

Law Urged On Reporting Health Condition of Country's Leader

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During the last month the American people have seen a marked and most commendable improvement in the methods of reporting on the health of the President. There have been times in the past when a president was operated on for cancer, and every effort was made to keep this information from the public. As Ike Hoover, once chief White House usher wrote, when President Wilson suffered his first stroke and suddenly became a much-changed and "difficult" man, this fact and its tremendous importance to the world was not published. Later, when on a speaking-trip Wilson had another stroke this too was kept secret. Still later, when Dr. Hugh Young, the country's leading urologist, was summoned to the White House, physicians could guess what was happening, but as I remember, the public was not told much.

Sick Man Left at Helm

Because of this secrecy, a very sick and inflexible man was left at the helm of our government at a time when an exceedingly able, diplomatic and conciliatory man was needed to complete the negotiations for the peace, and to so arrange matters that a second World War would not become inevitable.

We saw much the same sort of thing toward the close of the life of Franklin D. Roosevelt. No physician, or even layman, could look at the picture of Roosevelt with a cape over his shoulders, sitting between Stalin and Churchill, without knowing that here was a very ill man—a man who was dying. No physician listening to Roosevelt, as he made some of his later speeches, could help but note the changed voice, so typical of a man who has suffered a series of little strokes.

As, in their last years, I watched the marked changes that took place in Wilson and Roosevelt,

I kept wishing that Congress would devise some method by which the mental and physical fitness of a President, or candidate for the Presidency, could be assessed by an impartial board of outstanding physicians. These men, without any restrictions on their opinions, should then report to Congress and the people of the United States. They should report as Dr. Paul Dudley White recently did in simple, understandable speech.

Could Summon Specialists

The board of experts could consist, perhaps, of the senior professors of medicine of the six leading universities in the country. When in need of advice in some particular field of medicine these men would summon outstanding specialists, just as President Eisenhower's physicians summoned Dr. White.

Why should we in this country set up such a board? Because, in the past, we have had no way of getting the truth about the health of our leader or of a presidential candidate for whom we were asked to vote.

The White House physicians have always been bound by the same injunction to secrecy that usually makes it impossible even for a court to learn from a physician what is wrong with his patient or what his patient said to him in confidence. We cannot expect a President's physician to tell us any more of the truth than the President or his political advisers want us to have. The doctor's lips are sealed. Worse yet, if the President or his party's leaders desire it, the doctor must lie manfully and maintain that a very sick President is wonderfully fit. If consultants are called, they also must remain silent, unless they are given permission to speak.

Must be Frank and Honest

The only justification for restricting this right of the President to privacy in regard to his health and the nature of any illness he may have is that, as our most important public servant, on whose health and especially mental health, our national

safety and our international relations depend, he must be frank and honest with us. We have a right to know if he is or is not fit to carry on his duties. We are like large stockholders in a company who have a right to know if the elderly man who is being considered for the position of President or general manager is still sufficiently fit and energetic, and youngish in his mental processes.

I sympathize deeply with the desire of a President of the United States to retain a little privacy, but in this matter of giving out reports on his health, I think he should surrender his right to demand silence on the part of his physicians. The Lord knows a President has to surrender most of his rights of privacy the day he enters the White House.

Would Be No Need for Law

If a President and his physicians and consulting physicians were always as frank and honest as we have watched them be in the past six weeks, there would be no need for the law I am advocating. If Congress ever does enact a law designed to give the public an honest and uninhibited opinion in regard to the President's health, the legislators ought to go further and make possible the securing of information as to the health, sanity and efficiency of candidates for the Presidency and Vice-Presidency, and for candidates for the posts of Senators and Representatives. Many a time able psychiatrists have expressed to me their concern over the condition of a member or members of Congress.

Personal Income

Highest in History

Washington — (U.P.) — Americans received more personal income in September than in any one month in history.

The Commerce Department has reported that if the September rate of personal income from all sources were sustained for a year it would total more than 305 billion dollars.

American Lawmakers

Meet Chiang Kai-Shek

Taipei, Formosa — (U.P.) — Two American lawmakers who conferred with Generalissimo Chiang-Kai-Shek leave Formosa today for separate destinations.

Senator Leverett Saltonstall (R-Mass.) and Rep. Michael A. Feighan (D-O.) met with Chiang Monday. Subject of the talks was not disclosed. Saltonstall goes to Manila and Feighan heads for Tokyo today.



