

# Benson's Position in Administration Cabinet Appears as Somewhat Wobbly

Washington — (UPI) — Where does Ezra Taft Benson go here?

It is obvious that the secretary of agriculture does not see eye to eye with Vice President Richard M. Nixon on farm policy. Nixon is almost certain to be nominated for President at the Republican National Convention in July. Assuming this, how secure will be Benson's position in the cabinet? To long time observers, it seems far too late for the controversial farm chief to change his concept of what is best for American agriculture to mesh with that of Nixon. Benson is a strong party man. So, in order to avoid embarrassing the prospective candidate, will he resign, or will he sit out the campaign, conducting merely a holding operation until the Eisenhower administration expires next Jan. 20?

**Not Enthusiastic**  
It was clear to reporters at a Benson news conference last week that he is not enthusiastic for Nixon as the Republican nominee. He withheld endorsement of Nixon's candidacy. But he said that he believed Nixon would make a good President.

Benson noted that Nixon now is the only candidate for the Republican nomination. He said "It would appear" that if there was no other candidate "he would have my support." Later Benson modified this somewhat by saying "It would appear that I will be in support of the vice president because he's the candidate that seems to be the one that will get the nomination."

**Sharp Words Reported**  
The differences between Benson and Nixon apparently began in 1955 when the price of hogs dropped sharply. Nixon called Benson to his Capitol Hill office and reportedly there were sharp words between them over Benson's refusal to support the price of live hogs. The idea of support of livestock prices was and is entirely foreign to the Benson-Eisenhower farm policy. "Pork chops were served, and they were good."

Then, last Dec. 31, after New York Gov. Nelson Rockefeller had withdrawn from the Republican presidential race, Benson held a news conference in which he attempted to identify Nixon with the administration's farm program. At that time, Benson endorsed Nixon's candidacy.

"Yes, he is my candidate, of course," Benson said. "He appears to be out in front and I feel he would make a good President."

"I see no reason why he wouldn't support the farm program he supported and helped develop."

**Acts Without Advice**  
Nixon said nothing. But shortly after the first of the year, he began delving into farm policy on his own, without Benson's advice.

At his March 17 news conference, Benson answered testily when he was asked twice if he and Nixon had conferred on a farm program that Nixon might espouse.

"This whole discussion is wearing pretty thin," Benson said, his face flushed.

Benson has been a whipping boy for Congress. He has been criticized, sometimes harshly, by members of both parties, by innumerable farmers, and by all major farm organizations except the American Farm Bureau Federation.

His neck has been on the chopping block often, and many times it appeared the ax would fall. At least one congressional delegation of Republicans asked President Eisenhower to fire him.

Benson weathered all storms. He has said that either of his presidents—of the United States and of the Mormon Church—could get his job at any time. Neither ever asked for it.

But things have changed, and will change more. After the July convention Eisenhower, his powerful friend, will become more of a lame duck President. Eisenhower's voice in the Republican party will become less loud than it is now. It might not be loud enough to save Benson's job as it has many times.

If Nixon develops his own farm program, and it is at variance with Benson's, where can Benson go except back to Salt Lake City to resume his duties as an apostle of the Mormon Church?

The July convention action could make his political position untenable.

## The Family Council

**Editor's Note:** The Family Council consists of a Judge, a psychiatrist, three clergymen, a newspaper editor, a women's editor and two writers. Each article is a summary of an actual case history. The Council reports on problems that have been dealt with by responsible agencies and counselors.

**Horace J.** — I want my own home and family.  
**Lucy V.** — What's mine is his.

**Horace J.** — I am a bachelor of 39. Recently I met and fell in love with a widow two years younger. She has two teen-age children.

I want to marry as soon as possible, but two problems have arisen. Lucy wants to remain in her home and I want a new one. Also, I would like to have a child of my own and Lucy feels her childbearing years are behind her.

Lucy seems to think her children should be enough family for me. I'm fond of them, but I know I'll regret it if I don't have one of my own. Many women of Lucy's age have children. She thinks it would be almost ridiculous at her age.

