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Fishers Come Back

More than three years ago, an editorial in this space reported on speculation that animals known as fishers might be transplanted to the Cascade country, and that they might be a potent force in keeping the number of porcupines under control. The editorial said:

"... A group of lumbermen and foresters in this area have an idea which might be worth considering for a 'natural' means of control (of porcupines).
 "One of them is O. K. Puckett, who has a lumber operation in the Green Springs area. He recalls hearing 'old-timers' tell of the time when a weasel-like animal called a fisher was prevalent hereabouts. They have been gone for years, he says, but in the days when they abounded, porcupines were much rarer.
 "His story is corroborated by an article in the... Journal of Forestry...
 "The fisher is a natural enemy of the quillpig, they (the authors) say, and they cite instance after instance of cases where the porcupines have been numerous until fishers moved in, then decline as the fishers increased.
 "Fishers once ranged the entire northern part of the country, chiefly in coniferous forests, but their range now is limited largely to New England and the Adirondack country in northern New York state. The animals are about the size of a fox, and have the bodily shape of a large weasel or a small wolverine. They are tough and fast and suffer far less from porcupine quills than most other animals, Puckett says they can even swallow them and get away with it.
 "The article concludes:
 "Re-establishment of the fisher in areas of the United States where porcupine control is indicated might well solve, or at least minimize, the damage caused by this obnoxious rodent. We feel that it would be well worth a try."
 "In this area particularly, where fishers once were numerous, it might indeed be worth a try."

THIS experiment, discussed more than three years ago, is now being placed in effect. Eleven fishers of an eventual 20 were released recently in the Mountain Lakes Wild Area, west of Klamath Falls. Details of the involved, cooperative project are told in a story elsewhere in today's Mail Tribune.

It will be interesting to see if this fast, tough little animal will thrive again in an area where it once lived, and if it will make any significant difference in the porcupine population. If it does hold down the number of porcupines, it will be a boon to foresters, for the "quillpig" does great damage to small trees. And the fishers will be protected from trapping, despite the fact that their dark brown or black fur, tipped with silver, is valued at up to \$125 per pelt. — E.A.

Appraised Timber Prices

Are the federal government's appraised prices for timber unrealistically high? And if they are, is it one of the factors which is hurting the lumber industry? Maybe so, as some claim, but if so we can't figure out why. Appraised prices, of course, are based on the actual prices paid for stumpage, and as such sometimes lag behind current market values. But the lag isn't very great. Secondly, it's a rare timber sale where bid prices don't exceed appraised prices. Otherwise the timber isn't sold.

THE OREGON Statesman reports that it was Bill Hagenstein, executive of the Industrial Forestry association, who got the controversy going. Congressman Edwin R. Durno then asked the Forest Service to look into the "cost-price squeeze," and added that "it has been caused by failure of the Forest Service to make realistic appraisals of timber values."

The Statesman comments:
 "We find it hard to figure how cutting the appraisal prices would put many men back to work. Federal timber is sold on bid, and if the appraised price is too high, loggers don't bid. Even so, there is so much lumber on the market, and plywood too, that prices are depressed, and mills' margins of profit are narrow or non-existent."

It follows that, if the appraisal prices were adjusted downward, even more timber would be sold, the market further glutted, and the price of finished lumber would tailspin down even further. The Coos Bay World puts it this way:

"... To blame the price of raw materials for economic difficulties, and overlook the fact that the market in collapse no matter how cheaply one gets the materials, is ridiculous... Unless there is a demand for lumber and plywood, the Forest Service could give the logs away and there still would be no reason to mill them."

A COMMENT by our knowledgeable correspondent at Table Rock, R. E. Nealon, seems more to the point than fussing about appraised prices. In his column on Friday, he said:

"... It seems that a real boost to the lumber business would be to get these huge piles of lumber in the mill yards moving into construction where they belong."

And the only way to do that is to stimulate the economy in general, and the housing industry in particular.

