

Try and Stop Me

By BENNETT CERF

BUDDY LESTER tells about a spy who was captured by Chinese Reds and summarily condemned to face a firing squad. "You're entitled to one last meal," announced an inscrutable celestial, "to show you how humane we are in the new China. On the menu today are sweet and sour pork, Subgum Chow Mein, and Wonton soup."

"Is that all?" grumbled the spy. "Well," conceded the grim celestial, "if we had rounded up a couple of more spies, you could have ordered our special combination dinner of Egg Foo Yong and Lobster Cantonese."



A Kentucky bridegroom demanded an annulment a week after the wedding. "I just found out," he reported happily, "that my pa-in-law had no license for the gun."

"Yoga exercises? Nothing to 'em," scoffs Myron Cohen. "I can do them standing on my head!"

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Matter of Fact

By Joseph Alsop

BIG MONEY'S ROLE

New York—There is a little song that certain Republican brothers used to sing at their party's Presidential conventions. This irreverent tribe would march through the frenzied halls, chanting the sad refrain:

"Winthrop Aldrich always WINS!"

The chant predicted the outcome of every Republican convention from 1936 until 1952. Alf M. Landon, Wendell Willkie, Thomas E. Dewey, and Dwight D. Eisenhower were all strongly supported by the great New York financial community, with the then-chairman of the Chase Bank in the forefront. The chant only ceased to be accurately prophetic in 1952 because the victory in July was capped by the victory in November, after which Chase Bank chairman Aldrich became U.S. Ambassador Aldrich.

By any rational test, moreover, the New York financial community did a vital service, both to the country and to its preferred political party, on all these past occasions. Without the power of New York money to call a halt, the Republican party would surely have yielded to its odd, persistent impulse to froth at the mouth and rush over the nearest cliff, in the manner of the Gardarene swine in the Bible. The fight in 1940 was a truly heroic occasion, for America's role in the second World War was the real issue at stake in the Philadelphia convention that summer.

THESE reminiscences of the recent Republican past are currently relevant, moreover, because a great many people expect the power of New York money to play a big role this year. The same men and the same forces that Winthrop Aldrich so long represented and typified are widely expected to charge into the contest that is shaping up between Vice President Richard M. Nixon and New York's Gov. Nelson D. Rockefeller. Many ordinarily astute Nixonites, at least until recently including the Vice

President himself, furthermore expect that the "big money" will side with Rockefeller.

Very likely this expectation would have been fulfilled, if a dramatic Republican revival had not begun last summer. The leaders of the New York financial community are very much more pragmatic than the men of the great industrial dukedoms outside New York. They try to pick winners, instead of giving their private ideologies a run in the yard. If the inquiring Dr. Gallup were still giving his former support to the "Nixon can't win" slogan, the chances are the big money would be siding with Rockefeller at this moment.

But in Wall Street, as in many other areas, the Republican revival deriving from the so-called "peace issue" has mortally hurt the Rockefeller candidacy. To be sure, you cannot exactly run a private poll of bank presidents and other money men. The towers of Wall Street are less pollable, so to say, than the ranch houses and split levels. But it is still easy to earn the line-up in the New York financial community today. There is some active support for Nixon. There is a vast amount of passive support for Nixon. And there is very little support, either active or passive, for Governor Rockefeller.

EVEN THE Chase bank, of which has the reputation of being a Rockefeller appliance, has not got into the act, although almost everyone supposes the contrary. Prior to Governor Rockefeller's West Coast tour, the question of the Chase bank's role in the matter was whether the bank's connections across the country would be used to arrange business contacts for the touring Governor. The present bank chairman, John J. McCloy, answered the question in the negative.

David Rockefeller was acting as a brother, and not as an official of the Chase bank, when he asked a West Coast Standard Oil executive to give a dinner at which Gov. Rockefeller met other California business leaders. This much talked about dinner might not have been arranged for any other guest of honor. But the main effect of Governor Rockefeller's family connection is still an automatic effect, unsought by the Rockefeller.

Awareness of the weight of the Rockefeller interests visibly helps to confine all sorts of Nixon-sympathizers in the financial community to a passive role. Otherwise, many more Wall Streeters would be on the march for Nixon in the old familiar manner of the past. "The New Yorkers for Nixon," founded by the youthful Dillon, Read partner, Robert Flanagan, is an impressive outfit, but it would be a much bigger outfit if the Governor of this state had any other name but Rockefeller.

As matters stand, "New Yorkers for Nixon" is an exception that proves a rule. For the first time in this century, the New York financial community seems unlikely to plunge into the fray at a contested Republican convention.

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Washington Report

By WILLIAM S. WHITE

KNEE-JERKS AND HST

Washington—The knee-jerk variety of Democratic liberals are painting themselves into a very small corner by their continuing attacks on that well-known ultra-conservative, Harry S. Truman.



This is bracing news for the Presidential year, or it suggests that the knee-jerk liberals—who are proving their own most devastating critics—may well talk themselves right out of any real influence in the 1960 campaign.

Mr. Truman's recent blast as the New York Democratic gathering against the intemperance of the "hot house" liberals still raises a hissing sound wherever the earnest knee-jerks gather, from coast to coast.

