

Today and Tomorrow

By Walter Lippmann

EISENHOWER CONSENTS

The President has had such a hard time making up his mind that, as he said on Wednesday, he was still debating the question on Tuesday. He has made it abundantly clear that the question for him has been whether he could conscientiously say that within his physical limitations he could carry the burden of the Presidency for another five years.

In the end what he did was to let himself be persuaded by his friends, and with the approval of doctors, that he should not say no. But because he himself had such serious doubts, he accepted the view that after telling the truth about his condition he could leave the final decision to a referendum of the voters.

Thus, he himself made his own fitness the central issue of the campaign.

THE argument to which he yielded was that there are compelling reasons why he should head the Republican ticket. There is no other Republican who has a good prospect of winning the election, none who can keep the party reasonably united on a policy of moderation, none who can keep the country united on the issues of war and peace.

Four years, as he said Wednesday evening, have not been long enough to reorganize and modernize the party. A defeat

Disaster Car Group Announces New Plan

Jackson county residents interested in work of the Disaster Car Organization will be eligible for charter membership under a plan recently announced by the group.

Organizers of the unit, the Medford Fire Fighters, said that those joining before April 23 will be honored with charter membership cards, according to Russ Jamison, publicity chairman.

Charter membership fees will be \$2 and subsequent memberships and fees will be established by the group after it is officially chartered.

Persons wishing to become charter members are requested to contact either President Vern Watrud, Vice President Wes Coleman, Jamison, Kem McDonald, Hugh Huntley or one of the Fire Fighters.

Fees also may be mailed to the Jackson County Disaster Car, post office box 43, and a membership card will be sent.

El Paso, Tex., uses mountain standard time although an act of Congress in 1921 placed all of Texas within the central standard time zone.

House Committee Studies Testimony Of Ex-Employees

Washington — U.P. — The House Committee on Un-American Activities is studying testimony from 40 former government employees to determine if there are grounds for recommending criminal prosecution of some of them, informed sources disclosed Saturday.

Staff members planned to work on the material over the weekend. The committee will hold a closed meeting Tuesday to discuss future action and possible recommendations to the Justice department. Prosecution, if recommended, presumably would be on such charges as contempt or perjury.

30 Witnesses
The committee has heard 30 witnesses at open hearings and 10 in closed sessions since Feb. 14. All were former government employees and were alleged to have been Communists while employed by the government.

Of the 30 who appeared at open hearings, only James E. Gorham, New York, former NLRB employee, talked freely of his former Communist party membership. He named associates and fellow employees he said he knew to be Communists.

A few of the witnesses said they are not now Communists but they invoked the Fifth Amendment about past Communist party membership, activities or associations.

Others invoked the amendment in response to present or past membership in the party. Some claimed the "self incrimination" privilege in response to questions about their addresses, names of immediate relatives and similar matters.

Only one witness, Miss Ruth Weyand, former chief litigation attorney for the NLRB before the Supreme Court, denied that she is now or ever was a Communist, or that she ever knowingly associated with Communists.

Cashier Arrested for Helping Customers

Los Angeles — U.P. — An assistant bank cashier was arrested by FBI agents Saturday on charges he juggled \$134,000 in bank funds to help four customers keep their businesses solvent.

James Irving McWilliam, 45, was charged with falsifying records at the Santa Monica, Calif., Commercial and Savings bank where he has been employed since 1950.

John F. Malone, special agent in charge of the FBI here, said McWilliam forged the name of borrowers to notes and then transferred the money to the accounts of four bank customers.

McWilliam said he was trying to help the customers keep their business solvent, Malone said. He claimed that he did not keep any of the money himself. None of the customers, McWilliam said, knew that he was helping them.

The FBI refused to identify the four customers.

Matter of Fact By Joe and Stewart Alsop

FOOTNOTES ON AN OCCASION

Washington — The press conference at which the President first revealed his decision to run again was certainly the greatest political occasion, the most anxiously awaited political moment, that this country has known for a very long time. In American politics, the great occasions and vivid moments have a way of being a bit flat, for we have always stuck to the republican tradition of the founding fathers, who had a hearty distaste for drama, ceremonial and grandeur in all forms. Old John Adams tried to get the first Congress to give the President the legal title of "Supreme Mightiness"; but Adams was fortunately voted down by a heavy majority. And that, you might say, was the end of that.

The great occasion in the old State Department Treaty Room was a bit flat too, except that it provided the answer the world had been waiting for. Nothing, really, could have been more homely and unexcited than the give-and-take between the pink-faced, smiling, relaxed President and the great crowd of reporters who had come to hear the long-awaited word. Yet it was an occasion worth commemorating, all the same.

