dr. Marshall's personal history is reminiscent of early Horatio Alger. He came to this country from a foreign land because he believed America was the land of opportunity. But his story is unique in this: He came, not with the dream of "making his fortune," but to fulfill an ambition for neither wealth nor power, but simply to get a theological education.

He was born in Coatsville in Lanarkshire, Scotland. His father died when he was little, and Marshall was raised by his mother and stepfather, who sent him to public school and later to a technical institution. On graduation, he took a position in a tube-manufacturing concern.

But he wanted to be a minister, and he decided it would be easier to obtain an education for this calling in the United States. He came to this country in his early twenties; found work in New Jersey, but soon had an opportunity to go to Alabama where he joined the business department of the Birmingham News. With the help of some friends who became interested in this pleasant Scottish boy with the intriguing burr and the inspired goal, he was able to enter Columbia Theological seminary, from which he was graduated in 1931.

He held two pastorates in Georgia, and made the acquaintance of the young lady who is now his wife. In 1937, he was called to the historic "Church of the Presidents" in Washington, a church which has numbered among its worshippers John Quincy Adams, Andrew Jackson, William Henry Harrison, James Buchanan, Andrew Johnson, Millard Fillmore, Grover Cleveland, Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln, whose pew, left as it was when he used it, is a shrine for tourists.

Dr. Marshall was elected chaplain of the senate on January 4 of this

year, and it might be well to record a bit of recent history as a background to his selection.

Dr. Ze Barney Phillips was chaplain of the senate for 15 years—from 1927 to 1942. When he died, many senators had favorite candidates for his job. They "auditioned" them, just like radio announcers—although the ministers didn't know they were being auditioned, and no senator would admit such a thing.

From among the candidates, Dr. Frederick Brown Harris, Methodist, emerged victorious, gossips say, because he delivered the shortest prayer. Later on Dr. Harris' prayers became longer, a common phenomenon among senate chaplains according to some of the old timers in congress. What they don't add is that in the speech-makingest body in the country, the affliction may be contagious.

Traditionally, filling of the chaplain's post is a majority party pre-



The Rev. Peter Marshall, D.D., senate chaplain, offered a prayer that probed deep into the consciousness of the nation's busy, harassed legislators.

rogative, and so when the Republican 80th congress convened, after disposing of the question of Senator Bilbo's qualifications, Senator Wherry arose to offer a resolution that Dr. Marshall be elected chaplain of the senate.

But Wherry's proposal touched off an argument occupying nine close-typed columns in the Congressional Record. (No chaplain would dare deliver a sermon THAT long.)

Democratic Sen. Alben Barkley maintained that Dr. Harris had done a fine job and should be retained. He added that politics should not be permitted to touch the office of senate chaplain. He opined that Republicans were "offering a very poor example for the time when the Democrats resume control of the body two years from now." (1948—1951)

Republican Senator Bridges was shocked at the implication that politics might be involved. Why, he protested, he didn't even know Dr. Marshall's politics.

But the Republicans had their majority. Dr. Marshall got the job, and as far as I can learn, nobody has regretted the choice.

There are some Washingtonians who have read and listened to this Scottish boy whom America has awarded for achievement in a calling in which there are often few earthly awards, who feel that his presence in the Lincoln church is quite as "appropriate" as his appointment as chaplain of the senate. They feel that if the ghost of the Great Emancipator ever slips into his old pew of a Sunday, he smiles in approval of the simple, earthy truisms, not too unlike his own, which come down from one pulpit in that friendly Scottish burr, with the same terse impact with which they echo from the rostrum of the senate.

SLIM CHANCE

Survey Indicates No Depression

WASHINGTON. — Chances of a depression in the near future appear slim, in the opinion of a committee of congressmen studying the nation's economy.

In its report, the joint senate-house economic committee disclosed that most of the 583 persons who answered a survey expect a "mild recession" this fall. The committee concluded, however, that "answers to the economic questions do not give any real support to the theory that we are nearing a depression."

The survey showed "general

agreement" that prices of most types of goods will fall and wage rates will rise between now and January 1, the report pointed out. Businessmen are unduly pessimistic about other people's trade prospects while encouraged about their own, it added.

