

Back Stairs: Capital Shorthand Wizard

By MERRIMAN SMITH
United Press Correspondent

Washington — (U.P.) — Back stairs at the White House:

Jack Romagna is the shorthand wizard who transcribes news conferences for President Eisenhower and Press Secretary James C. Hagerty, a chore Romagna has performed at the White House since the Roosevelt administration.

Shorthand is not Romagna's only talent, however. He is an expert amateur portrait photographer. Also, a proficient builder of model autos, railroads and boats.

He unveiled his latest creation a few days ago—a radio-controlled robot boat which darted successfully along the reflecting pool on the Washington Mall. Jack stands on the bank, fiddles with the controls and makes his robot craft maneuver in perfect control—until the batteries of the apparatus run down.

Then Romagna has to wade into the pool to retrieve his boat.

The recent talk about evaluating target cities in event of enemy bomb attack or to escape the deadly radioactive fallout following an atomic or hydrogen bomb explosion raises an interesting question at the White House—what would a President do?

The authorities certainly must have some plans for the quick movement of the President, his family and key staff members

and quite naturally, they're not talking about it.

But it seems logical that in time of attack or radioactive fallout, the roads leading from Washington would be so clogged that it would be difficult to move a President with any speed—unless he got a head start on the public.

The military might leapfrog the President out of a crowded traffic area during an evacuation by putting him in a helicopter and whirling to safety—or at least, the open road or a safer airfield than the fields



LATEST choice for monumental task of forming French cabinet is ex-Premier Edgar Faure, Radical-Socialist (International)

close to Washington.

A helicopter could land easily on the south lawn of the White House.

If a President were to receive only short notice of impending attack, he'd naturally use the stout and spacious White House bomb shelter. But if there was possibility of attack and still time to get the President out of Washington, he'd probably be moved, and fast.

Fall out possibilities as announced by the Atomic Energy Commission last week—in event of an actual attack on Washington—could cover the Eisenhower farm in Gettysburg, Camp David and even the "underground pentagon," not far from Camp David in the danger area.

Coals to Newcastle department: The current issue of the White House news photographer includes a half-page picture of the cameraman assigned to covering the President. The photographer? Mr. Eisenhower, himself. He shot the picture of the men recently at Gettysburg and gave one of the photographers a print.

Marty Snyder, the President's former mess sergeant and recent unsuccessful congressional aspirant in New York, was in town recently, promoting his fresh, frozen boneless turkey which he says will be a big seller this Easter.

School Children Get Better Look at Stars

North Canton, O. — (U.P.) — A Goodyear Aircraft Corp. engineer has built a portable planetarium designed to give school children a better look at the stars.

Richard H. Emmons, an amateur astronomer and former Kent State University astronomy instructor, said he is planning to take his miniature planetarium on a tour of Ohio.

It recently completed its public debut at Canton Art Institute before some 1,500 persons.

Emmons built the device, which includes a 16-foot fabric sky, in his spare time. He says it is easily set up and knocked down.

The audience sits under the canopy and listens to a tape recording of Emmons' description of what they see. He points out familiar constellations, star by star, with an arrow of red light.

UAL Authorized To Quit Service at The Dalles

Washington — (U.P.) — The Civil Aeronautics board has authorized United Air Lines to discontinue its service to The Dalles, Ore., on March 25.

The discontinuance was recommended a few weeks ago by CAB Examiner Thomas L. Wreenn.

There were no objections to his recommendations, so it automatically became official today.

Dead line Sunday Classified is at noon Saturday; 10 a.m. Monday for Monday; other days 5:30 previous day.

Chamber's Directors Approve Sales Tax Principle for State

The board of directors of the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce yesterday went on record as approving the principle of a state sales tax.

It did so in approving without dissent a report of the legislative committee, which earlier this week unanimously voted approval of the sales, tax principle, as long as food and other necessities are exempted.

Frank Van Dyke, chairman of the legislative committee, had explained that his group, in taking the action, recommended no particular form of the sales tax, other than providing exemptions, but did believe that "everybody enjoying the benefits of government should contribute directly to that government's support."

Earlier, the board voted to sponsor a public meeting on the general problem of taxation, not to support any particular type, but to bring to the public's attention the seriousness of the problem now facing the state. Details will be worked out by a committee headed by Ray Johnson.

The chamber board also voted to give authority to Cham-

ber President John Pletsch to take what steps he thinks best toward working out a program to solve the increasingly hazardous sewage and sanitation problem of the fringe area around Medford.

Danger Cited
Since all Jackson county residents are threatened by the danger of unsanitary conditions, board members pointed out that the chamber would seem to be a logical organization to assume a position of leadership in working toward a solution.

Pletsch appointed a committee to study proposed routes for the freeway to be built through or near Medford, and to report back to the board on their findings. Board members expressed

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the hope that arguments on both sides of the question will be examined and presented.

In other action, the board authorized Manager Don McNeil, as a member of the board of governors of the Western Institute, an organization for the advanced training of chamber managers, to attend a meeting

in San Francisco to set up an agenda for this summer's meeting of the institute; voted to purchase a film, "It's Your Business," on chamber work and its value, and tabled temporarily a proposal to join the Portland Better Business bureau, so that the chamber would receive its bulletins.

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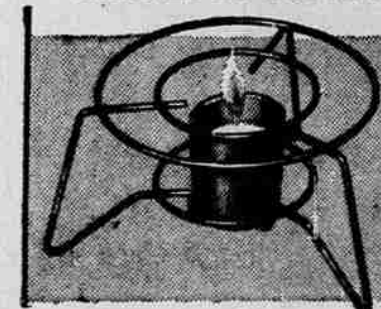
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