

Washington Digest

President Talks—Everyone Wants to Get in on the Act

By BAUKHAGE
News Analyst and Commentator

WASHINGTON.—The colonel was talking to the general. It was obvious that the general was as bored as his secretary looked, he interrupted dictation on her crossed knee, which she uncrossed as the general's eye wandered.

The colonel was the army's No. 1 specialist on the super-gadget which was about to revolutionize warfare, as the colonel could (and would, if he got a chance) tell you. The colonel knew the history of the



gadget's development from its crude semi-gismo stage when, primitive as it was, it caused the entire re-organization of the tactics of the knights under Otto the great, first King of the Germans. He could trace its evolution down

through the days of delicate interplay when it broke up the Empire of Charlemagne, and on down to the fall of Stalingrad.

The colonel had brought the general about up to the third Punic war and the secretary was wiggling. The general himself had begun to fumble with form 2A-3064-B29. The colonel realized that he was rapidly losing his audience. So he raised his voice so that file clerks in the next office stopped filing (their fingernails) and looked up.

"By the way, General," he remarked confidentially, "Did you know that I'm writing the President's next speech? The one he delivers to the Inter-Planetary association?"

The general's secretary perked up. . . . the general raised an eyebrow. . . . the colonel smiled. . . .

At about the same hour, over in the Metropolitan club, a very dapper young man from the division of the Far, Near and Middle East and expert in economic-ethiopathology, was sipping a thin scotch-and-soda which his chief had just ordered. His chief was bored.

"By the way, Chief," he said in a whisper so loud that even the waiters stopped looking respectful and listened: "I'm writing the President's next speech at the Inter-Planetary association's conference."

In four other places, four other young experts were telling their bosses the same thing. All were perfectly honest, all were believed, and in 20 minutes or so, stenographers, clerks, messengers, waiters and cab drivers were pointing out "the guy who writes the President's speeches."

All this has been going on, I suppose, in world capitals since before somebody else thought he had codified the code of Hammurabi.

What really happens is this: The President calls in one of his more literary secretaries—all of them are literate, but not all literary (some—those whose duties are conversing with politicians, don't have to be too literate). The President says to the literary one:

"Bill, in this speech I have to write for the Inter-Planetary conference, I'm going to mention the super-gadget, and I want to touch on the current economic and social situation in Beluria, also there are some erosion statistics I need, and some data on the problems which arose as a result of the Whiskey Rebellion."

"Okeh, Chief," says the literary secretary, and on his way back to his office, he begins classifying, according to departments, the people he thinks may know the facts or the people who will know who knows somebody who has the facts. He either phones or dictates a brief memo to these people, requesting not more than one page from each on the subjects indicated.

Highly-pleased young and old men, on receipt of the memo or phone call, begin leafing through their research libraries and dictating to their secretaries. In two days, a number of large packages are delivered to the White House via special messengers. The literary secretary curses and sets to work boiling down a 24-page thesis on the progression of tau-mute from the Sanskrit et elia to a sentence and a half which he has his stenographer type into the rough draft of the speech which the President has dictated and sent to him for the purpose.

Franklin Roosevelt became angered because columnists persisted in "revealing" which confidential adviser wrote the last speech he delivered, whatever it was, that he once showed us the actual draft of a speech he had dictated and written, and re-written as was his custom. In fact, the last-minute revising of Roosevelt's interlined manuscripts often went on while newshounds growled in the outer office and mimeographers stood by to handle the finally-okayed sheets in "takes."

President Truman got a little peeved recently over the same line of columnar chatter and began to "let it be known" that he could write himself. Of course, all presidents get advice, counsel, assistance and inspiration from many men of many minds. Of course, there are humanitarians and grammarians, stylists and Carlyle-ists, lexicographers and geographers, economists and agronomists, Russians, Prussians and Persians upon whom he can call if the need arises.

And somehow or other, each and all, if they but contribute one jot or tittle to the sacred paper, think they wrote the whole—or at least the stenographer who had to take down all the stuff hopefully offered for possible presidential use thinks so, and tells her friends about it confidentially.

The problem of presidential speeches is much to the fore these days for this reason: President Truman and his advisers, despite the rebel yells, the wails of the defeatists, the triumphant roar of the elephant and the ominous hoof beats of the polls as they Gallip downhill, still believe he has a fighting chance to return in November to the White House, and he intends to fight for it.

The President is going on a speaking tour of the West — of course, it isn't a campaign, that would be undignified and immodest before the convention has asked. He will speak under no "political sponsorship." But he will speak and he is going to ad lib, as we say in the trade. Even if we hadn't had our ears conditioned for 12 long years by the golden voice that breathed over the firesides, the un- oratorical oratory of Harry Truman when he reads a speech, he is ever so humble, never would be mistaken for the vox humana or the angels' chorus.

