

# Washington Digest

## Parapsychology Could Do Just Fine on Election Bets

By BAUKHAGE  
News Analyst and Commentator.

WASHINGTON.—It won't be long now before you'll be able to settle those election bets.

A few days after the release of the official record of the negotiations with the Russians over the Berlin situation, I was sitting in the club with a couple of members of the Democratic administration. Talk had grown pretty tall in Paris and that morning, every other person I met, it seemed, asked me: are we going to have war?

But Washington was as calm as a sleeping tabbycat. The club dining room window was open, and a lazy autumn sun swept down through the trees of the park.



BAUKHAGE

Squirrels loafed around, showing little or no interest in preparing for the winter, and when I repeated the question I had heard so often that morning to my two Democratic friends, it aroused very little interest. Said they: "The Russians want Dewey. So we won't have war now. The Soviets know if they started a war at this time, it would cinch Truman's election."

Naturally my friends didn't indicate that they had any doubts as to the outcome of the election, but when we started talking odds, I noticed the conversation was confined largely to the race for the senate. After all, said my friends, even some Republicans concede that Dewey might face a Democratic upper house.

It wouldn't take much of a push either way. The Democrats have 45 seats now, and the Republicans only 51. The Democrats are confident that only one or two of their candidates are in danger.

On the other hand, there are a number of stiff state fights in progress in which the Republicans are being pushed pretty hard. The Democrats feel that if they can get out a large vote in these uncertain states, they have a chance of winning the four seats that would give them the edge.

In other words the count then would be: Democrats 49; Republicans, 47. That two-vote margin wouldn't assure Democratic dominance on all senate policy matters, of course, because too many senators are given to leaping out of the party corral these days. On the other hand, many issues are bound to be settled along purely partisan lines. But far more important, the party of the majority gains control of the senate committees.

The pre-election battles in which the Democrats seem to have the edge are in Oklahoma, West Virginia, Wyoming, and Kentucky. About in that order. Also Minnesota, Illinois, Iowa, and Idaho.

The Democrats admit their weakest points are in Montana and Colorado. The Republicans by no means concede New Mexico, Rhode Island, and Tennessee, but the Democrats don't seem too worried about those states.

At this writing, it is useless to make predictions, for even between this calm moment and the time these lines are in print, skies may fall or some individual may stub his toe. Bets are collected after, not before, elections.

It is fortunate, of course, that all writers as well as all bettors are not equipped with extra-sensory powers. If and when the day comes when we are, the fun will be taken out of reading, writing, and betting. And that day may come, believe it or not, I feel quite positive from the scientific proof offered, that the most of the various forms of the supernatural are untenable. But, after attending a couple of lectures and reading considerable material on "parapsychology," I have become convinced that certain things MAY exist which are at present considered impossible.

I refer to extra-sensory perception, clairvoyance, and psychokinesis. And I see no reason why more scientists shouldn't give these subjects a more thorough looking-into than they have deigned to indulge in up to now. Some have.

Dr. J. B. Rhine, director of the parapsychological laboratory at Duke university, has been conducting experiments along these eerie lines for nearly two decades. He is a very modest man, and he leans over backward to avoid offering any conclusions or making any flat statements concerning these experiments.

I have read his book heard him speak in an intimate group, take part in a forum and later answer questions at a private gathering under the auspices of the Washington Society for Parapsychology.

For almost two decades, as I said, Dr. Rhine and his assistants have been trying to determine whether or not there is a scientific basis for telepathy (the transfer of thought from one human brain to another); clairvoyance (the ability to visualize

things or events taking place beyond the vision or knowledge); or for that ability which may involve both of the former, precognition—the ability to predict things which will occur in the future.

And also psychokinesis, the hardest one of all for the cynical to swallow. That is the power of mind over matter, e.g. ability to make dice fall the way you want them to by thinking at them.

Roughly, this is an example of what has been done by Dr. Rhine and others. After long experiment and mathematical calculation, it is determined that by chance alone anybody can pick correctly five cards out of a pack of 25. That is just guessing, and it is even money the subject can do it.

If he is right oftener (and may have been right consistently more often than five in 25) that is MORE than chance. If he is right often enough, it is said that he has extra-sensory perception. In other words, he is able to perceive what the card is without the use of his senses, but rather by some undefined, unmeasured, unclassified ability which science as yet cannot explain.

Clairvoyance is a common experience. An example might be of the mother who has a vivid and alarming impression of a train wreck. It may be a nightmare, a waking hallucination, or just an intuition. The wreck seems to be connected with her son, perhaps with some definite place like a tunnel. It turns out later that her son was actually injured in a wreck at the spot where her dream assigned it.

Careful checking of such experiences is now going on, and Dr. Rhine feels that the results in these cases too, appear to show that some unknown process is involved, unexplained in terms of our ordinary senses.

As to psychokinesis, experiments have seemed to prove that dice rolled in a mechanical cage could be made to fall, oftener than they would by the laws of chance, according to the way the subject wished them to fall.

Dr. Rhine and his associates are trained psychologists. They say they are not trying to convince anyone that the above-mentioned qualities are actually possessed by certain individuals, but they are trying to investigate their apparent existence.

