

# First Secretary Could Assist President

## In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

**Foibles of youth late:** Seventy-four boys from Chelmsford high school (in staid old England) are out to set a new silly season record. Their goal is to push a baby carriage for 500 consecutive hours.

The perambulator, bearing the school's crest, is pushed round and round the campus, day and night, without surcease. The objective is to beat the 100 hour record now held by Nottingham University.

**THIS**, at least, can be said for it: It's more practical than trying to see how many bodies can be packed into a standard-size phone booth.

Both the Chelmsford and the Nottingham youngsters will be pushing baby carriages around a few years later on and the practice they're getting now will come in handy then.

**D**'ya reckon these silly season stunts the youngsters fall for are any sillier than a lot of the things their elders do?

Trying to conquer the world, for example. All history shouts aloud the lesson that it can't be got away with and made to stick. But somebody is always trying it—communism Russia being the latest.

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I'd hate to guess.

**IT** ALL goes to prove the basic wisdom of Kipling's crack that "Judy O'Grady and the Colonel's lady are sisters under the skin."

## Ike's Unofficial Proposal Seen in Personal Letter

(Editor's note: This is the ninth and last in the series of articles in which the Great Decisions program is discussed. Today's discussion topic is "What challenge to diplomat and citizen?")

A "First Secretary of the Government" who would have "time to think" is President Eisenhower's unofficial proposal to help deal with the difficult problem of making government policy in a world that grows more complex with each passing day.

In one of these pot-boiler orations, Senator Douglas of Illinois charges that the Air Force spends a million dollars of its training funds every year to stage air show junkets for civilians. He says the Army, the Navy and the Marine Corps waste additional millions on additional fetes.

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mental machinery, are able to deal imaginatively and effectively with the challenges of a fast changing world.

### Three Essential Parts

There are three essential parts to this concern: (1) how can the best and freshest thinking be brought to bear on U.S. foreign policy? (2) how can the instruments of government—Congress and the many Executive departments—function as a team in framing and conducting all aspects of American foreign policy? (3) how can the American people participate, through the democratic process, in shaping this nation's relations with the rest of the world?

At the governmental level, according to many observers, the problem of creating effective foreign policies is inseparable from the problem of carrying out these policies. The same pieces of governmental machinery are usually involved, and the same difficulties of coordination are present. Thus, criticism of results is very often, at the same time, criticism of policy making methods.

### New Government Agencies

A number of new government agencies, offices or special panels have been created since World War II to deal with various aspects of security and foreign policy. Many of the agencies have the dual job of drafting policy and of administering it; some of the offices and panels are wholly advisory. (The President, of course, is ultimately responsible for conducting U.S. foreign policy.)

One of the most important new agencies is the National Security Council, which the President heads and which consists of the top officers of the Executive branch who are primarily concerned with defense and foreign policies. Other agencies both plan and administer various foreign affairs activities—such as the foreign aid program, atomic energy developments, etc.

In the advisory category are such offices as the President's special assistant on science and technology and such special panels as the Gaither committee, which submitted to the White House a highly controversial appraisal of U.S. defense policies.

These, however, are merely a few of the newly established instruments of U.S. foreign policy. In addition there are the long established arms of the department of state, including the diplomatic service, and the other Executive departments whose activities are closely related to international affairs—such as the defense department and the departments of agriculture, commerce, labor and the treasury.

There are many agencies of government that deal with some aspect of foreign affairs. Yet only a handful of these report to the secretary of state. The President alone, at the pinnacle, has final authority.

Bureaucracy, some observers believe, has got out of hand; the machinery of foreign policy is so unwieldy that creative planning and efficient administration are difficult if not impossible.

The President's idea that a First Secretary of the Government might be in a position to "think" and thus to provide over-all leadership and coordination for all the branches and pieces of U.S. foreign policy, is one approach to this concern. Some observers feel that only the President can or should provide this kind of supreme leadership to the government and the people.

### Provide Fresh Thinking

In Congress, meanwhile, spokesmen for the majority party have suggested that the Legislative branch can at least provide some fresh thinking on U.S. foreign policy, and can disagree constructively with the Administration on matters like defense and foreign aid spending.

On one principle, however, there seems to be fundamental agreement; unless U.S. foreign policy is imaginative, vigorous and efficient, the United States will not be able to provide effective leadership to the anti-Communist alliance, through the Berlin crisis and all the other cold war challenges that are bound to come.

World leadership, in turn, requires more than smoothly operating governmental machinery; it also requires understanding, participation and support by the American people. Sovereignty, in a democratic society, rests with the citizenry.

