

# Today & Tomorrow

By Walter Lippmann

## THE PICKING AND CHOOSING

One thing comes through clearly enough from the way Senator Kennedy has been choosing his Cabinet. It is that he has not been putting together just a Cabinet. He has been putting together an Administration.

He has no intention, it seems plain enough, of following the Eisenhower pattern. He does not mean to appoint a few men like John Foster Dulles and George Humphrey and then to delegate all but a few ultimate decisions to them. Senator Kennedy expects to be at the center of his administration, not to preside above it and in large degree apart from it.

He is not, therefore, handing over to the Secretary of State the conduct of our foreign relations and to the Secretary of the Treasury the conduct of our financial and economic concerns. Rather, he is selecting the teams of key men in the Departments, having in mind that he will work with them.

Doing that is an intricate task. He must find men who have ability. He must find men who believe in, not merely who accept, his general conception of our situation and our needs. He must find men who are politically available and are personally compatible. They must have fresh energy, which means normally that they must be in the creative period of a man's life. They must have experience, not in the sense that they have lived through it all but because they are educated and, therefore, know the task from having studied it.

IT HAS been, of course, a fascinating game to speculate about who would be tapped. But it is easy to take our own curiosity too seriously, and to assume that from the names of the men who are chosen, as compared with the men who are not chosen, we can read the future policies of the United States.

In fact, among the different men seriously considered for the State Department, the Treasury and Defense, there were not, I believe, any substantial issues of policy which would collide with the decisions of the President himself on foreign or on economic policies. The differences among the men have been differences of style and of personality, differences of how and not differences of whether or what.

In the Administration of a strong President, which Mr. Kennedy most surely intends to be, Cabinet officers do not play the role of policy makers as did Dulles and Humphrey in the Eisenhower administration.

For these reasons the choice of the key men, of which the Cabinet officers are by no means the whole lot, could not be done in a hurry. The time that the Senator has been spending since election is not long in view of the fact that he is organizing his administration and not merely his Cabinet. If he can get most of his key men in place by the end of this month, there is no reason why he should not be ready to take over three weeks later.

## Ike To Leave Army Hospital

Washington—(UPI)—President Eisenhower was scheduled to leave Walter Reed Army Hospital today following completion of part two of his annual physical checkup just 36 days before he retires from the White House.

The 70-year-old Eisenhower, oldest U.S. Chief Executive, was expected to leave the hospital sometime in the afternoon.

Presidential press secretary James C. Hagerty, who emphasized that Eisenhower was not ailing and had no symptoms of illness, said any statement on the examination would be issued at his White House office.

Eisenhower entered Walter Reed Tuesday night to complete the final head-to-toe checkup he will undergo as President. He leaves office Jan. 20.

He was pronounced in "continued excellent" health following the first half of the tests, Sept. 15-16. Hagerty said the three-month delay in completing the tests occurred because Eisenhower had been "fairly busy" since mid-September.

Hagerty said the President "feels fine and just wants to get the yearly examination concluded."

servative" or "progressive." It will be too active and too varied to fit comfortably into either category.

The Administration will move with a broad consensus, which is broader than the Democratic party because it includes a large wing of the Republican party, comprising such men as Governor Rockefeller, Senators Case, Cooper, and Javits.

The old labels of the Thirties and the Fifties do not really fit the actual situation at home and abroad in the Sixties, and the sensible thing to do is to handle all these labels very gingerly.

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# Junior Ranger Badge Returned To Iowa Youngster

Editor's note: Recently UPI reported that a 9-year-old Iowa boy, Eric Rigenbach, turned in to Smokey Bear his Junior Forest Ranger badge because he started a fire. Eric wanted the badge returned more than anything. In the UPI's Agriculture Department correspondent reports that Smokey has forgiven the boy and sent back the badge.

By GAYLORD P. GODWIN  
Washington—(UPI)—Smokey Bear has forgiven Eric Rigenbach.

Last September, Eric, the 9-year-old son of a Williamsburg, Iowa, couple, turned in his coveted Junior Forest Ranger badge because he considered himself unworthy. He

started a fire that almost got out of control. Eric was the first youngster ever to resign under such circumstances.

**Put on Probation**  
He told about it in a scrawled report to Smokey Bear, the symbol of fire prevention. Smokey is stern when it comes to fires. He put Eric on probation.

Smokey's master—the men and women of the U.S. Forest Service—told Eric the badge would be returned in three months if he refrained from playing with matches and was careful with fire.

The boy atoned for his mistake and made the most of the probationary period. Instead of starting fires, he became an active fire preventer. He made a fire prevention speech at his school, appeared on a local radio station to give his message, and otherwise aided the cause at every opportunity.

At the end of three months he wrote Smokey this letter asking to be taken back into the Junior Forest Rangers:  
"Dear Smokey Bear:  
"I haven't played with matches or fire. In fire-pre-

vention week, I made a speech on fire prevention in school. I was on the radio. Everyone in school heard it. Most of them on the bus.

"A news reporter called me. He was from New York. He asked why I sent back my badge. I said I was not worthy of the belonging.

"In my room I have a bear. I named it Smokey. I want the badge back. I will carry it everywhere.

"Yours truly, Eric Rigenbach."  
Eric's mother, Mrs. J. E. Rigenbach, also sent a letter

to Smokey, certifying her son's activities.

"He has been careful, and very good since he turned in his badge," Mrs. Rigenbach writes. "I feel he would make a good Junior Ranger now—one you would be proud of."

The Forest Service agreed with Eric's mother. Smokey's artist, Rudy Wendelin, made a special drawing of the fire-prevention bear, with the caption, "Welcome back, Eric."

The drawing and a shiny new Junior Forest Ranger badge were mailed today to Eric.

Your chance of getting heads on a coin toss, no matter how many heads have been tossed previously, is always 1 in 2.

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