

Challenging Decisions Facing Eisenhower at Home and Abroad

By LYLE C. WILSON
United Press Correspondent
Washington —(U.P.)— President Eisenhower returns to Washington in a time of personal and international crisis. Challenging decisions await him.

Serious problems at home and dangerous problems abroad piled up on the administration during the 89 days Mr. Eisenhower has been absent from Washington.

The crisis in the President's personal life lies in the question whether to resume an all-out political life or to retire in 1957. Announcement of that decision seems to have been postponed until after Jan. 1. But the nice balancing of duty and choice which must precede it will soon demand Mr. Eisenhower's attention, if it has not already done so.

A national crisis involving the safety and security of the United

States and its allies has developed suddenly. It was born in the apparent failure of Mr. Eisenhower's mid-summer foreign policy gamble at the Geneva summit. The Soviet Russian leaders who were so amiable there no longer smile.

In the whole of Europe and in the Middle East, Soviet Russia now is accused of endanger-

ing even the doubtful peace which the post-war world had achieved. The sweet scented atmosphere of the summit conference is vanishing.

Urgent questions of foreign policy and defense have been created by the new Kremlin strategy. The West needs to discover how to hold its dominant position among the Middle East-

ern Arab states without offending the Israeli whose brethren are politically powerful in the West, notably in the United States.

The West must determine what new forces and defensive positions must be assumed in a Europe where the Soviets evidently are determined Germany shall be either divided or a Communist whole. And in Asia-

which has had little recent public attention, there remain to be found means of holding the line, at least, against the pressures of expanding Communism.

Those are the kinds of foreign policy problems to which Mr. Eisenhower is coming home. The domestic front is troubled by a farm price squeeze. The Republican political front is shadowed by an unfavorable trend discern-

able in 1953-54-55 local election returns. Individual Republican candidates, and some who would be candidates if Mr. Eisenhower would run again are fearful that he will not.

The President is a man peculiarly on the spot. It is a hotter spot even than he experienced in early 1952 when Eastern party leaders began to put real pressure on him to quit the Army and bail the Republican

Party out of trouble. Barring only the farm issue, all of these decisions must ultimately be made by Mr. Eisenhower mostly on his own judgment. He'll take a lot of advice — including a bundle from brother Milton — on domestic and foreign policy. But the final word must be his.

The immediate urgent business awaiting the president would give any vigorous man a workout.

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Back Stairs: Future Colorado Vacation?

Editor's Note: President Eisenhower is going "home" today—home being the White House where he will spend two days before going to his farm at Gettysburg, Pa. Traveling with the President is the veteran United Press White House reporter, Merriman Smith, who reports today in a special edition of his twice-weekly feature, "Backstairs at the White House," on the situation as Mr. Eisenhower left Denver.

By MERRIMAN SMITH
United Press White House Writer
Denver —(U.P.)— Backstairs at the Denver White House:

Whether President Eisenhower runs again or not, he'll probably come back to Colorado next summer. He'll probably fly west earlier than usual, possibly arriving in Colorado in late June or early July, depending on when Congress quits for a campaign year.

The President doesn't look as robust as he did two weeks ago. He's lost some additional weight. Most of the weight loss is apparent under his chin.

Only cabinet member who has not rushed to the President's bedside is Commerce Secretary Sinclair Weeks. Some of the other cabinet members who have visited the President at Fitzsimons Army Hospital devoted much of their time with reporters to discussing long-known programs and facts.

The purpose of some of their visits obviously was to dramatize the President's return to active

control of the government.

If the United Press and its many clients will pardon the use of the personal pronoun, I have never covered a more grinding assignment than Mr. Eisenhower's illness in Denver—and I have been covering Presidents for the United Press for going on 15 years.

After the first two or three weeks subsequent to Mr. Eisenhower's heart attack, the problem of press radio and television coverage became a matter of mental pressure. No reporter could go to the bathroom without the dreadful fear of an announcement which might change the course of history.

Maj. Gen. John T. Sprague, the commanding officer, at Lowry Air Force Base where the Denver White House offices are located, said this morning, "I suppose you people are happy to be going home."

A reporter who has been in Colorado with the President since August replied sadly, "my home is not in Gettysburg."

The bulk of the travel crew surrounding the President will have this weekend off in Washington, then move out with him again to the farm in Pennsylvania on Monday morning.