DIDN'T SEEK FAVOR—Democrat Senator and Mrs. Dennis Chavez of New Mexico smile and wave a greeting as they arrive in Washington, D. C., aboard a regularly scheduled military air transport from Europe. The senator stoutly insisted he never had ordered a special Air Force plane to be sent to return him to the U. S. Air Force officer at top of ramp is unidentified.

Quotes From the News

By UNITED PRESS

Memphis—Joseph C. Chastain, of Dallas, Tex., in a speech to a Disciples of Christ meeting: "The church is facing a generation which is trying to drink its way to prosperity, war its way to peace, spend its way to wealth and enjoy its way to heaven."

London—The London Daily Mail quoting Egyptian Premier Gamal Abdel Nasser on Egypt's arms purchase from the Soviet bloc:

"I read in an American newspaper a careful analysis of our situation. It said the Arabs would always be defeated by Israel unless Egypt could buy arms from Russia. So I took that good American advice."

Washington—Defense Secretary Charles E. Wilson to photographers who asked him to remove the homburg he wore on his return from the Geneva foreign ministers conference:

"You mean you want me to look more like a businessman again and not a diplomat?"

Hutchinson, Kan.—Farmer J. O. Snyder to a Senate Agriculture subcommittee which asked him for details of his proposed farm program:

"Ignorance is forgivable, but knowing something and being stupid about it, that's something else."

Hollywood—Producer Jack Denove on his fruitless search for a girl to play Tarzan's mate in a television series:

"Too many girls here look as if they're going to Ciro's instead of to the jungle."

Fairmont, Minn.—Eugene Smith, 27, of Toledo, O., on why he burglarized some 3,000 churches in three countries:

"I have a grudge against churches."

On The Side

By E. V. Durling

(Distributed by King Features Syndicate, Inc.)

An extremely lively place in Europe in the good old summer time is Sylt Island, which is off the northwest corner of Germany. This island has two gambling casinos, innumerable night clubs and 30 miles of beaches. It is a sun bather's paradise. No bathing suits are worn. Everybody bathes in the nude and thinks nothing of it.

Horses and Women

A day never passes somebody doesn't bring up that query, "Do women dress to attract men, or to arouse the envy of other women?" There is nothing baffling about this question. The answer is simple. Women dress to attract men. If they attract men, they arouse the envy of other women. Which is, of course, additionally pleasing. Another question discussed daily is, "Are men better automobile drivers than women?" The answer to that is also simple. Men are more skilled drivers than women. Women are safer drivers than men. That is, a man can park a car better than a woman or guide it more skillfully through traffic. On highways or city streets where speed is possible, women are safer drivers than men.

Passing By

Yvonne O'Brian, Truly beautiful wife of Jack O'Brian, the distinguished and discerning television critic. Mrs. O'Brian is the daughter of that picturesque figure of the sports world, the late James Joy Johnston, noted boxing manager. . . . Sally Rand, the delightfully dynamic dancing danseuse. Originally a cinema cutie, she was a Wampas baby star of 1928. Later that year she appeared at the Palace, New York, as a dancer. That is a toe dancer—no bubbles, no fans. In 1934 after she had switched to bubbles and fan dancing, her weekly salary was \$6,000.

Facts

The proper way to pronounce the first name of Knute Rockne is "Kanute." . . . An old song that might stand a very successful revival is Harry Kennedy's ballad titled "Molly and I and the Baby" . . . Add to members of My Name is a Poem Club—Virgil Sturgill, Asheville, N.C., and Hillary Guillary, Orange, Texas.

Asides

What's the world's widest street? Gorky Street, Moscow, has six lanes for automobile traffic on each side and a strip down the middle for the exclusive use of ambulances and fire engines. . . . As for having the laundry done in a hurry, there is a sign in the window of a Daly City, Calif., laundry reading, "In Dirty at Ten Thirty. Out Clean at Two Thirty." That is a four-hour laundry service. . . . So you consider yourself a well informed fellow? Alright, what

is a baron of beef? How much does it weigh?

"I had no great faith in astrology but decided to keep an open mind on the subject and check the claims of the stargazers." I writes a feminine subscriber. "I checked the claim that Capricorn (December 22-January 19) women are flat chested. That is amazingly accurate. I checked on a great number of Capricorn females and there wasn't a sweeter girl in the lot. Scorpio (October 23-November 22) women have the most "oomph" but are inclined to emphasize it in a rather vulgar way. Besides, they pour too much provocative perfume over their persons."