The only ones who would benefit by lower appraised timber prices would be the big firms which could afford to weather a prolonged period of depressed prices. The "little guy," or the firm which cuts its own stumpage, would be damaged, perhaps irreparably. — E.A.

Count Your Blessings

In any counting of blessings by those of us lucky enough to live in the Rogue valley, a place near the top of the list would have to go to the weather.

It may be foggy here occasionally, and sometimes it's too cold and sometimes too hot. But at least we don't have the sub-zero blizzards which have paralyzed the east for the past few weeks. — E.A.

Dennis the Menace

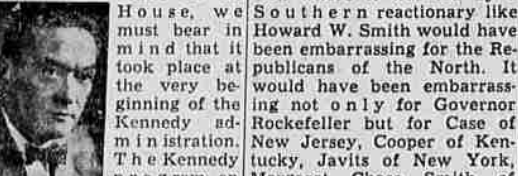


"YOU KNOW SOMETHING, MR. MITCHELL? FOR A MOMENT THERE, YOU WERE DOING THE CHA-CHA-CHA!"

Today & Tomorrow

By Walter Lippmann

THE VOTE IN THE HOUSE When we try to read the meaning of the vote about enlarging the Committee on Rules of the House, we must bear in mind that it took place at the very beginning of the Kennedy administration.



Lippmann House will have to act has not yet been published, indeed a great deal of it has not yet been worked out in legislative form. All that was before the House was the Democratic platform, campaign speeches of both parties, the inaugural address, and last Monday's message. These are general statements of purpose and policy but they do not contain specifications about the laws that will be asked for or the money that will be needed. The task force reports, while they provide insight into the thinking of Kennedy's advisors, are not Administration legislative proposals.

Thus, the action in the House was a reflection of what has gone before. The vote was close as the election was close. This vote does not necessarily, or even probably, anticipate the future which is likely to be very different when President Kennedy has begun to act, and to make decisions, and to propose not merely policies but programs and measures.

Presumably when he is being the leader and not merely talking about leadership, he will continue to grow stronger. Indeed he is already considerably stronger in his popular support than he was on election day.

ONE can, therefore, easily exaggerate the significance of the vote. There is, however, no doubt of its practical importance. In effect, the House transferred to Speaker Rayburn from Rep. Howard W. Smith the power to determine what shall be the business of the House of Representatives. As the Speaker supports the Administration and as Mr. Smith is opposed to it, the party which won the election will have the power to have its program debated and voted upon in the House. Had Mr. Smith won on Tuesday, the coalition of Republicans and Democrats who lost the election would have captured control of the House of Representatives.

But while the Democrats have won the contest, the Republican party, it can fairly be said, has been saved much trouble and embarrassment. It has been saved from being identified as the party of extremist reaction and obstruction. To have been in the position where it was led by a Southern reactionary like Howard W. Smith would have been embarrassing for the Republicans of the North. It would have been embarrassing not only for Governor Rockefeller but for Case of Kentucky, Javits of New York, Margaret Chase Smith of Maine and many others. It would also have been embarrassing to Mr. Nixon.

Why? Because, as Mr. Alsop has told us, Sen. Thurston Morton, the chairman of the Republican National committee, realizes that "President Kennedy has preempted the center." Had the Smith-Halleck coalition won the contest on Tuesday, the Republican party would have been unable to challenge President Kennedy's command of the center.

THE center in American political life is an enormous majority of the people, and the party which controls the center is virtually unbeatable. The Republicans controlled it most of the time from the Civil War to the Taft-Roosevelt schism of 1912. The Democrats controlled it from the great depression to the Korean War. Eisenhower had a chance to take command of it and to inaugurate a new Republican era. But he did not know how to go about it. But this young man Kennedy understands perfectly the meaning of the center. He intends to lead it, and he knows how to go about doing it.

He has only to resolve the apprehensions of the Democrats who left the party on the religious issue, and to draw to his Administration a large part of the Rockefeller Republicans. There is no deep doctrinal or ideological difference between the Kennedy Democrats and Republicans like Rockefeller and Dillon and Case and Cooper.

