



### Back Stairs: Ike's Public Relations

By MERRIMAN SMITH  
UPI White House Reporter  
Gettysburg, Pa. — (UPI) — Back stairs at the White House: President Eisenhower's relations with the press, indeed his public relations, have been pictured recently in print and over the airwaves by some well-regarded Washington veterans as deteriorating.

Recent critical articles and commentaries have pictured the President as withdrawing even more from reporters since the November elections. According to some theories this is because he can't seek reelection himself and therefore isn't too interested in changing his way of life or making the extra effort to have closer contacts with the men and women who chronicle his activities.

**Sees No Need**

As pointed out in a previous "Back Stairs," reporters represent to the President the business or formal side of his life. If he has occasional press conferences and his Press Secretary, James C. Hagerty, keeps up a running flow of official information, Eisenhower sees no need to do more.

He just doesn't see the point in social overtures toward men and women who, in his opinion, are merely doing their jobs. His attitude is essentially the same toward people in government. He sees and talks with them as business requires, but seldom asks them to a steak fry.

In fact, not a single member of the Administration, according to those who should know, has ever been an overnight guest at the Eisenhower farm here. But there are frequent close personal friends at the farm.

**Useful Function**

Eisenhower said quite graciously earlier this year that he enjoyed holding news conferences, thought they served a highly useful function and that he, himself learned from them.

Down underneath, however, the President still does not relish the idea of getting up before reporters to answer questions when he really doesn't have anything to say or no hard news announcement to make.

He made this abundantly clear to friends at the start of his administration. He said he'd go along with the institution of the press conference, but he frankly did not like the idea of having a press conference purely to conform with a schedule.

Furthermore, his press conferences are not what could be classed strictly as regularly scheduled. He has had only two since the Nov. 4 elections. He spends long periods away from Washington and never, never holds a press conference when he is away for holidays in Georgia, Rhode Island or up here in

Pennsylvania.

One of his predecessors, the late President Roosevelt, used to hold news conferences on the road. Former President Truman also held more than a few out-of-town meetings with newsmen, particularly during his long stays at Key West, Fla.

**Miss Chance to Chat**

What the reporters miss most is a chance to chat with Eisenhower informally, to make small talk which can and usually is much more revealing than the carefully thought pronouncements of a speech or a television appearance.

Some reporters do have

### California Man Ignites Himself

Redondo Beach, Calif. — (UPI) — Jesse McCray, 54, walked up to four children he apparently never met before Wednesday, reached into his pocket, pulled out all the money he had — 42 cents — and handed it to them.

"This money is yours," he said. "I won't be needing it anymore."

McCray walked a few feet, took off his coat and soaked it with gasoline from a can he had been carrying. He put his saturated coat back on, picked up the can and emptied it over the front of his clothes.

Then he lit a match.

McCray was turned into a flaming torch and the searing pain of the flames caused the dependent man to run shrieking down the street for about 60 feet before he was knocked to the ground by two passers-by. They quickly beat out the flames and he was taken to Harbor General hospital.

Doctors today reported his condition was critical with burns over most of his body.

McCray, a laborer, recently was divorced by his wife, police said. They had a 12-year-old daughter who stayed with her mother and McCray was reported to have been dependent ever since the divorce.

**DOUBLE CAR EXPORTS**

London — (UPI) — The British Ford Motor company almost doubled its exports to the United States last year, it was announced today. The company said 42,000 cars were shipped to the United States in 1958.

**POPE IMPARTS BLESSING**

Vatican City — (UPI) — Pope John XXIII imparted his last mass apostolic blessing of 1958 to some 4,000 torch-carrying street car drivers who gathered in St. Peter's square Wednesday night to bring their traditional end-of-year wishes.

## Guinness Knighted by Queen In Annual New Year Honor List

London — (UPI) — Queen Elizabeth today knighted Britain's great actor Alec Guinness, whose stiff-upper-lip portrayal of a British officer won him the Academy Award for "The Bridge on the River Kwai."

The 44-year-old Sir Alec, as he will be known from now on, was the most famous international name singled out by the queen for her annual New Year's honors list.

Sir William Edward Rootes, 64, British automobile manufacturer and chairman of the Dollar Exports Council, and Sir James Turner, 50, president of the National Farmers' Union of England and Wales were made barons.

**Caccia Honored**

The foreign office honors list included the name of Sir Harold Caccia, 53, British ambassador to the United States since 1956, who received the Grand Cross of St. Michael and St. George.

Guinness joins such famous stage and movie actors as Sir John Gielgud, Sir Douglas Fairbanks Jr., and Sir Laurence Olivier who have been knighted by the queen. Fairbanks, as an American citizen, cannot use the title.

Guinness received Holly-

wood's Oscar in 1958 for his portrayal of a British officer of the stiff-upper-lip type in a Japanese jungle prison camp.

The role was a reversal of recent movies the versatile Guinness has been known for in which he portrayed a lighter view, such as "Kind Hearts and Coronets," "The Lavender Hill Mob" and "The Captain's Paradise," all of these roles which made him internationally famous.

**'Sir Alec' Henceforth**

Hereafter Guinness will carry the title "Sir." The knighthood in England harks back to the ages when men were distinguished by valor or military service.

Other high honors included two new Privy Counsellors,

### 109TH BIRTHDAY

Birmingham, Ala. — (UPI) — Josh McCord celebrates his 109th birthday today. McCord, who lives on a pension with his 102-year-old third wife, Missie, was born into slavery and worked as a "yard boy" until freed at the end of the War Between the States.

