

Washington Digest

The U. S. Vice Presidency Called 'Unimportant' Job

By BAUKHAGE
News Analyst and Commentator.

WASHINGTON.—Just what are the thoughts of a vice president of the United States between the time of his election and the time he walks in and makes his opening address to the United States senate?

"There can be great judges, great governors, great senators, great representatives and great Presidents. A vice president may move into the presidency and be a great President. A great man may be vice president, but he can't be a great vice president, because the office in itself is unimportant. In my judgment, the four most potent offices in the nation are: The President, the speaker of the house, the majority leader of the senate, and the chief justice of the United States."

These were the remarks of former Vice President Garner as quoted by Bascom Timmons in his book, "Garner of Texas."

When "Cactus Jack" gave up the speakership of the house to accept the vice presidential nomination he called the office "a no-man's land somewhere between the legislative and the executive branch."

I don't know whether Mr. Garner was any more reluctant to accept the vice presidential nomination than was Alben Barkley. Or than Governor Warren was, in accepting

the Republican vice presidential nomination, for that matter. Warren, in particular, put up a lot of sales resistance. Dewey during the night after his own nomination, conferred with party leaders and came up with Warren's name for the vice presidency.

Warren at first refused, but accepted after Dewey promised to give him cabinet status and administrative duties, if elected. As Dewey put it, he wanted Warren to have a "full partnership" in helping to run the government.

Party loyalty was Alben Barkley's reason for accepting the job. He has been a hard worker in politics for 43 years. As senate Democratic leader for the past 11 years, he has faithfully steered administration programs through the upper house. Until the GOP captured the senate in 1946, his power and prestige were immense.

He probably will be asked to attend cabinet meetings as former Vice President Garner was asked by Roosevelt. Before Garner accepted, he made an agreement covering three things:

"In the first place, in order to serve the President and the country in that capacity, I did not feel I should make a public statement. I also suggested that we agree during my term in the vice presidency and association in the cabinet that I would not make any recommendation for public office unless I was asked for a recommendation."

"The third part of the agreement was that I would not make any recommendation as to national policy unless I was asked."

President Harding had extended a similar invitation to his vice president, Calvin Coolidge, who didn't have to worry about the first part of the Garner agreement. According to the record he was not heard at these meetings, and at many of them he was not even seen.

Vice President Dawes respectfully declined the invitation to attend cabinet meetings. Curtis attended very seldom.

Garner Didn't Get Far Out of Touch

When Garner heard Mr. Dewey's statement regarding his conception of his running mate if he were elected, the sage of Uvalde said something to the effect that most of the time when he was vice president he was so worried that the Republican senators would put something over on him in case of a tie vote that he never dared to get more than a block away from the Capitol steps.

While it is quite true that the vice president is a member of the executive branch of the government, his chief function is presiding over the senate and casting a vote like any other member of the upper house in case of a tie.

If he were too closely associated with the executive branch of the government he might fail in his really important role, that of rallying support for administration measures in his own party and doing what he can to keep the majority party as favorably inclined to the White House as possible.

Most vice-presidents with a sense of humor have been careful not to take themselves too seriously. Vice President Marshall (under Wilson) made a considerable contribution to the climate of Washington by indulging in wisecracks and offering a sharp contrast to Wilson's less frivolous utterances.

Mr. Garner took a somewhat similar line when he said at the end of his first term: "The job is delightful. I like it. But it is entirely unimportant."



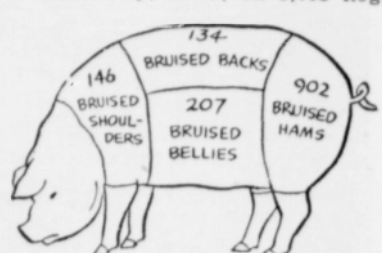
Bruises on Livestock Reduce Meat Values

High Number of Injuries Result of Carelessness

One of the less spectacular but nevertheless important factors contributing to the reduction of meat and livestock values is the waste of meat and lower grading of pork cuts because of bruising.

In view of this it is important to the welfare of the livestock industry and consumer alike that more care and patience be used in handling hogs.

Bruise tests conducted recently by the Live Stock Sanitary Committee at Sioux City, Iowa, on 5,708 hogs



Tests made on 5,708 hogs indicate that the hams receive more bruises than any other part of the animal.

Indicate that there are more bruises on hams than on all other major parts of market hogs.

When the animals are driven they tend to turn away from the driver, which often results in their getting hit or kicked on the hams.

The bruise tests on the hogs turned up a total of 902 bruised hams, 207 bruised bellies, 146 bruised shoulders and 134 bruised backs.

Hams are much more often bruised on the lower part of the cushion and shank, or collar, according to the tests which showed 511 and 653 bruises respectively. This indicates that hogs probably are bruised when being driven or sorted.

Most of the injuries are surface bruises, and many are caused by the driver kicking the hog or punching the animal with a cane, sorting pole, club, end gate rod or some other handy instrument.

Some of the ham bruises are caused by protruding nails, broken boards, bolt heads or ends of gate hinges in yards, alleys and loading chutes.