### And Now a Book On John Garner

I had another adventure which might be called parapolitical. There was nothing psychic about it, but it included a piece of hindsight that is interesting.

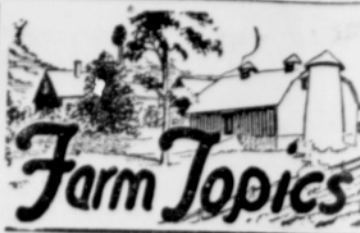
The hindsight is that of former Speaker of the House and Vice-President John Nance Garner. He said he wished he had never left the house of representatives to run for vice-president. He felt that if Franklin Roosevelt had had a man like Speaker Joe Cannon in the speaker's chair—a no-man—Roosevelt could have avoided some of the mistakes Garner thinks he made. In other words, Garner would have liked to play Cannon to Roosevelt.

This came out in connection with a gathering of a few of the news friends of that over-six-foot-tall-Fexan who looks like Abraham Lincoln and talks like Will Rogers. A man who was brought up on a ranch, but thought cows were a novelty until he was 10 because all they raised on his father's ranch were buffalo. He is Washington correspondent for more dailies than any one I ever heard of, and once we wangled him one vote for the vice-presidential nomination for the lark of it. Now he's author of a book.

I'm talking about Bascom Timmons and his book, "Garner of Texas," the only complete record of that fiery gentleman from Uvalde whose record for integrity and political ability in the house of representatives is one few can rival.

"Timmy" wrote it from his own notes and absolutely free hand. He probably knows Garner better than anyone on earth. It's a good book. It contains many interesting things including the "hindsight" I quoted.

Timmons is not only popular among newsmen, but he's popular with congressmen, presidents, cops and cats. One of his cats had its portrait painted by Howard Chandler Christy; another was operated on by a specialist at Johns Hopkins, both thereby setting up feline records in their respective fields, as their master has in his. If you're interested in "Garner of Texas," you'll be interested in what Timmons of Texas has to say about him.



## Efficient Fertilizer Use Boosts Yields

### Good Soil Management Must Aid Plant Food

Every ton of fertilizer can be stretched or used more efficiently, boosting crop yields at the same time. Many farmers, says Middle West Soil Improvement committee, use fertilizer as a crutch. They try to make it substitute for good management practices. They put plant food in the soil without making sure the plant can send out its roots to use it.

Fertilizer is essential in giving the soil plant nutrients to feed crops. But fertilizer can't do the whole job. It must be teamed with other practices that build and maintain soil structure and keep the top soil "nailed down."

The soil needs good structure so roots can grow and reach out for plant food. Roots need air and water to live. When a soil is packed down and tight, there is no room for the air and water needed by roots and plants for high crop production.

The way to build soil structure is to grow legumes and grasses regularly in the rotation. These legumes make a thick layer of good soil.



They add organic matter. Such soil has plenty of air space. Water soaks in quickly and more of it is held.

Weak, scattered stands of legumes won't build soil structure. For strong, leafy stands and vigorous roots, the legumes need phosphate and potash that can be added in commercial fertilizer. Getting thick stands isn't the whole story either. All these crops can't be cut for hay or graze close and still be expected to build the soil. At least a part of these crops must be turned back to the soil.

### Private Life of Bossy



In the current craze for dissecting private lives even Bossy is not immune. The inevitable prober comes up with these statistics:

Bossy grazes only seven and a half hours daily, regardless of how much feed she gets. She does 60 per cent of her grazing during daylight hours, 40 per cent at night. She spends five hours a day eating at a rate of 50 to 70 bites per minute. She chews her cud seven hours a day and spends 12 hours lying down, at nine different times. While grazing, she travels two and a half miles in the daytime and one and a half at night. She drinks 10 times a day.

### Erosion Takes Alarming Toll of Good Crop Land

Erosion is taking an increasingly alarming toll of good crop land in the United States. Estimates by the department of agriculture indicate that about 100 million acres of once good crop land have been ruined or nearly ruined for profitable cropping by erosion, another 100 million acres have been badly damaged and still another 100 million acres are eroding too fast.

There are now approximately 460 million acres of good crop land in the U. S., including acreage now in crops as well as about 100 million acres that need clearing, drainage, irrigation or other improvement. All but about 7 1/2 million acres of this 460 million acres are subject to erosion unless protective measures are adopted.

### Planting of Windbreak Will Improve Farmstead

Ranked as a major farmstead improvement project, planting of a windbreak around farm buildings not only improves the appearance of the farm but also saves fuel and gives wind protection to the buildings and livestock.

In addition to the regular windbreak on the north and west of the farmstead, many farmers also are planting a garden windbreak on the south and west of the garden.



THE leaves are just beginning to turn red and gold. The 1948 baseball campaign is over. But the surest sign of the end is the clarion call that rings across the landscape—"Wait Till Next Year."

What about next year? What can be done over a winter to make the White Sox, Cubs, Phillies, Reds, Browns and Tigers look vaguely like major league teams? Who is going to whittle those killing margins of 35 and 40 games away from the teams at the top?