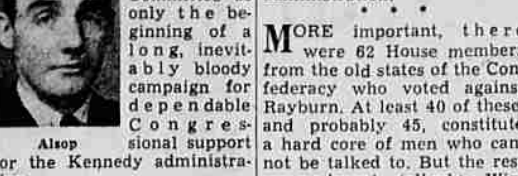
BARRING a catastrophe such as war, or an accident like a panic or a scandal, a combination of the center is almost impossible to beat. A victory of the Smith-Halleck coalition would have made life very difficult for the Rockefeller Republicans and would have promoted greatly the formation by President Kennedy of a combination of the center.

So we can say that while it had a close shave on Tuesday, the Republican party did escape a victory which would have been much worse than the defeat. (Copyright 1961 New York Herald Tribune, Inc.)

Matter of Fact

By Joseph Alsop

A NEW CAMPAIGN BEGINS Washington - By all the signs, the White House regards the narrow victory in the vote to liberalize the House Rules Committee as only the beginning of a long, inevitably bloody campaign for dependable Congressional support for the Kennedy administration.



This means that the long established Republican-Southern Democratic coalition is going to have to withstand a sustained assault of a type the coalition leaders have never experienced. The form can be guessed from the intensity of the effort that produced the coalition's recent defeat. This was without any real precedent since the titanic struggle to enact Franklin Roosevelt's great pre-war measures, like the draft extension bill which passed the House by a single vote in 1941.

The real effort began in the middle of last week, when Federal Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn realized that he did not have the votes to regain control of the Rules Committee by enlarging it. By then, it was almost too late.

HOUSE Republican Leader Charles Halleck had long since taken the precaution of putting the big stick of committee assignments for new members in his back pocket, until the votes could be counted. Willy Old Rules Committee Chairman Howard K. Smith of Virginia, the arch-conservative of the House Democrats, had also prudently persuaded most of the Southerners to commit themselves publicly, in ringing statements to their home town papers. But Rayburn had yet to call the big battalions of the White House into the fray.

On call, they plunged into the fray with startling vigor. In the first phase, the President's Congressional liaison man, Lawrence O'Brien, and his political secretary, Kenneth O'Donnell, got their baptism of fire.

But even after O'Brien and O'Donnell had used all the new White House's ordinary powers of persuasion, they and Rayburn and his two lieutenants, Reps. Richard Bolling of Missouri and Frank Thompson Jr. of New Jersey, were still fearful of the outcome. Defeat was still expected as late as Sunday, in fact.

ON THE Monday before the vote, therefore, the President himself, Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson, and Attorney General Robert Kennedy all took the field in support of the Speaker. The old device of the Presidential telephone call was used once again—after how long an interval—once without success in the case of Rep. Harold Cooley of North Carolina, but with success as well.

In addition, outside support of all sorts was successfully mobilized, sometimes from unexpected sources. For example, four Republican Senators, John S. Cooper of Kentucky, Clifford Case of New Jersey, Jacob Javits of New York, and Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania, besought members from their states to vote with Speaker Rayburn instead of Republican boss Halleck. And so, in the end, the veteran Speaker won his victory by five recorded votes, with six more votes on call if he really needed them.

The pattern of this victory dictates the kind of campaign that the Democratic Congressional leaders and the White House are now jointly beginning. There were 22 Republicans who voted with Rayburn. Since every vote counts in this closely divided Congress, right-voting Republicans like these will be generously encouraged, in the usual ways, by the Democratic administration.

MORE important, there were 62 House members from the old states of the Confederacy who voted against Rayburn. At least 40 of these, and probably 45, constitute a hard core of men who cannot be talked to. But the rest can perhaps be talked to. Winning the maximum number in this group is the main objective of the new campaign. State by Southern state, all the members who voted with Rayburn (rare as hen's teeth except in Texas, Alabama, and Louisiana) and all those who now want to make their peace with the White House, will find all doors opening to them, all good things available to them. The members of the opposite persuasion will instead be met with chilly, unfruitful politeness.