Hearings on the nation's economic future will be commenced next week by the committee, which is headed by Sen. Robert A. Taft (Rep., Ohio). Taft said the committee wants to examine businessmen, economists, labor leaders, farm leaders, industrialists and contrac-

tors on "what they believe is happening in our American economy, with particular reference to the current price situation."

Taft said he intends to ask the committee later to study the effect of potentially large foreign loans on the domestic economy.

Earlier Taft had declared that he believed President Truman and the Democratic administration had abandoned efforts to bring prices down in favor of "heavy lending" abroad. He contended such lending would keep domestic prices up.



THREE YEARS AFTER DESTRUCTION . . . It has been just three years since American and Allied troops stormed the beaches of Normandy D-Day to begin the invasion of Europe. Streets like this one in Caen, France, raged with bullets and mortar shells, and it would have been impossible then for a little girl to walk along the sidewalk carrying bread for the family's dinner. But now the war looks far away.

NEWS REVIEW

Shipping Crisis Impends; Predict High Feed Prices

Fears of a minor crisis in railway shipping in mid-July have been expressed by federal transportation experts in view of an apparent slowdown in freight car construction.

Contributing factors are mounting industrial production coupled with increasingly heavy wheat export movements, and officials predict that the "minor crisis" could swiftly develop into a major transportation block unless steps are taken to ease the traffic slowdown or prevent it from occurring.

With fate of the now financially embarrassed Office of Defense Transportation still undecided, the Interstate Commerce commission has been requested to assume full responsibility for continuing orders requiring full loading of boxcars in the event that congress does not extend the life of ODT beyond its June 30 expiration date.

Meantime, ODT has sent investigators to freight car building companies to probe reports that allocated steel tonnages have not gone entirely into the 10,000-a-month car construction program.

Reports for the first half of May indicated that only 1,751 freight cars were built, 81 short of the number constructed during the corresponding period in April.

Explanation offered by the car builders is that inadequate steel supplies and strikes within the industry have been responsible for the grave decline in freight car construction. That view, however, is discounted by federal officials who point out that the government forced the steel industry to provide the necessary 200,000 tons of steel for the 10,000-a-month goal.

FEED PRICES:

To Stay Up

Prospects for the 1947 feed crops will be an important influence on feed prices, according to a department of agriculture report.

The very strong foreign demand for grain is expected to continue to support prices through 1947 and into 1948; although if production of feed is as large as in recent years, feed prices probably will decline, at least seasonally, in the last half of 1947.

Corn prices this summer, the report predicted, will average higher than the June, 1946, ceilings, but lower than in the summer of 1946 after price controls lapsed.

The department's survey went on to reveal that reports in early May

indicated that approximately 832 million bushels of 1946 corn would be marketed this season. That figure would be 50 per cent greater than the 1938-42 average and 14 per cent above the previous record sales from the 1944 crop. Farm sales of other feed grains from 1946 crops also ran generally larger.

SWINGBACK:

Braden Quits

Spruille Braden, longtime advocate of and principal force behind this country's hard-handed attitude toward Fascist-inclined Argentina, has resigned as assistant secretary of state in charge of Latin-American affairs.

To succeed him in that post, President Truman was expected to nominate Norman Armour of New Jersey, top-flight career diplomat. Armour previously served as American envoy in the Argentine and is well known and liked there. Latin-American reaction to his appointment was expected to be highly favorable.

Acceptance of Braden's resignation by President Truman was generally regarded as a strong implication that the United States is ready to swing back to a policy of appeasement in Latin America. It was anticipated that the changed attitude would take the form of "just a little appeasement" of Latin-American Fascist dictators, particularly Juan D. Peron, president of Argentina.

Braden, long a foe of Peron and his methods, told Mr. Truman in a letter that personal responsibilities compelled him to return to private business.

Departure of Braden from the state department followed closely on the heels of his being overruled by the administration on two basic issues in inter-American relations: Supplying of arms to Latin-American nations and formation of a military alliance with other republics in the western hemisphere.



Armour



Braden



MILLIONS, many millions, follow baseball records closely. This includes batting and pitching especially. But you often wonder just how much they actually mean. Take the won and lost column. What chance has a pitcher working with a tailender or a cellar tender against one pitching for a winning team?



W. Johnson

ly would have a better average with a better team.