**Lucy V.** — I hate that phrase Horace has come to use — "a child of my own." What's mine is his and what's his is mine. I want him to be a real father to my children. I've been a widow five years and the kids have missed a father dreadfully. It's one reason I'm so keen about getting married.

I think Horace has been ridiculous about this home business. I've lived in the house for nearly 20 years and both the children and I are so attached to it. There isn't a corner we haven't worked on. If we sold it, we'd have to pay so much more for another that probably wouldn't be nearly as nice.

Why can't Horace be reasonable?

that reason must necessarily work toward her convenience. She shows strangely little sensitivity to her prospective husband's feelings.

Lucy should recognize that a man who has waited until he is 39 to marry has suffered loneliness and regret at his lack of a real family life. Now he has come to the point where he wants to express his manhood in the fullest sense of the word.

The house issue is not a trivial matter. Horace is saying in effect that he wants to establish his own way of life, his own household. The memories Lucy cherishes are not dear to him.

Lucy also lacks imagination when she thinks that Horace can simply take over her teen-age children as his own and feel fully expressed as a father. Of course, he can love them and enjoy a paternal role in relation to them, but he is being honest with himself when he admits this doesn't quite fulfill all his desires.

We get the impression that Lucy has too much the attitude of using Horace as a convenience to satisfy her needs and those of her children.

We don't think any person should have a child simply to please a mate. It takes the desire of two individuals to create the proper atmosphere for rearing a healthy child. If, therefore, Lucy feels she cannot share Horace's desires in this respect she should accept the fact that they are probably not for one another.

Probably Horace's relationship with Lucy has clarified many things for him. He now knows exactly what he wants and he should make every effort to get it. His love for Lucy may open the road to love for a woman who will return the feeling in full measure.

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## Quotes From the News

**By United Press International**

Maryville, Tenn.—An exhausted state policeman, describing the seven hour chase after a 200-pound bear cub that had escaped its cage at a gas station:

"We had quite a time with him. Every time he came down a tree the dogs nipped him and he'd climb another."

Detroit—Sens. Hubert H. Humphrey (D-Minn.) and John F. Kennedy (D-Mass.), clashing in the Wisconsin primary over campaign tactics:

Humphrey: "We're trying to choose a candidate for President of the United States, not the lead for a Hollywood drama."  
Kennedy: "Hubert will learn that running for a Hollywood part is not my purpose."

Durand, Mich.—Engineer Harry Wix, Jr., stepping down from the cab of one of the nation's last regularly scheduled steam locomotives, which chugged into retirement Sunday:

"I really thought of them as beautiful. Not monsters, beautiful."

Hollywood—British actress June Wilkinson, lamenting the theft of \$4,100 worth of furs from her apartment:

"Today was my birthday, too. My 20th. Without furs, what's a girl to wear?"

## Israel Transforms Desert, Marshlands Into Blooming Farms

New York, N.Y.—(Scientific American Feature)—Within a decade the people of Israel have transformed more than a million acres of desert waste and brackish marshlands into blossoming farms.

As a result, they have nearly achieved the goal of agricultural self-sufficiency and, indeed, have already made their tiny nation an exporter of agricultural products, according to Walter C. Lowdermilk, former associate chief of the soil conservation service of the U.S. department of agriculture, now an agricultural consultant to foreign governments.

"The 20th-century Israelites," says Dr. Lowdermilk, "did not find their promised land 'flowing with milk and honey,' as their forebears did 3,300 years ago. Instead, the 7,815 square miles allocated to Israel in the 1948 partition of Palestine consisted of encroaching sand dunes, of marl swamps and naked limestone hills from which an estimated three feet of topsoil had been scoured, sorted and spread in the form of sterile overwash upon the plains, or swept out to sea in flood waters that time after time turned the beautiful blue of the Mediterranean into a dirty brown as far as the horizon."