Others occur when trucks are not flush with loading or unloading chutes and platforms and the legs of the hogs slip into the space between the truck and the chutes, scraping the sides of the shanks up to the cushion of the ham.

Dollars for Barley



For writing an essay on "How Can We Make the Barley Crop Bring More Dollars Per Acre?" Bobby V. Bruegger, of Plymouth, Wis., has been named winner in a contest conducted among high school students of vocational agriculture by the Midwest Barley Improvement association.

Bobby, who is 15 years old, and in his sophomore year in the Plymouth high school, won the award, which consists of \$50 in cash, in competition with hundreds of high school students in the five Midwest states of Wisconsin, Minnesota, North and South Dakota, and Iowa.

As the winner of the Midwest regional prize, young Bruegger also was a winner of the first Wisconsin state prize of \$25 and the Sheboygan county prize of \$5 in the contest.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Byron Bruegger, Bobby helps with the work of the family's 40-acre farm, where the principal crops are grains and alfalfa. He has been active in 4-H club work for a number of years and is a member of the Future Farmers of America.

Poultry TB Eliminated In One Year With Care

Tuberculosis in chickens can be eradicated in one year, according to Prof. Frank E. Muschel of the University of Nebraska poultry department.

He advises raising chickens in clean quarters and on clean ground, changing the location of the range every year. Eliminate or sell old hens from the flock by June 1 of each year unless the birds are very high grade breeders.



IT WAS a bright spot, among many other bright spots, to run across Rip Miller again at Annapolis. Rip, if you can't remember that far back, was one of the Seven Mules who supported the Four Horsemen of Notre Dame some 20 odd years ago.

The Seven Mules were an exceptionally strong line, merely overshadowed in the matter of publicity by Stuhldreher, Miller, Crowley and Layden. Rip can still tell you about the time the Seven Mules stopped Ernie Nevers and St. Ford on the one-yard line with four shots at the goal.

"Everyone knows what the football situation is," Rip said. "The first job is to get the material. This is the big scramble, and don't let anybody tell you they don't go after material just as keenly in one section as they do in another."

"The colleges don't pay, but the alumni do, and I mean every conference. Big Nine and all. This is something I can prove."

"What is coaching?" Rip asked. "Ninety per cent of coaching is the material you have. I get a laugh when I read about certain great coaches who only happen to have the best material. A dozen coaches could win with that sort of material. And win just as easily. Maybe two dozen coaches could do the same."

Rip Knows the Answers

Rip has been around a long time, and if he doesn't know the answer, who does? He is 100 per cent right about coaches and material. He was also right about the hypocrisy of so many of the spotless football players in sight. Especially where they have football scholarships. And a big cash reserve.

"We have a tough job at Navy," Rip said. "The course is hard, both mentally and physically with so many long working hours a day, there isn't much time left for football. It is all tired concentration."

"We have an outstanding star as a rookie. He's really something. He's leaving—can't take it. We've got the greatest bunch of young fellows here you ever saw. Not many football players. Great officer material."

"Too many good football players today want it easy. Good pay and little work. It's a good job, if you can get it. Only we can't offer them any such set-ups."

One answer is they are aiming for the Bears, Eagles, Yankees, Giants, etc. Maybe \$20,000 a year for playing 15 or 20 minutes a game. As long as pro owners remain the suckers they have been so far.

Rose Bowl Contestants

Three of the four major bowls are all set for a big show.

The Cotton bowl, able to handle 65,000, has S.M.U. as the major attraction.

The Sugar bowl, now a 73,000 attraction, can look over the field—North Carolina, Georgia Tech, Georgia, Missouri or possibly Tulane.

The Orange bowl, up around the 60,000 mark, will have two of the best teams in the country from the unbeaten and untied list. Certainly the Sugar and Orange bowls won't suffer with five or six strong teams waiting to be tapped or tagged.

This brings us to the Rose bowl. Michigan, the present champion, can't go. Neither can Illinois, now one of the stronger Big Nine teams.

It begins to look as if Northwest would be the Big Nine selection. Michigan has already crushed Northwestern 28 to 0. Notre Dame will do the same. Ohio State, Minnesota and Illinois have already been grounded too many times.

This takes us to the west coast. California looks to be the best team in that sector. If California goes through unbeaten, will the Golden Bears be willing to meet Northwestern? This depends on how much or how little pride the West coast has left. It's a joke situation.

Other Contenders, Too

Now there's another Rose bowl, angle. Oregon, beaten 14 to 0 by Michigan, barely able to get by Southern California and St. Mary's, a one-point scramble, only has a few more hurdles left.

Oregon hasn't lost a conference game. Oregon can lead California by seven conference wins to six, and thereby get the Rose bowl vote under a rule which favors the team that has been without a bowl bid for the longer time. This is a perfect comic opera situation, or could be. This would leave California, possibly the best team developed on the West coast in many years, out of the Rose bowl.

It would bring together Oregon and Northwestern, which would plant the famous Rose bowl in number four position among the major bowls.