I recall in other years, that Christy Mathewson had no respect for an earned-run average.

"The main idea is to win the ball game," Matty used to say, "and to save yourself for more work on ahead. If I can pick up four or five runs, why pitch my arm off for an individual mark? This lead gives me a chance to rest my arm for other games. Pitchers who bear down all through nine innings are sure to have trouble later on."

Home-run records and strike outs are usually earned, although the quality of opposition is still a big factor.

Looking over pitchers, Phil Marchion of the Athletics ranks extremely high. Winning four games with the Athletics puts him far above such stars as Feller and Newhouse.

In checking along these lines, the two greatest pitching records belong to Walter Johnson and Grover Alexander.

Team Support Counts

Johnson won over 400 games working for a weak club, and one especially weak at bat, Washington could give Johnson few runs. He had no heavy artillery back of him throughout his long career. It was Johnson who had to face the Cobbs, Ruths, Jacksons, Speakers, Lajoies, Collins and such. The stars were all on the other side.

In the same way, Alexander, in his earlier years, had the weak Phillies with him, with Cubs, Giants, Pirates and other teams far better supplied with ballplayers.

His feat of pitching 16 shut outs in 1916 stands as a record that may never be touched. One reason is that he pitched many of these in the Phillies handball park where a long fly meant a home run.

Alexander missed the opportunity of pitching for a strong team until he was moving over the hill. By the time Pete reached the Cubs and the Cardinals his prime had passed.

It is easy to understand why no good ballplayer, with a chance for stardom, cares about landing with a weaker, second-division club.

As far as pitching records go for 1947, what about Schoolboy Rowe and his mark with the Phillies? Also Dutch Leonard?

In sizing up records, you must take in the quality of the club and the quality of the opposition. Otherwise records can mean little.

Hartung, Matty, Sisler

No, Clint Hartung hasn't yet proved that he is or will be another Matty, Sisler or Ruth. But he is a member of their order, which might be known as the Club of Shifting Positions.

When tall, blond, good-looking Christy Mathewson reported to the Giants 47 years ago from Norfolk, Va., where he had won 21 games and lost 2, he promptly lost his first three starts in major league competition. Andy Freedman, the Giants owner, thereupon decided that Mathewson was a first baseman and should be so used.

It wasn't until John J. McGraw began to manage the Giants that Matty's full skill as a pitcher began to be realized. It wasn't long before the Bucknell entry was one of baseball's all-time sensations in the box, one of the best that all the years have uncovered.

The list of those in baseball who entered the portals as a star in one capacity and then switched jobs is a long one.

George Sisler was a star pitcher at Michigan. He could have been one of baseball's best left-handers. The Browns started him in the box, switched him to the outfield and then moved him to first. His fame as a pitcher or as an outfielder would have been enduring. He finished as the star first baseman of all time, a great ballplayer in every department, where his batting and his base running left him unchallenged at first.

Almost the same thing happened to a Baltimore kid still remembered as Babe Ruth.

The Babe broke in as a pitcher with the Red Sox and he was among the brilliant five years. It was in 1919 that Ed Barrow decided that a cannon was more useful than a rifle, so the Babe was moved to an everyday job in the outfield, where increasing crowds could listen to the musical boom of his big bat.

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Spreading

Irate Diner—Waiter, there's a twig in my soup.
Waiter—I'm not surprised, sir. We've branches all over the city.

Baloney

They were sitting close on the sofa.
"Darling what are you thinking about?" asked he.
She—The same thing you are.
He—I'll race you to the ice box.

Who Else?

"The last of my daughters was married today."
"Who was the lucky man?"
"Look at me!"

And Sand the Floor

"It's so small," protested the prospective tenant inspecting an apartment. "Can't you make it larger?"
"Sure," said the landlord, "we could scrape off the wallpaper."

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When Your Back Hurts—

And Your Strength and Energy Is Below Par

It may be caused by disorder of kidney function that permits poisonous waste to accumulate. For truly many people feel tired, weak and miserable when the kidneys fail to remove excess acids and other waste matter from the blood.

You may suffer nagging backache, rheumatic pains, headaches, dizziness, getting up at night, leg pains, swelling. Sometimes frequent and scanty urination with smarting and burning is another sign that something is wrong with the kidneys or bladder.

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