**Worked Miracle**  
"But today the toil and devotion of citizens utilizing the best understanding afforded by modern agricultural science have worked a miracle on the land. More than 44,000 acres of marshland have been reclaimed. Irrigation has been extended to 325,000 acres, multiplying their production by six-fold and more. On vast stretches of uncultivable land range-cover has been established to support a growing livestock industry. Some 37 million trees have been planted in the highlands to conserve rainfall and to retard erosion. Reforestation will be further extended. Some 250 million trees, both native and imported species selected by the Israeli Forest Experiment station, are to be planted in

the next 10 years. Already the first of the plantings are yielding timber, poles and fuel products—valuable commodities in a deforested land.

"To bring much of the land under irrigation and cultivation has required strenuous repair of the damage done by centuries of erosion. The slopes in stony soils are typically covered by an 'erosion pavement' made up of stones too heavy to be moved by rain splash and the sheet flow of water. In many parts of the highlands modern farmers have been able to take advantage of the soil-conservation works of the ancient Phoenicians, the first people to control erosion by building stone walls to convert a slope into a series of level benches. Most of these ancient terraces had been allowed to fall into ruins. The citizens of Israel are zealously rebuilding them, and in ways which permit effective cultivation by modern machinery.

**Water Measures**  
"Equally impressive are measures now under way to increase the available water supply, the resource which imposes the ultimate limit on Israeli agriculture. Current water development plans call for the diversion of the upper Jordan waters within Israel to the southern dry lands and those of the Yarmuk river to the eastern side of the Jordan valley. Prospects have also been brightened by progress in the desalting of sea water.

"Thus, on the anvil of adversity the state and people of Israel have been hammering out solutions to problems that other nations must sooner or later face. There are no more continents left to explore or exploit. But the example of Israeli shows that the land can be reclaimed and that increase in the food supply can overtake the population increase that will double the 2,800-million world population before the end of this century."

**Blame Rockslide**  
Paris—(UPI)—The collapse Dec. 2 of the Malpasat dam with a resulting death toll of 384 in the flood of the Riviera town of Frejus was caused by a rockslide and not because of weak construction of the dam. This was the conclusion of a preliminary report published by a governmental committee investigating the disaster.

**London—(UPI)—**The Market Research Society has prohibited its 600 members from using hypnotism on persons they question.

## Two Injured as Car Leaves Highway 99

Two persons were injured in a one car accident Sunday on Highway 99, just south of Gold Hill, state police reported.

Sidney Milo Jones, 49, of route 2, box 210, the driver, was reported in fair condition this morning at Sacred Heart hospital suffering from cuts on his head and possible chest injuries. His wife, Helen, a passenger in the car, was treated for cuts and bruises and released, hospital attendants said.

The car was rounding a turn when it left the road and hit a telephone pole, throwing both occupants from the vehicle, state police said.

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## What Is The Law?

This column is prepared as a public service by the College of Law, Willamette University, Salem, to explain basic legal principles, not to provide legal advice. The reader is cautioned not to apply these cases to his own problems without an attorney's advice, for differing facts may change the outcome.

### Payment for Certain Benefits Not a Legal Obligation

In Missouri, almost twenty-five years ago, a woman filed a petition asking the court to adjudge that she was entitled to all of her brother's property. She made this unusual request on the basis that she had bestowed a great benefit on her brother and he should pay her for it. She claimed that she had saved his life by taking a bottle of chloroform from him to prevent his suicide. She claimed, in addition, that she had advised him to go to a doctor for treatment when he was insane and as a result he had regained his sanity. She took credit for saving her brother's reputation by persuading certain persons not to slander him, and she advised him to live an honest and upright life.

### Court Not Sympathetic

The Supreme court of Missouri was not sympathetic with her case. The court indicated it would not listen to a sister making claims of this nature on her brother. The court said: "Any good citizen would do that much for a stranger without hope or ex-

pectation of reward. It is apparent without further discussion that such sisterly acts do not furnish a consideration for the property in question."