But when Harry Truman gets up and talks, he's very human, very sensible, and not altogether unpersuasive. So from now on, he's going to speak extemporaneously, no matter how much preparation it takes.

He showed what he could do without notes or manuscript (and without learning by rote) when he addressed the newspaper publishers and the Gridiron club in April, and again in May when he talked off-the-cuff to the national conference on family life in Washington.

And since such speeches aren't written, nobody can say he wrote them for him.

'Will to Peace' Finds Expression

Next month a "national conference for the prevention of World War III" will be held on the campus of Grinnell college in Iowa.

The purpose is to present a "definite, concrete working plan to prevent a third world war; methods which can be presented to the two national political conventions at Philadelphia."

The roster of speakers will include representatives of many of the organizations now working for a single sovereign, world organization.

Meanwhile Winston Churchill is hammering steadily at his purpose of building a United States of Europe. Although the Atlee government has not approved the idea, the prime minister himself has spoken words of encouragement regarding the formation of a real federalization of the western union.

Atlee even went so far as to say that Britain was willing to sacrifice her sovereignty in part to bring it about, although he qualified the promise by saying the time was not yet ripe for such a step.

But Churchill wants to strike now. He received considerable support from the unofficial gathering in the Hague—a forum, they called it—composed of representatives of the Marshall plan countries, plus exiled leaders.

Churchill's proposals and the Grinnell conference are both part of the tremendous "will to peace" that currently is finding expression.

Perhaps eventually we will learn that great lesson of history—to yield the sovereignty that causes wars to the kind of sovereignty that allows not only the other freedoms to the individual but which, also will give him freedom from the FEAR of war. Just as the federalization of the separate colonies made the citizen of the state of New York free from the fear of war with the free of Pennsylvania—a situation possible because both recognize a higher sovereignty—the United States government.

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON

Dust Bowl Menace

ALBERT GOSS, master of the National Grange, bluntly warned President Truman the other day that we are inviting another "dust bowl" disaster unless we begin redeveloping the grasslands of the West.

"I have just returned from a trip to Wyoming and can tell you that the dangers are very real," reported Goss. "There has been too much plowing up of the grasslands we developed as insurance against future dust storms."

The grange leader, who is the ablest farm spokesman in Washington, explained that the high prices and demand for wheat for domestic and foreign aid were chiefly responsible, since farmers didn't want to maintain pasture lands when they could turn a quick profit on grain crops.

"Most people take it for granted that we have licked the dust bowl hazards, which caused such tragedy in the West some years back," added Goss. "However, dust can blow again, and will blow in my opinion within the next few years unless those grasslands are restored."

Oil Lobbyists at Work

NO. 1 INDUSTRY IN THE CAPITAL has become lobbying. Despite the lobbying act, the hotels, the cocktail lounges, the corridors of congress now swarm with more of these oleaginous back-slappers than during the war. Standing out above the rest is the oil lobby—kingpin of them all.

The oil lobby has just scored one great victory—Palestine. Now it's concentrating on perhaps the richest of all prizes—tidelands oil.

Tidelands oil, the great continental shelf extending under the water off the Pacific and Gulf coasts, is estimated by some as more valuable than Arabia and the oil fields of the United States combined. Around 100 billion barrels lie buried in these underwater oil fields, as against only 20 billion barrels remaining in the dry-land oil fields of the United States.

"The petroleum resources of the continental shelf are ours to exploit whenever to exploit them becomes worthwhile," said Standard Oil in a statement to stockholders. And since the supreme court now takes a contrary view that the continental shelf belongs to the federal government, not the states, the oil lobby is focusing all its power on a bill introduced by Senator Moore of Oklahoma, himself an oilman, which would reverse the supreme court.

Having reversed the United Nations on Palestine, the oil lobbyists quite openly boast that they can put a law through congress reversing the highest tribunal of the land.

Ike, the Democrat

THE REPUBLICANS WERE RIGHT in calling the turn on General Eisenhower's use of army personnel after his retirement from the army. However, it's interesting that the man who called the turn was Congressman A. L. Miller of Nebraska, spearhead of the MacArthur-for-President movement. These boys don't like Eisenhower.

And it's significant that other high-ranking generals and admirals have continued to use army-navy personnel after their retirement. For instance, Admiral Ernie King, now retired, used not only a navy office but navy clerical personnel to write a book.