**DIMAGGIO.** The gaps in the American league especially are worse than disgraceful. Some of the American league teams wouldn't run 1-2-3 in several of the stronger minor leagues. They are parasites, willing to live off the money they draw from better teams, but not willing to spend important cash to keep in the race.

The second division of the National league has far better ballplayers than the second division of the American. At least such teams as the Phillies and the Reds made attempts to get better ballplayers—such as Richie Ashburn, Hank Sauer, Virgil Stallcup and others. Both teams should have finished better than they did.

It has been something of a shock to see Chicago, with two clubs crawling along in the mire, offering a stout defense for the two cellar championships. Both Cubs and White Sox have been terrible all the year. Washington has been a joke. It is hardly a good minor league outfit.

### All Teams Need Talent

Every team in the league will need new talent. They all need pitchers—especially pitchers who know in what county the home plate is located. The Braves need outfield speed and outfield arms. The Red Sox need four or five good, dependable pitchers. There is a heavy deficit in catchers. The crop is running thin.

There is a definite need for better physical conditioning. Few ballplayers know what real condition means. This goes for legs and arms.

The Pirates proved what smart management and a sack full of doubloons could do in a year—from a tie for last place up to a hot spot in pennant contention.

A smart, aggressive front office can make a big difference. A stupid, timid front office can wreck any team. And there are more than a few of the latter brand now operating. You can look at the standing of the clubs and at least guess who most of them are.

We'll take up the case of the American league first:

**Yankees**—First of all, the Yankees need Bucky Harris. Harris has been one of the best in the game. It would be a baseball crime to let him go, an act of complete stupidity. After this, the Yankees need infield and pitching help badly. At least two harder hitting infielders and at least two new dependable pitchers.

Their outfield is high grade, but their catching isn't any too hot. And Joe DiMaggio is getting no younger.

### Pitchers for Red Sox

Red Sox—At least three good pitchers in addition to the crop they have—which has been forced to depend on Red Sox hitting power. Even two good additional pitchers would be enough.

**Indians**—Less than any other American league club. The Indians can use some outfield help, one more infielder and another good pitcher.

**Athletics**—Just about double the speed they now have. Far too slow. Joost and Majeski hardly likely to repeat 1948's brilliant play.

**Tigers**—The biggest disappointment in baseball. Still have a fine pitching staff. Someone should clean out most of the others by sales and trades. Club spirit poor. Present squad is going nowhere.

**Browns, White Sox, Senators**—Browns much the best of these derelicts. They have some good ballplayers. White Sox and Senators will need heavy cash and several years to reach even partial respectability. They will likely continue to be clinging parasites, living on the rest of the league—practically beyond all hope for a long time to come.

Here are a few National league's needs for 1949:

**The Braves**—More outfield speed and better throwing arms. Pitching help to relieve Sain and Spahn, two fine workmen. At least two new dependable pitchers needed badly.

**The Dodgers**—They were easily the best team in the league this season by six or seven games. Just keep what they have and use it intelligently, what Brooklyn didn't do this season.

## NEEDLECRAFT PATTERNS

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Milk containers made of waxed cardboard make a handy receptacle for bread crumbs after they are washed and thoroughly dried.

When putting new elastic in a garment, pin the end of the new to the worn elastic. Then as the worn elastic pulls out, the new elastic will pull in.

Fill cream puff or éclair shells with ice cream and serve with a tutti-frutti sauce made from cherries, bananas, oranges and pineapple.

Parsley is easiest cut with a scissors. Fold over several of the sprays of one stalk and hold between the thumb and other fingers of the left hand and cut fine with the scissors.

In the use of self-sealing lids for canning, the screw band must be screwed down tight before processing. By tight, it means with the full force of the hand.

A regular shoe bag with its numerous pockets makes an ideal catch-all for the kitchen. Tack it up in an out-of-the-way place and put all the small things into it that usually get mixed up in some kitchen drawer.

When recipes call for "frying out" salt pork or other fat, cut it in small pieces and heat it slowly in a heavy frying pan until the fat is extracted.

**FIRST AID to the AILING HOUSE**  
by Roger C. Whitman

QUESTION: I would like information on mixing cement for flooring an old bathroom floor—the right proportion, and the ingredient like volcanic ash that is mixed with the cement to keep it from being so hard to walk or stand on.

ANSWER: I think you have in mind a magnesite flooring, which can be used over an existing floor. It is put down about a half-inch thick and comes in a variety of colors. For the names of suppliers of this type of floor covering, get in touch with the Oxycarbonate Cement association, 1028 Connecticut avenue, Washington 6, D. C.

QUESTION: Have you any information on making attic rooms and basement recreation rooms at reasonable cost?

ANSWER: The manufacturers of wallboards and plywoods have literature on this subject that you may be able to get from a dealer in lumber and building materials.

### Here's Your CHECK CHART for FINE CAKE

Uniform Shape	Yes
Slightly Rounded Top	Yes
Evenly Browned Crust	Yes
Tender Crust	Yes
Tender Crumb	Yes
Velvety Even Grain	Yes
Good Flavor	Yes

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