THE President's advance guard was his television advisor, Robert Montgomery, who inspected the arrangements with an air of self-conscious solemnity. Then, in a deep hush, Dwight D. Eisenhower strode rapidly through the door, and walked, with a quick, springy, self-confident step, to the big desk that he always stands behind at his press conferences.

He was smiling when he entered, and all those in the room rose in respect. His broad grin, which one felt betokened relief at a hard decision boldly taken, lasted until everyone was in his seat again, and the time came to open the proceedings.

Those in the gallery could read the giant-sized type of the memorandum in his hand, "Red Cross, Italians, farm, upper Colorado," and then, doubly under-lined, "personal." With an obvious, boyish pleasure in keeping everyone on tenterhooks, he disposed of the first four topics on the memorandum dealing with each of them gracefully, or eloquently, or forcefully as the occasion demanded. Finally, looking suddenly more serious, he came to the "personal" topic.

But was he not still enjoying the breathless suspense? At any rate, he backed into his great subject with a long explanation of his motives for making his main announcement in a television broadcast. At length he said, with obvious feeling, that he could not go before the Republican convention unless the delegates fully understood his personal situation.

THEN, and only then, there was a sudden, audible intake of breath all over the room, indicating that all those present at last felt certain of the answer. And the President's only direct statement of intentions, that his "answer would be positive and affirmative" was the very last sentence he uttered before the questioning began.

On the surface, the ensuing question period was so ostentatiously underplayed that it was almost uninteresting. There were human moments, to be sure. Once the President was asked whom he had consulted about his decision; and he answered briskly that he had talked with everyone he thought was his friend and—brief pause—some he was not so sure of; and this sent a ripple of laughter through the room.

He made them laugh too with his last rueful remark that he would not release the transcript until Jim Hagerty had corrected it, because his grammar often needed correction. But such moments as these are press conference commonplaces, unvaryingly and spontaneously generated by Eisenhower's rich, genial humanity of spirit.

There was an instant, also, of serious sentiment, another Eisenhower specialty, when he said very earnestly that his wife and family would support his decision. And there was even an instant of quite visible irritation, still another Eisenhower specialty, when a question came from a reporter whose hectoring manner has annoyed the President, and the well-known tell-tale flush crept up over the high Eisenhower forehead.

AS IT unfolded, in truth, the historic press conference seemed disappointingly like all the other, unhistoric press conferences. But as one thought about it later, situating what was said in its vast, far-reaching context, one realized that the President had thrice revealed himself in a rather special and meaningful manner.

Once he branched into a little lecture on the deep importance of the American two party system, stabbing with his forefinger and leaning forward, as he does when he wishes to carry conviction. Once he said, and plainly meant it, that he did not mind if his enemies thought him stupid, but he hoped at least they would agree that he was honest.

And on two different occasions, standing up a little straighter and speaking a little more forcefully both times, he declared that his campaign strategy would be to stand on his record; that his record, in fact, would be his campaign. When he said that, one heard the pride in his voice.

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Reservation Timber Sold in Portland

Portland — U.P. — The opening of bids totaling more than \$300,000 for sale of the last two remaining tracts in Lincoln county of timber owned by the confederated tribes of the Siletz Reservation was announced Saturday by Don C. Foster, area director, Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The sale is part of Secretary of Interior Douglas McKay's program to terminate responsibilities of the federal government for Indian affairs in Western Oregon under the congressional act of Aug. 13, 1954, while fully protecting their personal and property rights.

An apparent high bid of \$271,000 was submitted by the Murphy Lumber Company, Portland, for an estimated 9,000,000 board feet of timber on the 629-acre Medicine Rock unit, five miles southeast of Kerville. The stand includes some 1,658,000 board feet of fir, 1,068,000 of spruce and 6,177,000 of hemlock with minor quantities of lesser species.

A bid of \$151,339 submitted by the Georgia Pacific Plywood Company, Portland, was the highest offer from some 11,000,000 board feet of timber in the 1329-acre Upper Reserve unit four miles north of Logsdon. An estimated 5,971,000 board feet of fir, 2,975,000 of hemlock, 1,175,000 of cedar and 866,000 board feet of dead and down fir is available on the tract.

Mrs. Keller Trial Reset for May Term

Portland — U.P. — Multnomah County Circuit Judge James W. Crawford Friday ordered trial of Mrs. Joyce Keller set over until the May term of court. Mrs. Keller was jointly indicted with William Peddicord for the April, 1955, bombing of the Meier and Frank store here.