Truman Didn't Dodge

ONLY a few White House insiders knew it at the time, but President Truman could have avoided the split with the South on the civil rights issue. However, he decided that the question was too important for any compromise.

In a White House conversation, Morris Ernst, a member of the civil-rights committee, urged Truman not to send the committee's report to congress, but rather to the governors and mayors of the different states. Ernst pointed out that southern leaders had always contended that this was a state, not a federal, problem; therefore a bitter fight could be avoided by handling the report that way.

Truman's reply was brief and to the point.

"I would not be doing my duty as President," he said.

Ernst, who had been a close friend and advisor of Franklin Roosevelt, then asked Truman why he had such a passion for civil rights—even more so than Roosevelt.

"When I was young," replied the President, "I saw fiery crosses burned on the hills above Independence and 3,000 hooded men parading. I got worried about a return of that sort of thing. We cannot let it happen again."

Dewey-Go-Round

Dewey was so certain of victory he had set up secret offices in Washington and recruited a staff to study Truman's budget and prepare his own budget to be submitted in January.

Certain White House speechwriters were so sure of Truman's defeat they were ashamed to let anybody know they had a hand in his speeches. Of Truman's last speech-four they said: "We are just rehabbing old stuff and dishing it out to keep poor old Truman slap-happy."

Note: Most of the whistle-stop speechwriters were youngsters who had tried to ditch Truman at the Philadelphia convention. . . . Remarkable a lonely, crestfallen receptionist at Republican national headquarters the day after elections: "Everything's gone. What happened? . . . Maybe it should have been Stassen."

Stunned by defeat for the second time, Governor Dewey will not get another chance to run for president. G. O. P. leaders are categorical about this. Already their eyes are roving for a new white hope to run against the Democrats in 1952.

Watch Earl Warren

Two certain contenders are California's Gov. Earl Warren and Pennsylvania university's new president, Harold Stassen, both with liberal backgrounds. The fusty, starch-collared crowd, who have held such a grip on the Republican party, are almost certain to be swept out like old cobwebs.

Modest, friendly Earl Warren, who reflects the California sunshine, is the real man to watch. Like Franklin D. Roosevelt before him, who was beaten for the vice-presidency but came back to be president, Warren has not lost his place in the national picture. Instead, he will move up as Dewey slides down.

Unlike Thomas "Elusive" Dewey, Warren came out openly on the issues—high prices, housing, veterans' benefits. He even criticized the 80th congress, though it hurt his own party.

Stassen also is still a power to be reckoned with. He got most of the cheers, though not the votes, at the Republican national convention. In recent weeks, however, he has behaved more like a party hack than the independent liberal he pretends to be. After bitterly denouncing Dewey in Philadelphia, Stassen miraculously showed up in the starting lineup for Dewey's presidential campaign—in fact, was the kickoff speaker for Dewey in Detroit, September 7.

Stassen's Conversion

The inside story of Stassen's conversion has never been told. It is the story of moneyed Republicans who paid off with a university presidency.

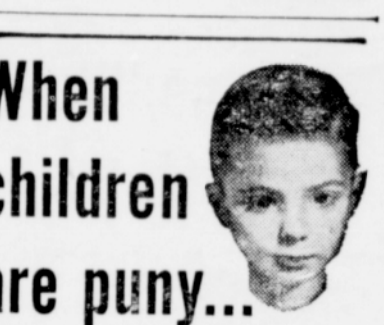
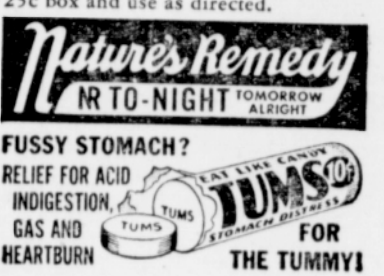
The University of Pennsylvania was searching for a new president to move into the chair of retiring George W. McClelland. Foremost contender was law school Dean Earl Harrison, once a commissioner of immigration and naturalization, who also made a survey of European displaced-persons camps for President Truman.

However, Harrison had been a Roosevelt man, also had not taken politics into account. For years a powerful Republican clique on the university board of trustees had tried to operate it as a subsidiary of Drexel and company, the Philadelphia branch of J. P. Morgan.

The leader of the clique, Robert T. McCracken, saw a chance to heal the Dewey-Stassen breach. Together with Edward Hopkins, Jr., a partner in Drexel and company, McCracken offered the university presidency to Stassen.

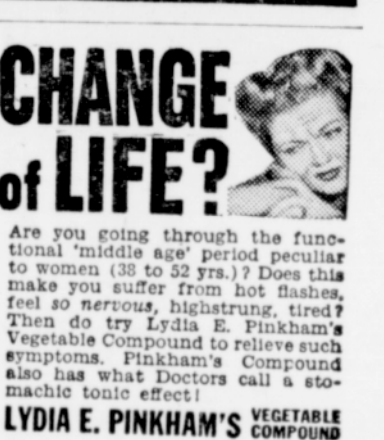


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