

In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

At his now celebrated press conference in Moscow the other day, Nikita Khrushchev (let's not refer to him any more as Mr. K; in most of our country Mr. K is a term of respect) spoke bitterly of President Eisenhower as "irresponsible, unfit for office and dangerous as the head of a major state." He pictured like as "virtually a stooge for John Foster Dulles at the 1955 summit meeting."

He shouted: "President Eisenhower is completely lacking in will power, but that does not excuse him for not exercising authority over such men as Nixon and Secretary of State Herter . . . who are leading the U.S. along a path that could bring a new war."

He concluded by offering Ike contemptuously a job as "manager of a kindergarten in Russia, where he could do no harm."

AND so on.

There are suggestions by the more than 400 newspaper, television and radio correspondents who attended his conference that he was practically fit to be tied . . . that he used language unfit for publication or broadcast, so the translators and the news writers toned it down to bring it within the limits of decency.

COMMENT?

"This fits the situation: 'WHOM FORTUNE WISHES TO DESTROY SHE FIRST MAKES MAD.'"

WHO said that?

It has been often plagiarized during the intervening twenty centuries, but it appears to have been said first about 42 B.C. by Publilius Syrus, an actor in the type of Roman theatre that 2,000 years ago filled the place that is now filled by the newspapers and the news and comment magazines.

Anyway, it indicates that men like Nikita Khrushchev and situations such as Khrushchev appears to be

facings are no new thing in the world.

BIG question: What IS the situation that Khrushchev faces?

IN A dispatch, Bill Ryan one of the AP's top foreign affairs commentators, says: "Khrushchev's latest diatribe leaves the strong impression that the huge and mighty Soviet Union is UNDER THE CONTROL OF MILITARY LEADERS . . . The man who outwardly is the sole boss—the premier of the Soviet Union and the first secretary of its communist party—now acts like one over-anxious to prove to SUPERIORS how willing he is to carry out their instructions . . ."

"The big difference between the Khrushchev of today and the Khrushchev who last September ruled the roost is that today's Khrushchev seems to have been pulled down off his private cloud and given a strict line to follow. If he deviates from the line, the signs indicate, THE RUSSIAN ARMY WILL REPLACE HIM."

THAT is to say: Having been MADE MAD, Khrushchev will now be destroyed unless he kow-tows properly to his bosses. No wonder he's upset.

IN conclusion: The Soviet bosses . . . whoever they are . . . fear only one thing—SUPERIOR POWER.

It's up to us to stay more powerful than Russia.

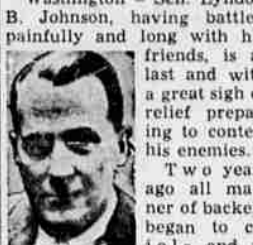
HOW shall we do it? We can't do it by spending money recklessly and unwisely for things we can get along without. Staying powerful will cost money and the way to provide the money, without weakening our economy, is to cut out the waste.

HOUSEHOLD TRAIL: An average housewife walks about 8.5 miles per day.

Washington Report

By WILLIAM S. WHITE

JOHNSON'S STRATEGY



Washington—Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson, having battled painfully and long with his friends, is at last and with a great sigh of relief preparing to contest his enemies.

Two years ago all manner of backers began to cajole and to storm at the big Texan that he must become openly and at once a candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination. No man ever had more well-meaning advice from more supporters of more different kinds. For the Johnson friends run quite a gamut.

They run from the most liberal of the old Roosevelt New Dealers and Truman Fair Dealers to the "safest" of southern conservatives. (There are also some liberal Republicans who do not like the G.O.P. less but this year—like Lyndon more.)

THIS most mixed of all political companies number such men as Abe Fortas, Roosevelt's under secretary of the interior, and Oscar Chapman, Truman's secretary of the interior. It numbers moderate southerners like Sen. George Smathers of Florida; liberal easterners like Sen. Theodore Francis Green of Rhode Island; liberal westerners from all over the place; old-line blue-blooded southerners like Senators Harry Flood Byrd of Virginia and Richard Brevard Russell of Georgia.

This group of the long, the short and the tall has been united on only two things: (1.) Admiration for Lyndon Baines Johnson as the great, virtuous politician even his antagonists admit him to be. (2.) Absolute certainty among most of them that this great, virtuous politician was making every possible mistake in what he was doing—or rather not doing—in his soft pursuit of the presidency.

But Johnson himself knew two years ago, and has known every day since, what he proposed to do and when, as this correspondent can positively testify. He knew from the start that his geography was against him and that his position as Democratic leader of the Senate put heavy restraints upon him.

AFTER all, the other main Democratic presidential aspirants, Senators Symington, Kennedy and Stuart Symington, both sit in the Senate—and in Johnson's party there. He was aware that a thrusting and open Johnson candidacy would break the Democratic Senate apart this year and last in bitter rivalries. It would have destroyed the Democratic Congressional record which Johnson simply had to make, both for his party's sake and his own.

So first, and for months, he refused even to discuss the presidency. Next, as time moved on, he admitted the office would be attractive, but suggested he could have little hope of it. Then, and many

months still later, he moved just a bit forward and acknowledged he would not object to being put in nomination at the Democratic convention. Now, finally, a national organization for President Johnson has been opened. So Johnson is now a "candidate."