According to Polly Witts of the Denver United Press staff, the medical bulletin this morn-

ing on the President's condition —"satisfactory"—was the 150th clinical announcement by James C. Hagerty, the President's press secretary who has done a phenomenal job of keeping the public informed about Mr. Eisenhower's condition.

The President has received more than 100,000 "get well" messages since he entered the hospital here. And when he gets back to Washington this afternoon, he'll find a room of mail bags still waiting for him.

TV Executive Gets RKO Vice-Presidency

Hollywood —(U.P.)— Television executive William Dozier has been appointed vice-president in charge of production for RKO Studio, it was announced Thursday.

Dozier has resigned as director of network programs for CBS Television to accept the new position.

HE SPEAKS ANYWAY

Honolulu —(U.P.)— The lights went out at the Edgewater hotel Thursday night when Walter I. Dolbear, vice-president of the Virginia Electric & Power Co. was addressing the Pacific Coast Electrical Association's conference. Dolbear finished his speech by flashlight.

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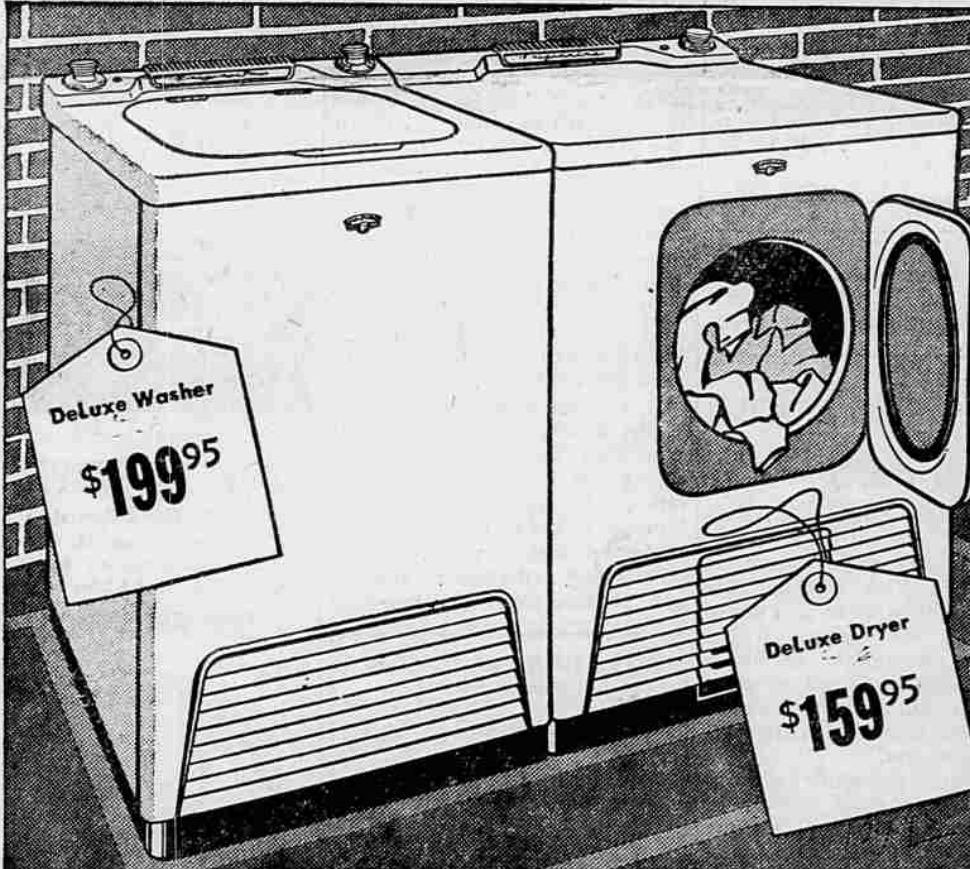
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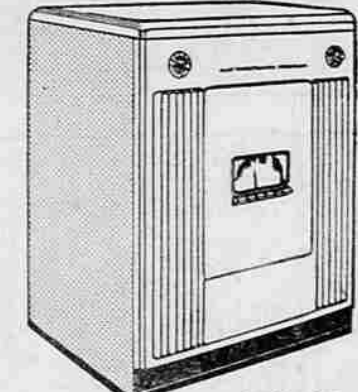
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