

Increasing Political Pressure May Require Release of Benson

BY LYLE C. WILSON
United Press Correspondent
Washington — The word around town is that his enemies at last have bracketed Ezra Taft Benson with their gun fire.

If this be true, there will be a new secretary of agriculture shortly. True or false, Benson probably will not survive in the cabinet if the Farm Belt rejects the Republican Party again in next year's congressional elections.

Only President Eisenhower's affection for and loyalty to his agriculture secretary have kept Benson in office so long.

The secretary has been in political trouble since Feb. 11, 1953, the second month of the first Eisenhower administration. It was on that day that Benson spoke in St. Paul, Minn., suggesting that the government subsidize farm prices only as "disaster insurance." Price supporters should not, Benson said, "encourage uneconomic production, heavy surpluses and subsidies."

Demands for Benson's resignation became urgent and numerous by the autumn of 1953. The President has been defending his farm man ever since, a matter of four years.

Politics May Bench Benson
Benson's departure would not importantly change administration farm policies. Pressure of politics, perhaps, will compel Eisenhower to bench Benson, but no such pressure is likely to change Eisenhower's approach to the spending of tax revenue to cope with agricultural surpluses.

A political plot added up Benson's political plight like this: "The farmers don't like him."

A great many farmers obviously do dislike Benson as much or more than they dislike the price support policies he represents. This political fact of dislike of the man is expected to be an effective argument with Eisenhower that political expediency may require Benson's resignation. A more effective argument, probably, than the equally factual farm policies.

The real argument for Benson's departure is based on the belief of a great many Republican politicians that the party would win more congressional seats next year without him than with him. The opposition to Benson within the Republican Party enjoys the weight of numbers. It will be difficult for the President to resist.

Harder Next Year
More difficult to resist, however, would be the pressure for Benson's retirement after next year's elections if, as is likely, the Republicans lose again. Eisenhower, by then, will be no

more than a caretaker party leader, a man forbidden to run again, even if he wished to do so.

A president in such a position probably would give extra weight to the opinions of all the Republicans who might be nominated to succeed him and to the urgings of the party men who would be responsible for the 1960 presidential campaign. Benson cheerfully tells all questioners that things are a bit better on the farm front and that he has no thought of retiring so long as Eisenhower finds him useful. Benson is no quitter. Neither does he shrink from trouble, tough situations and hard decisions.

A bulge in farm prices or a Republican congressional victory next year would put Benson on Easy Street, politically, if he still is around.

Changes Planned in Highway Department

Salem—The State Highway Department said today that nine civil engineers and 20 engineering aides in the Portland area would have to be laid off or accept a reduction in rank.

Highway Department Personnel Director Gene Huntley said he expected most of the men would accept demotion. All but four of the men could be fitted into jobs with a lower civil service classification, he said.

Huntley said the layoffs were partly due to seasonal decline in construction, to new aerial survey methods and to use of the department's new electronic computer.

While the highway building program was expanding with federal aid, the projects are more concentrated and required fewer men in some categories, Huntley said.

Civil engineers involved, Huntley said, were mostly transit men, draughtsmen and senior inspectors. The highway department is forced to make similar layoffs every year, Huntley said, but the concentration in the Portland area is unusual this year.

Corvallis Grade Crossings Said Safe

Salem—The State Public Utility Commission said today that three grade crossings of the Southern Pacific railroad in Corvallis were in compliance with safety provisions.

The crossings are at intersections of Harrison, Monroe and Jefferson streets.

However, further study of the traffic flow along Western ave. or "A" street to the railroad crossing will be made to determine how it can be made less hazardous, the PUC said.

Salem—Here's a switch. Farmers in Lake county have complained that deer hunters are a little to helpful. They closed gates this past season which were supposed to be open. They suggest: Leave the dates as they are found.

In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

How about going sentimental in this space today—just for a change?

The thought is suggested by Dr. Fred Singer. Dr. Singer is an astrophysicist who lives in Virginia and works at the University of Maryland, just across the Potomac river. Astrophysics is the science that deals principally with the constitution of the celestial bodies. That makes him an expert on space satellites, space missiles, space travel and so on.

He is a hard-headed scientist and is one of our leading authorities on this business of outer space, including fantastic weapons and counter-weapons that may travel through outer space in order to reach targets halfway around our terrestrial globe.

IT WAS Dr. Singer who suggested recently that shooting a rocket to the moon would be perhaps as simple in these days as falling off a log but would have little military value. The moon, he added, might be a handy place to test out nuclear bombs because in such a case we wouldn't need to be worried about radioactive fallout, but otherwise hitting it with rockets would be more or less a waste of time.

All this is cited as proof that he has a highly PRACTICAL mind.

BUT—

The other day he had to take a long rail trip. In the

Woman Dies After Given Cyanide Shot

Houston, Tex.—Mrs. Margaret Van Alstine died in agony in a doctor's office Thursday as a hysterical nurse realized she had given the woman a dose of deadly sodium cyanide by mistake.

Mrs. Emily Nash, 46, a laboratory technician since 1928 for Dr. Joseph West, told police she gave the 67-year-old woman, who came to the doctor to see if she was suffering from diabetes, a dose of poison instead of a glucose mixture.

Mrs. Nash went into hysterics as the doctor vainly attempted to save the woman.

Mrs. Nash told police she had prepared the glucose mixture and placed it on a shelf by the sodium cyanide. When Mrs. Van Alstine came in for her diabetes test, Mrs. Nash picked up the wrong mixture.

As the poison began sickening the woman, the doctor entered and discovered the mistake. He immediately administered adrenalin and tried to revive Mrs. Van Alstine, but she died on the floor as he worked over her.

The medical examiner returned a verdict of accidental death.

Coyotes Still State's Most Destructive Animal

Salem—The state agriculture department said today that coyotes still are Oregon's most destructive predatory animal.

Almost half of the 1,162 livestock and poultry losses reported from July 1 to Oct. 5 were blamed on coyotes.

course of the trip, this idea occurred to him:

Since we are planning to launch an earth satellite anyway, and since the talk is that if we're going to we'd better do it as quickly as possible, why not make it a shining CHRISTMAS SATELLITE that would go spinning round and round the world and since it would be definitely proclaimed and identified as a CHRISTMAS satellite it would carry to all mankind our Christmas wish for peace on earth and good will toward men.

THE idea intrigued him, so he got himself a piece of paper and sat down in the observation car and wrote it all down. In it, he declared that it is not necessary for the United States to demonstrate any overwhelming technical superiority over Russia, for after all we HAVE technical superiority over Russia—in spite of all the talk that is going around to the contrary.

BUT—

He said—

THE WORLD IS CRYING FOR A DEMONSTRATION OF EFFORTS TOWARD PEACE.

WHEN his piece was finished he read it over and was quite impressed with it himself—as all of us are apt to be when we take a flyer at that kind of writing.

So when he got to his destination he gave it to the reporters and the reporters carried it back to their papers and from the newspaper of the papers it got onto the teletype.

That is how come it is mentioned here.

IT ISN'T as sentimental as it sounds.

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After all—

In the long pull—

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