Mrs. Keller's trial was originally set for Wednesday. Peddicord has pleaded guilty of the bombing and implicated Mrs. Keller. She has entered an innocent plea.

Grange

Eagle Point Grange will meet in regular session, Tuesday, March 6, at 8 p.m. in the Grange hall.

Serving committee for this meeting is to be Mr. and Mrs. John Huffman and Mr. and Mrs. Kermit Carroll.

Gold Hill Grange

Feb. 23 was the regular meeting night of the Gold Hill Grange, with a good attendance present.

The meeting was called to order by Master Herman Kamping. Business was conducted in the usual way with committee reports, new business, and the good of the order. The main report was on fluoridation, which seems to be the topic of the day.

It was voted to nominate Connie Jean Hanscom as Grange candidate for queen in the Pear Blossom Festival.

The lecture hour consisted of songs by the Grange, and the lecturer reported on her attendance at the lecturer's school.

The Grange closed at the regular time with the retiring drill. The lunch was served in the dining room by the Harold Densmores.

The next serving committee will be Mary Jacks and the Millers.



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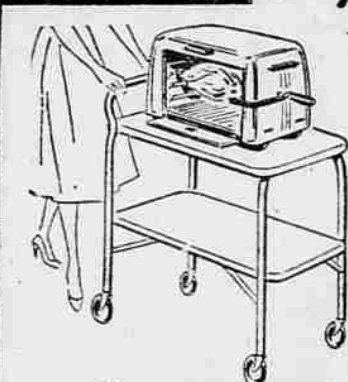
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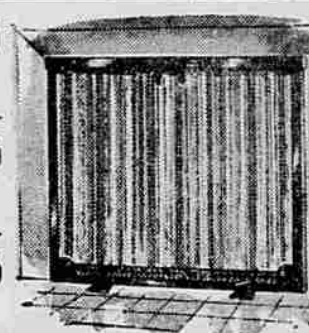
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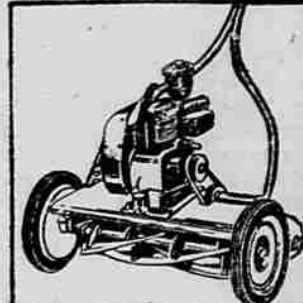
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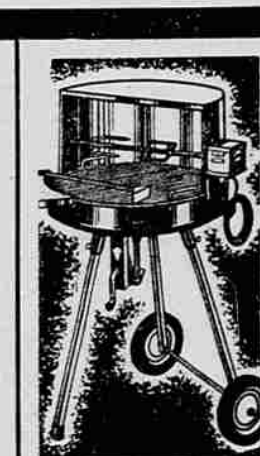
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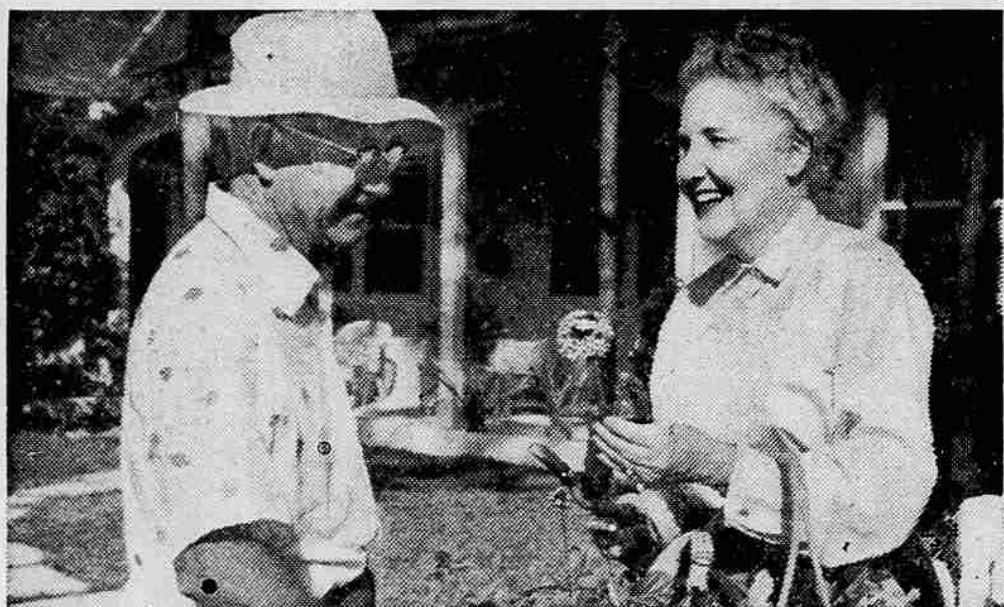
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