Four of eight Americans live under daylight saving time.

## Powder Plant Blast Kills Two

Indian Head, Md. — (UPI) — A Navy plant that processes powder for solid rocket fuel blew up Wednesday night killing two men and injuring two others severely.

Only four employees were in the 30 by 75 feet brick building at the time of the searing blast. The Navy said the process under way at the time was glazing and screening of a base powder grain used in solid propellants for large-type rockets.

One of the dead was identified as Alfred Charles Clark, 46, of Indian Head, who is survived by a wife and three children.

Name of the other victim was withheld pending notification of kin.

Taken to Providence hospital in nearby Washington, D.C. were Robert Bowman, Indian Head, and Isaac Johnson, La Plata, Md. Both suffered third degree burns and Bowman had a possible leg fracture.

### POPULATION RECORD

Washington — (UPI) — The Census Bureau estimates that the U. S. population will hit a record high of 175,600,000 today and climb to about 189 million during 1959.

## Federal Tax on Tickets Ends

Washington — (UPI) — A 10 per cent federal tax on tickets to movies, theaters and sports events ended today but most patrons will continue to pay the same admission price.

Spot checks by the United Press International showed that management in most areas planned to pocket the tax savings rather than to pass them on to customers. Congress last August repealed the 10 per cent tax on the first \$1 of an admission charge to all forms of entertainment, effective Jan. 1. It will cost the government about 21 million dollars a year in revenue.

The change does not affect any admission charge of 90 cents or less. These tickets have been exempt from the federal levy for some years.

A spokesman for the Motion Picture association pointed out that relatively few movie goers throughout the country are likely to benefit because most tickets are less than \$1.

But he predicted that even those movies which charge \$1 or more won't reduce their admission price. He said: "Many theaters are hard hit by TV competition and the added revenue may make it possible for them to stay open."

**NO DICE**

Minneapolis, Minn. (UPI) — Fifteen participants in a floating crap game kept right on floating even after police arrested them. When the van into which they had been herded arrived at the police station, all 15 were gone.

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<b>HUNT'S 2½ size tin PEACHES</b> Sliced or Halves 4 for \$1	<b>Nalley's Lumberjack</b> 22-oz. Bottle	<b>25¢</b>
<b>VAN CAMP'S 2½ size PORK and BEANS</b> 5 for \$1	<b>Nalley's—With Beans,</b> 15-oz. Tins	<b>4 for \$1</b>
<b>ZEE WAX PAPER</b> 100 ft. roll	<b>Giant</b> 40-oz. pkg.	<b>33¢</b>
<b>SPUDS</b> U.S. No. 1 Klamath Gems	<b>Jorgensen's</b> 1-lb. solid	<b>69¢</b>
<b>Oranges</b> Sunkist—Juice Size	<b>Fresh AA Large</b> Doz.	<b>55¢</b>
<b>Carrots</b> Snoboy	<b>SPUDS</b> U.S. No. 1 Klamath Gems	<b>10 : 43¢</b>
<b>Apples</b> Romes	<b>Oranges</b> Sunkist—Juice Size	<b>5 lb. bag. 45¢</b>
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## STAR GAZER

By CLAY R. POLLAN

Your Daily Activity Guide According to the Stars. To develop message for Friday, read words corresponding to numbers of your Zodiac birth sign.

<p><b>ARIES</b> MAR. 21-20</p> <p>14-19-26-31 48-76-80-81</p> <p><b>TAURUS</b> APR. 21</p> <p>23-44-55-58 70-75-79-86</p> <p><b>GEMINI</b> MAY 21</p> <p>2-11-20-24 4-7-20-54 65-66-74</p> <p><b>CANCER</b> JUNE 21</p> <p>10-11-12-13 34-36-51-53 73-77-78</p> <p><b>LEO</b> JULY 21</p> <p>12-16-40-42 45-52-69</p> <p><b>VIRGO</b> AUG. 21</p> <p>5-6-9-22 24-27-72</p>	<p>11 Heavily 12 Relative 13 Harmonize 14 Dispense 15 Savor 16 Gesture 17 Wish 18 And 19 Could 20 Agree 21 Influence 22 Cement 23 Cheer 24 You 25 Happiness 26 Friendly 27 Or 28 Use 29 Praise 30 Fills 31 Use 32 Please 33 Or 34 And 35 With 36 Lose 37 Loved 38 People 39 Caution 40 The</p> <p>31 Travel 32 Today 33 Not 34 That 35 You 36 Can't 37 Especially 38 Answer 39 Get 40 Times 41 And 42 That 43 A 44 Day 45 New 46 Nighttime 47 Awaits 48 Through 49 Is 50 But 51 Moves 52 Be 53 And 54 The 55 For 56 New 57 Low 58 Love 59 Concerning 60 Thrills</p>	<p><b>LIBRA</b> SEPT. 23</p> <p>15-17-56-57 60-71-82-88</p> <p><b>SCORPIO</b> OCT. 23</p> <p>1-2-11-23 37-47-68</p> <p><b>SAGITTARIUS</b> NOV. 23</p> <p>11-12-13-14 33-39-54-59 62-67-89-90</p> <p><b>CAPRICORN</b> DEC. 23</p> <p>21-29-32-38 41-46-61</p> <p><b>AQUARIUS</b> JAN. 21</p> <p>1-2-3-4-5 8-10-25 28-50-83-85</p> <p><b>PISCES</b> FEB. 21</p> <p>1-2-3-4-5 13-18-30-33 49-63-84-87</p>
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