Most foreign affairs experts shy away from the notion that every citizen can be "his own secretary of state." Issues are too complex, and too much of the background information is necessarily secret. Yet increasing numbers of governmental leaders and other public figures are begging the public to play a larger role in setting the general direction of U.S. foreign policy—the "Great Decisions" which underlie specific policies and programs.

Some of the reasons are obvious. The general directions of U.S. foreign policy must either express or contradict the sovereign will of the American people. At stake is the kind of free or regimented society that survives the challenges of the present generation—or whether there is survival at all.

Taxes are at stake, and the dividing up of tax money among such commitments as national defense, scientific research, education, foreign aid, flood control and other public works.

Or, as the President pointed out in his March 16 address to the nation, "We must avoid letting fear or lack of confidence turn us from the course that self-respect, decency and love of liberty point out. . . . We need only to understand the issues and to practice the self-discipline that freedom demands."

The challenge to the citizen, in other words, is to make the democratic process come alive to serve his needs, interests and ethical goals.

### Citizen's First Task

The first task of the citizen, according to many experts, is to make the democratic process come alive to serve his needs, interests and ethical goals.

The free American press (including periodicals and broadcasting, as well as newspapers) is generally recognized as a unique vehicle for lifetime citizen education. Through news reports, analytical commentary, scholarly analysis and editorials the average citizen has access to almost limitless information on day-to-day happenings and on the background to the day's events.

Civic, business, farm and labor organizations, as well as churches and professional societies, are also important avenues for self-education on foreign affairs and other public policy problems on which the citizen needs to hold informed opinions.

Adult education in a more formal sense is available through night schools, extension courses and special study programs such as "Great Decisions."

Available to Citizen: A vast amount of information, in other words, is available to any American citizen who takes the trouble to inform himself. But what about the channels for action? How does the informed citizen take part in public affairs?

One answer to this question is that not all foreign policy action is taken in Washington. While Congress is in session, or during any public debate on foreign policy, the citizen can express his informed opinions by letters or wire to his Senators, Congressman or the White House and state department. But some aspects of American foreign policy lie even closer to the levers of citizen action.

Education, civil rights, public investment in economic growth and social development, etc., are largely state and local issues, rather than Federal problems, yet they have a direct bearing on the nation's capacity to wage a successful cold war. Voting in state and local elections, in other words, can be as important as voting in national elections.

Furthermore, the citizen has numerous channels for influencing public affairs in his own community and state—through school boards, business and professional associations, chambers of commerce, farm and labor organizations, political parties, citizens' committees, etc.

### Direct Participation

Even direct participation in international affairs is possible at the state and local level. Many churches are actively engaged in overseas missionary, educational or relief work. A number of farm, labor, business, and service organizations are either international in character or are involved in overseas action programs of a social or other nature. Public agencies like CARE and UNICEF offer the individual an opportunity to

participate in important overseas assistance projects. Better use of channels such as these, experts are quick to point out, may go a long way toward making the democratic process more effective; it will not, however, solve the problem of wise and effective policy making at the national level. The people cannot conduct the nation's foreign policies. Nor, as Sen. J. W. Fulbright (D-Ark.) pointed out recently, can Congress.

Only an informed citizenry, however, expressing its will through the democratic process, can support and respond creatively to new ideas in foreign affairs, whenever and by whomsoever they may be advanced.

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## More Assistance To Latin America Favored in State

Corvallis — Expanded U.S. assistance to Latin America for improved education and public health programs has received strong endorsement from Oregon "Great Decisions" discussion groups.

Opinion ballots from persons participating in informal discussion groups in 22 Oregon counties were tabulated by Oregon State college extension service. Discussion topic was "A Better Neighbor Policy for Latin America?"

Nearly 80 per cent of opinions favored higher priority for Latin America in U.S. global foreign policy. Voters split about evenly on whether the U.S. should approach Latin American problems on a country-by-country basis or on a regional scale.

About three-fourths of those balloting said the U.S. should keep hands off internal Latin American politics rather than intervene on the side of democratic forces trying to overthrow totalitarian governments.

Priority to Assistance: Ballot results gave top priority to U.S. assistance in improving educational systems in Latin America. Latest census for Latin America shows illiteracy for persons 10 years of age or older ranges from 14 per cent of the population in Argentina to more than 50 per cent in Brazil and nearly two-thirds in Honduras.

Next priority was for assistance to control disease and provide better health and sanitation facilities.

U.S. policy proposals now under discussion in Washington were ranked in the following order of preference: Expand cultural and student exchange programs and encourage study of Latin American languages and cultures in U.S. schools.