Briefly

There are nearly a million licensed women automobile drivers in Los Angeles county, California. Exact number is 921,988. . . . Most recent of innumerable feminine celebrities to switch from blonde to brunette is Betty Grable. What's the matter with being a blonde? Could it be that blondes have taken seriously that film titled "Gentlemen Marry Brunettes?"

Sirens

That superbly streamlined screen siren Diana Dors is repeatedly referred to as the "British Marilyn Monroe." There is a "French Marilyn Monroe," and an "Italian Marilyn Monroe," and a German Marilyn Monroe."

Formula

When Adolph Zukor founded his film production organization, he said what is policy would be in five words. They were: "Famous plays with famous players." That is a film production formula that rarely fails. It has made many a man a millionaire. Samuel Goldwyn, formerly associated with Zukor, has been following it for years. As for example, in the current Goldwyn production "Guys and Dolls," based on the famous play of the same name, with such famous players as Marlon Brando, Vivian Blaine and Frank Sinatra.

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The phone call Bo'sun Bill dreamed of for months. The long, low tanker had docked earlier in the afternoon. But it was dusk before Bo'sun Bill could step ashore and get to a telephone. He had thought about this call for nearly half a year. For looking forward to a reunion with the family back home is a favorite pastime when a man's away at sea. As Bill placed his long distance call, he sounded

perfectly calm. But inside, his excitement ran deep. And maybe you can imagine the feeling at the other end of the line when the phone rang moments later. For can't you recall telephone reunions that meant just as much to you? Indeed, time and again, the telephone plays an unforgettable part in life . . . as it helps bring each of us closer to those who count most.
Pacific Telephone.

STORMY FAMILY

Plymouth, Ind. — (U.P.) — The women in the Clarence Hlavacek family—Gladys, Carol, Connie, and Diane—really have something to "blow about." All have had a hurricane named for them. Darlene, nine, is the only female member of the family who didn't make the distinguished list. But there's always next year.

N. Y. C. EXAMPLE

Chicago — (U.P.) — The Civil Service Assembly holds up as an example to other communities the New York City policy of giving recognition to city employees who write articles, book reviews and books connected with their work. New York puts out a special pamphlet listing its employee-authors and their

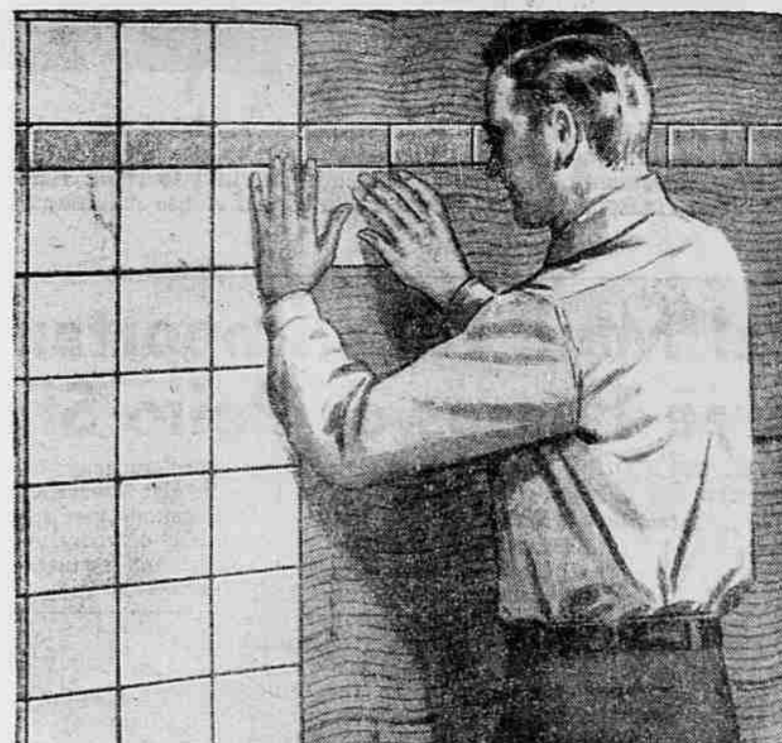
contributions. The pamphlet is sent to other officials and employees of the city.

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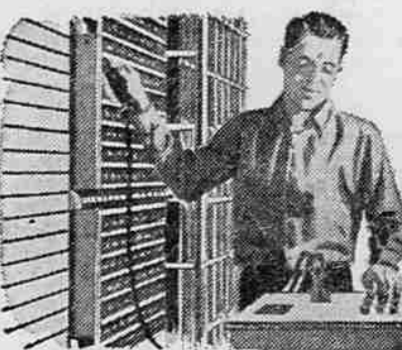
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