And if all the money spent on Gen. John J. Pershing during his retirement were added up it would total over a million. Pershing, although retired for years, continues to be the second highest paid government official, drawing a salary of around \$26,000 a year. Only the President of the United States tops him. In addition, Pershing has a colonel as an aide, plus other army personnel, and for years has lived at Walter Reed hospital.

Eisenhower has a staff of three assigned to him at Columbia—Maj. Robert L. Schulz, an aide; WAC Warrant Officer Margaret Hayes and Master Sergeant Leonard Dry, a chauffeur. He also draws a salary of \$13,731 a year for life from the army in addition to his salary as president of Columbia university.

Note—Pershing, although appointed by Woodrow Wilson, is the son-in-law of the Republican chairman of the senate appropriations committee, the late Francis E. Warren of Wyoming. The Republicans now consider Eisenhower a Democrat.

Capital Chaff

HENRY WALLACE is looking around for a new Charlie Michelson to supply him with campaign material. (Some people think that's a waste of time; Harry Truman's doing a better job than Charlie Michelson) . . . Democratic leaders will be amazed when they find out that Oregon Democrats are going to support Henry Kaiser against Truman.

Farm Topics

Invasion of Insects By Air Poses Threat

Pests, Plant Diseases Survive Shorter Trips

Danger of invasion by undesirable alien insects grows apace in every agricultural country of the world as air transport, which is accounting for an ever increasing share of traffic, cuts the time of travel between them from days to hours, and as airplanes take over a larger share of traffic.

Pests that might not withstand a long sea voyage may survive the



Even toys from Mexico have been known to be carriers of insects, costing large agricultural losses.

shorter air ride in good shape. Reaching new lands where conditions favor their development they soon may build up a strong colony that could become as costly as the Hessian fly, the European corn borer, the Japanese beetle, the codling moth or the cotton boll weevil.

The department of agriculture is charged with this country's defenses against the entry of dangerous foreign insects and plant diseases. Even toys have been found to be carriers. Farmers must be sure that all mail and express from foreign countries have been inspected and passed free of any insects or diseases before being permitted on their land.

Jura Stallions Prove Good Farm Workers

While the Swiss Jura horse, long recognized as the national breed in that country, has not been generally recognized in America, interest has



Three Jura fillies typify the Swiss national breed.

been centered in the breed in recent years because of the fact that the stallions are suitable for all types of farm work.

The breed has shown proper temperament, strength and resistance to disease, and while light in weight has proven an excellent draft horse. It is exceptionally strong, tame and docile.

Sexing of Baby Chicks Proves Difficult Task

Chick sexing is difficult to learn, and in order to become proficient it is necessary to receive expert instruction and to have considerable practice and experience with thousands of chickens.

Reliable authorities have stated that a student must sex at least 250,000 cockerels before the male genital eminence can be accurately recognized. The expert sexer appears to be endowed with a natural ability to recognize and classify the various types of genital eminence to be found in chickens, but accuracy is obtained only by regular practice, investigation of errors and a liking for the job.

Fertilizer Won't Solve Entire Farm Problem

Many farmers are inclined to use fertilizer as a crutch by attempting to make it substitute for good soil management.

Vital as fertilizer is, it cannot do the entire job. It must be backed up by other practices that add organic matter, build soil structure and boost crop yields.

New Insecticides Are Non-Poisonous to Bees

One serious cause of bee poisoning has been that bees have taken dusts containing arsenic and have stored this poison in combination with pollen in the hives. Arsenic remains permanently poisonous but newer insecticidal dusts and sprays, such as DDT, DN and D.D.D., are less dangerous to beneficial insects as the toxic effects will break down gradually.

Sportlight

By GRANTLAND RICE

AS FAR as anyone can see now, the month of June will be a big one for boxing with Louis defending his title against Walcott.

Louis says this will be his last fight. What will happen if Louis wins, and then retires? The heavyweight division will be the way Gene Tunney left it years ago. Then the aftermath included Schmeling, Sharkey, Carnera, Baer and Braddock.

This was not what you'd call the greatest collection of fighting flesh ever thrown together. On a general average it was pretty sorry stuff. There wasn't a top fighter in the lot. Yes, Schmeling knocked out Louis, but Baer knocked out Schmeling. And so did Louis in the return match.

Tunney left a sorry bunch of fighters in his wake—until Louis came along. Louis made up for the mediocrity of the others that preceded him. It was Dempsey, Tunney, chaos and Louis.

What will it be after Louis? Suppose Louis wins. That will leave chaos again. If Walcott wins, Jersey Joe will be the new champion.

No one can rate Jersey Joe a great champion. He has been just another heavyweight too long; just another average fighter who happened to remain in shape when Louis didn't.