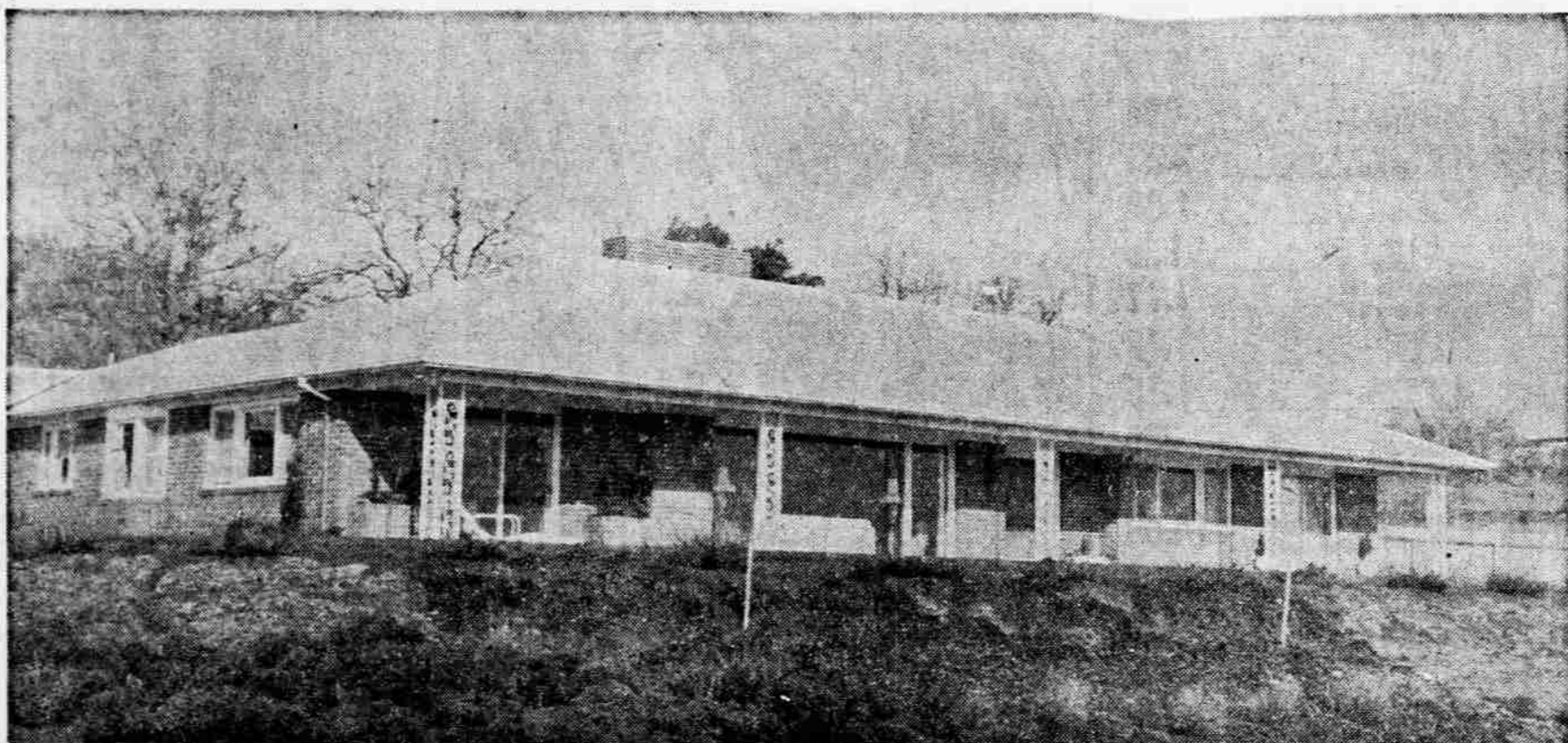
Seek long-range answers to the commodity price problem by joining with other surplus-producing nations in joint studies. Brazil, for example, has a carry-over of 14 million bags of coffee from last year—more than four times normal "working stock."

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The home of Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Skinner on Hillside Drive. The Skinners' 2700 square foot house is heated and cooled by a General Electric heat pump. Operational costs for both heating and cooling over a period of one year are shown below.

### HEAT PUMP OPERATING COSTS

for the 2700 sq. ft. Skinner home

June, 1956	.59
July, 1956	2.00
Aug., 1956	4.55
Sept., 1956	3.01
Oct., 1956	10.08
Nov., 1956	33.44
Dec., 1956	46.20
Jan., 1957	46.59
Feb., 1957	46.59
March, 1957	46.59
April, 1957	23.45
May, 1957	9.87

Average cost per month for twelve months was \$22.76



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