A knee-jerk liberal may be thus described: he usually runs with a coterie called Americans for Democratic Action. Most of his kind have never won—or even importantly campaigned in an election. But they have long since nominated themselves to run the Democratic party.

And, regrettably, they are able to trade on a handful of famous names, including that of Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt.

THE KNEE-JERK liberal responds in an automatically predictable way to the stimulus of any of the slogans of his set. He is like a patient who will raise his leg in a predictable way when his kneecap is tapped with a physician's rubber hammer.

Say "nuclear disarmament" and the knee jerks in approval. Say "South"—anybody's South, moderate or conservative—and the knee jerks in disapproval. Say "negotiate with the Russians" and the knee jerks in approval. Say "compromise"—any kind of compromise for any reason—and the knee jerks in disapproval.

Say "tradition" and the knee jerks in disapproval. Say "Catholic" and in most cases the knee jerks (if rather furtively) in disapproval though the knee-jerk liberals make a career of denouncing other people's prejudice.

And now it has come to

pass that the name "Truman" jerks the knee in disapproval. So does the name "Acheson"—Dean Acheson, Mr. Truman's Secretary of State.

MR. TRUMAN got himself into this dire position by following grave offense against knee-jerkism:

(1) He is not instantly ready to end all testing of atomic weapons. He has persisted in seeing this: even as-

suming a good-faith Soviet agreement, a simple nuclear standoff with the Russians might not be wise in the absence of an actual and large reduction in Soviet conventional military force. That force now outnumbers Western conventional force by maybe six to one.

(2) He has refused to promote the alleged "issue" of Federal assistance to other countries for birth control. He has insisted on accepting three facts of life: that the birth rate of foreign countries is intimately their own affair; that no sensible administration would try to make it anything else; and that this kind

of an "issue" would hopelessly divide the Democratic party.

(3) He has refused to go along with a conviction of the knee-jerk liberals that any Democrat disagreeing with them on any single point is necessarily unfit for public service.

(4) He has thought, and said, that a party with some unity is more likely to win than a party with no unity at all and armed only with the glowing true faith of the knee-jerk liberals.

BUT IN leaping upon Mr. Truman for these truly infamous observations the knee-

MAIL TRIBUNE, Medford, Or., Monday, Dec. 14, 1959

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jerk liberals have made a big mistake. Those heretofore consigned by them to outer darkness were easy marks—demonstrably evil fellows like Southerners, and all non-knee-jerk Northern Democratic "bosses," like Carmine DeSapio of New York. But it will not be easy to convince the Democratic party at large that Harry S. Truman is an overly-conservative chap. So the knee-jerks, to twist a muscular metaphor a bit, have at last dangerously overreached themselves. (Copyright, 1959, by United Feature Syndicate, Inc.)

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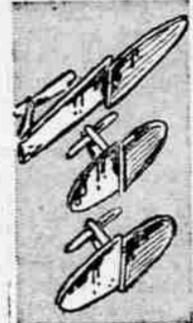
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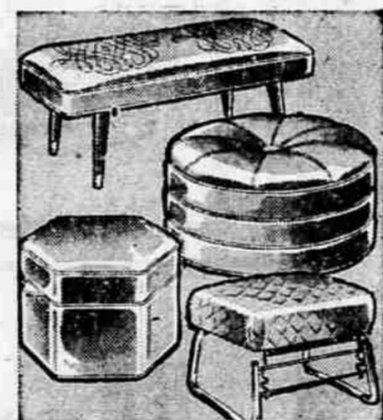
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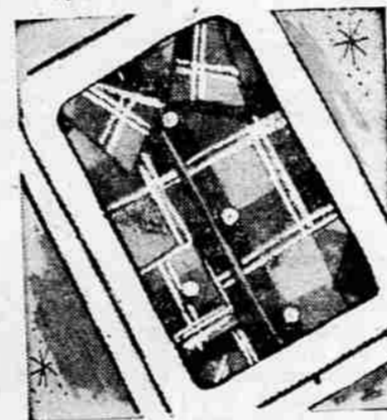
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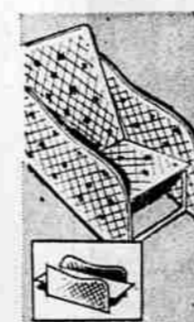
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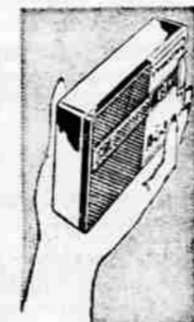
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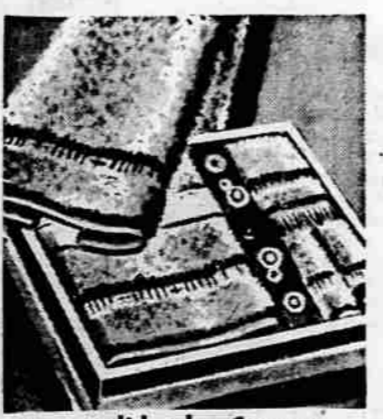
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