You can't sell a number of fighters, even champions, the idea that condition is as important as their own native skill. Yet condition happens to be more important than anything—Louis has—his punch, his boxing skill, his gameness.

Louis as the heavyweight champion defending his title against Walcott was a joke, a travesty on training, on condition. He was a puffy fat man who couldn't move out of his tracks.

He returned from his exhibition tour in England weighing at least 240 pounds, and then worked desperately to lose 25 pounds in a few weeks.

Louis took on Walcott as a joke. If Louis can win in the condition he has to offer for late June, Walcott must be a joke. Louis will have to create a miracle to be even close to the form that made him, and kept him, champion so many years.

Medal Play Is Tops

Medal play and match play are two entirely different forms of golf. Especially on the psychological side, which is a big part of golf.

I still think medal play is the rougher test, where every stroke is important. This isn't true of match play where you can take a nine and only one hole.

There is no chance to give your concentration a vacation in medal play. There is in match play. In medal play you are fighting both the field and the course. In match play, your opponent is one man.

The Live Ball

It has remained for a young rookie pitcher to call a check on your reporter and also enter what is perhaps a well-deserved rebuke. This rookie pitcher is smart—and what is more important—he also can pitch. Up to \$100,000 was offered for his service in the box.

"You write," he said, "that Johnson, Walsh, Alexander, Matty and others pitched around 400 innings or more. That's right. You also write that no modern pitcher can work 300 innings. Most of the good ones are 250-inning pitchers. That's right too. But don't forget those old pitchers were throwing a half-dead ball—a spit ball—a fuzzed-up ball—a logy ball that Samson couldn't hit out of a handball park."

"Now, check back with me. Home-run Baker hit 12 home runs in one year and promptly was labeled 'Home-Run' Baker. Here is the king of all home-run hitters. He smashes 12 four-baggers in one season and he is the king. Why today, some of these bums I'm throwing at might pile up 12 home runs in two weeks."

"I'm telling you," he continued, "that today we are throwing explosive bombs to the plate. Every ball we throw is loaded with dynamite. You can take a broom and hit one for three bases."

"You remember those old Yankees headed by Ruth and Gehrig? They set a home-run record that never would be broken, and they were swinging at a rabbit ball. Last year the Giants came along and made those Ruth-Gehrig Yankees look like bunters. They were hammering at a rubber ball, even faster than the one Babe and Gehrig swung at."

"To show the difference, if Ruth were playing in the day of 'Home-Run' Baker, his top would have been 20 home runs for the entire season."

Which reminds me that I ran into Larry Lajoie a few years after he had quit and the lively ball had come into use. Larry played in an old-timer's game.

"I'm glad," he said, "we didn't have this modern ball when I played."

Build It From A Pattern

The pattern offered below takes all the mystery out of building the table to any size needed. While the pattern suggests making it six feet, it provides complete, easy to follow, directions for making it longer, if desired. All materials used in building this table are stock size and readily obtainable at lumber yards everywhere.



Building the table or other pieces of lawn furniture provides an economical solution to your household equipment problems. In many cases two articles can be made for less than one costs ready made. Besides saving money, woodworking provides hours of complete relaxation. Once you've experienced the deep down satisfaction of seeing lumber turn into a useful picnic table or lawn chair, you will undoubtedly become one of a huge army of "Build It Yourself" enthusiasts.

Send 25c for FULL SIZE Picnic Table Pattern No. 22 to East-Bild Pattern Company, Department W., Pleasantville, N. Y.

Constipated? So Was This Woman

"I would go from one Sunday to the next, then take a harsh purgative. That's over now that I eat KELLOGG'S ALL-BRAN daily."—Mrs. Katherine Turner, Indianapolis, Ind.

If your diet lacks bulk for normal elimination, eat an ounce of KELLOGG'S ALL-BRAN every day in milk—and drink plenty of water. If not satisfied after 10 days, send empty carton to Kellogg Co., Battle Creek, Mich., and get DOUBLE YOUR MONEY BACK. Get KELLOGG'S ALL-BRAN NOW!



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That Nagging Backache

May Warn of Disordered Kidney Action

Modern life with its hurry and worry, irregular habits, improper eating and drinking—its lack of exercise and infection—throws heavy strain on the work of the kidneys. They are apt to become over-taxed and fail to filter excess acid and other impurities from the life-giving blood. You may suffer nagging backache, headache, dizziness, getting up nights, leg pains, swelling—feel constantly tired, nervous, all worn out. Other signs of kidney or bladder disorder are sometimes burning, scanty or too frequent urination. Try Doan's Pills. Doan's help the kidneys to pass off harmful excess body waste. They have had more than half a century of public approval. Are recommended by grateful users everywhere. Ask your neighbor!

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