It is a generally accepted rule of law that one person cannot force a benefit upon another against his will and then seek to hold him liable to pay for the benefit. A person bestowing such a benefit does so voluntarily and is not entitled to relief in court. The Missouri case was an easy one to decide, and there will be little disagreement concerning whether or not the decision is right.

An earlier case, from New York, presents a much more difficult situation. Here, a farmer had informed his neighbor that he planned to burn the stubble from his field and asked the neighbor to remove a stack of grain that was in the farmer's field. The neighbor said he would do so. At the stated time the farmer set the field on fire and then discovered that his neighbor's grain had not been moved. The farmer and his son moved the grain and then sought fifty cents for their services. The neighbor would not pay so the farmer brought an action seeking the reasonable value of the benefit he had bestowed by moving the grain to a safe place. The court denied the farmer's request, saying, "If a man humanely bestows his labor, and even risks his life, involuntarily aiding to preserve his neighbor's house from destruction by fire, the law considers the service rendered as gratuitous, and it, therefore, forms no ground of action."

Courts will frequently point out that they believe a moral obligation rests upon the person benefited to pay a reasonable value for the benefit. However, they usually adhere to the position that there is not a legal obligation that can be enforced by court action.

## Mormon Church Eyes Oregon Land

Portland—(UPI)—The Mormon church was reported Sunday to be negotiating for about 300 acres of land southwest of here for eventual use as a college or junior college campus.

The land is one of the last sizable tracts near Portland. It was reported valued at around \$2,100 per acre.

The Oregonian-Journal said no building on the land was expected for 7 to 10 years and that the church was seeking additional sites to relieve overcrowding at Brigham Young university.

MAIL TRIBUNE, Medford, Or.  
Monday, March 28, 1960 A 3

## Obscenity Laws Discussion Topic

Portland—(UPI)—A California attorney said Saturday any law which tries to define obscenity to include "playboy" type magazines, sunbathing or nudist publications, or even "girlie" magazines is in conflict with recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions.

The attorney, Stanley Fleishman, gave his opinion to a legislative interim committee. The committee is seeking to recommend a law to replace the Oregon obscenity statute which has been declared unconstitutional.

Fleishman's opinions conflicted with those of the Portland city attorney's office. Richard A. Braman, deputy Portland city attorney, presented proposals for a state law which differed legally from a Portland city ordinance but which offered similar definitions of obscenity.

Fleishman said he was not referring to "hard-core pornography" which he said already was covered by laws. "The problem is the girlie-type magazines on the newsstands and the U.S. Supreme Court, in a 9 to 0 decision, has given the clearest protection to these magazines," he said.

The first record of a bottled dog is a detailed Chinese description written in 143 B.C.

The Canadian Fisheries Industry exports about two-thirds by value of its annual production.

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Water Measures

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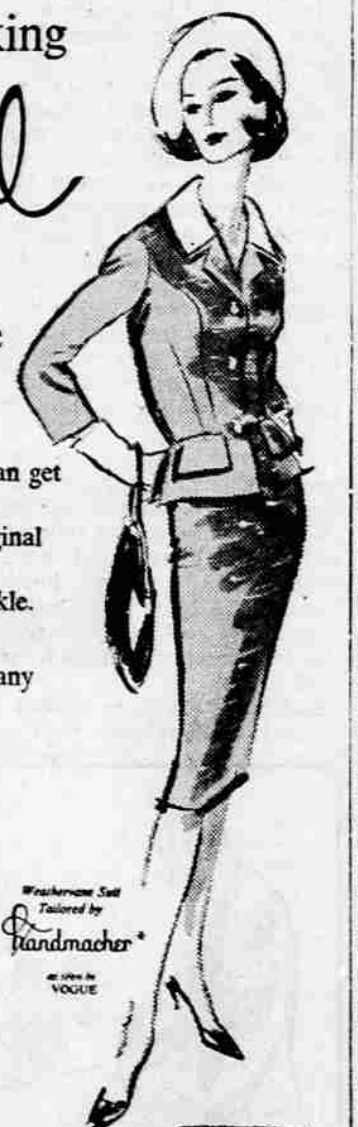
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