The whole cat has come out of the bag with agonizing slowness, a quarter-inch of fur at a time. But now that it is out, the critter will be seen to be pretty lively for all its long imprisonment.

WHAT Johnson has done is to make masterly use of the most difficult thing in politics, the art of timing. Timing has brought the big break of the kind he had to have if he was really going anywhere anyway: It has permitted him to offer himself as the strongest man to deal with Khrushchev.

He has known always that he would not win the nomination by "running around with my shirt-tail out hollering for it," as he once put it in private. He has known that he would get it, if at all, not because of a skill in public relations that is very small but because of a skill in leadership that is undeniably very large.

All this is why Lyndon Johnson, who humanly likes his well-wishers and dislikes to say no to them, is glad that now it is only his ill-wishers he must engage.

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Assessor Reviews Plan for Easing Property Taxes

Jackson County Assessor

Ray Schumacher discussed his proposed five-point plan for the easing of property taxes at the Medford Chamber of Commerce Roundtable Luncheon in the Jackson hotel Monday.

Under the plan, the "burden" of property taxes would be eased by removing from them the taxation "burden" of the schools. It also calls for a 3 per cent sales tax to pay for school costs.

He told the group an average of 63 per cent of all property tax levies in the state, and 80 per cent of all levies in Jackson county, go for schools. By taking schools out of the levy, it would reduce property taxes by one-half, he said.

Schumacher recently presented his proposal to the Association of Oregon County Assessors, the state tax commission and the legislative interim committee on taxation.

Five points Under the plan, the assessor proposes that the following five points be enacted into state law:

1. School property taxation be limited to bonding issues only.
2. All taxing districts be limited to a maximum of a 20-mill levy on the true cash value of all properties.
3. A 3 per cent sales tax be enacted which would be allocated to operational school funds.

4. The sales tax school funds be administered on the state level, and distributed to counties on the basis of the number of students. Amount of distribution would be based on the average cost per student in the state.

5. Any additional money for school purposes would come equally from the state's general fund and a county school property tax fund (as opposed to a school district property tax levy).

Schumacher said that besides cutting the total amount of the property tax levy, the plan would also have the effect of having schools paid for by more people based on "what they spend from their incomes."

Another effect would be, he said, that schools would be forced to create a better and more efficient system through planned objectives if the school cost per unit child method is adopted.

One person attending the luncheon told Schumacher he is in favor of having localities pay for their own schools and not have them going up to Salem for money.

Schumacher answered him by saying it is his opinion that costs and administration of schools has gone beyond the

"Little red school house stage."

He added that larger school districts will probably always have to pay a little more to help the smaller school districts, under any equalization plan.

In conclusion Schumacher said, "in the five-point plan I believe that property tax relief can be equally divided among all property taxpayers, and the tax load carried by more people using the services of schools and government."

CHAIRMAN'S WIDOW DIES New York—Mrs. Nettie Gardner Ryan, 90, widow of John D. Ryan, former board chairman of the Anaconda Co., died Monday.

Fairbanks Plane Crash Kills Man

Nenana, Alaska—UPI—A Fairbanks businessman was killed and an Alaska Superior Court judge seriously injured Monday when their plane sank while landing on the Tanana river east of here.

The dead man was identified as George Nerhbas, a Fairbanks oil distributor. He was a passenger in a plane piloted by Judge Everett Hepp, also of Fairbanks.

Judge Hepp, who was recently appointed to the Alaska Superior Court, was taken to Fairbanks for emergency treatment.

BATHYSCAPH DIVES

San Diego, Calif.—UPI—The Navy bathyscaph Trieste, which dived a record 35,800 feet in the Pacific last January, will make seven more dives off Guam within the next three months. The Navy said Monday the new dives would average about 6,000 feet, or slightly over one mile. Lt. Don Walsh, who made the record dive with Swiss scientist Jacques Piccard, will make the new dives with Navy Lt. Lawrence A. Shumaker.

Tallahassee, Fla.—UPI—The Florida Game and Fish Commission reported Monday professional hunters killed 18,735 alligators during the 1959-1960 gator hunting season.

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Speeding Auto Kills Two Girls

Las Vegas, Nev.—UPI—A 61-year-old woman driving at high speeds smashed into three 6-year-old girls crossing an intersection Monday, killing two of them. The third girl escaped serious injury.

Mrs. Aura Easley of Toledo, Ohio, was booked on suspicion of involuntary manslaughter. Police said witnesses reported Mrs. Easley was driving her auto about 60 miles an hour when she swerved around two cars stopped at an intersection and rammed into the girls.

Virginia Ann Sabo and Carol Sue Decker were killed. Diane Marie Gresser was treated at a hospital and released.

Police said Mrs. Easley and her husband came here nine weeks ago. They said Mrs. Easley had been examined by a psychiatrist shortly before the accident.

PROTEST COURT RULING

Mobile, Ala.—UPI—The state of Alabama will ask the U.S. Supreme Court for a rehearing of the case in which the court ruled Alabama's offshore oil rights extend only 3.5 statute miles into the Gulf of Mexico. Gov. John Patterson said Monday. The high court ruled Tuesday that a congressional law passed in 1953 gave Texas and Florida rights extending 10.5 statute miles into the Gulf, but limited Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi to 3.5 miles.

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