The methodical organization of the new campaign is distinctly impressive. Not only Cabinet members and heads of agencies are to be warned to be discriminating in the persons they do business with, Personnel directors, and other officials Congressional and Senators must also approach on business, are to get the word too. When playing politics, in short, the Kennedy administration plays for keeps.

There will be outraged cries no doubt, since Washington has half-forgotten what it is like to have an active political leader in the White House. But political leadership is a traditional Presidential function, and one which John Fitzgerald Kennedy evidently enjoys.

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POTLUCK

(By M-T Staff and Contributors)

Jewett Elementary school in Central Point is located at Tenth and Manzanita streets. This bit of information is for the edification of those Central Point citizens who don't know. And it appears there are quite a few of them, judging by the fact that three visiting teachers were directed to the Central Point Elementary school, rather than Jewett, by one resident, and only escaped leaving town without getting to their meeting at all because someone at the rural fire department knew where Jewett school was.

Meanwhile they had spent nearly an hour waiting at the wrong school. Others attending the meeting also had similar difficulty. Happily, it all turned out all right, with some 135 people finally arriving at the meeting.

"Quality operation with dignity," is the boast of one local radio station. The claim usually is made just before a commercial which starts out with a silly female voice chanting "Poop-prop-a-doop!"

Our women's editor, who gets upset quite easily, got upset last week by a reference to Ham, the chimpanzee-astronaut, as "who," in stead of "which."

She was not alone in her concern, apparently, for we read in the Eugene Register-Guard that staff members on that worthy paper spent some time debating which pronoun to use.

But that was all settled by an authoritative editorial writer, who declared: "We don't know what the grammar experts on the desk will decide, but if we had a vote, we'd say that any creature, monkey or not, which (who) has had an adventure like that to his (its) credit is entitled to the dignity of WHO."

AS TO No. 3 - There is dependable evidence that in VERY many areas - even in our rapidly growing Southwest - there are already more houses than tenants.

Why promote more empty houses? Is that good business? It doesn't seem so.

HERE in Oregon and in Far Northern California, the lumber industry, including the building materials industry in all of its variations that include materials tracking back to trees, is our mainstay. When it flourishes, we all flourish. When it isn't doing too well, the rest of us are apt to be doing not too well.

Over the long pull - Is it good for our lumber industry, and for our towns that depend on it as the source of their payrolls, to subsidize the building of still more houses at a time when there is dependable evidence that in the areas where we find our markets there are already more houses than tenants?

It seems to me these three proposals deserve a lot of thoughtful study.

And finally, Michelle Hicks, in SR at Hoover school, gives us our thought for the week, thus: "Long, long ago, in your great, great grandmother's time, there were Indians that did everything for themselves. There were no tools, and all there was, was wood and stone. Think how lucky you are now."

Surely, there has been enough evidence these many years for all intelligent adults to know which interpretation, which program they believe in. Yet not many do, with clarity and conviction.

If I were to add footnotes to the programs, as a guide to the audience, one would have to be the recent declaration of the World Council of Communist Parties. Its basic theme and determination was stated in these words:

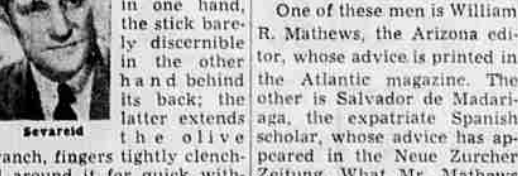
"Peaceful coexistence of countries with differing social systems does not mean conciliation of the socialist and bourgeois ideologies. On the contrary, it implies INTENSIFICATION of the struggle of the working class, of all the Communist parties, for the triumph of Socialist ideas."

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Two Programs for the Cold War Future

By ERIC SEVAREID

The world is lining up to watch another act in a familiar pantomime. Moscow and Washington are edging towards one another, across the stage. The former holds out the carrot in one hand, the stick barely discernible in the other hand behind its back; the latter extends the olive branch, fingers tightly clenched around it for quick withdrawal at the first false move. Everyone in the audience observes the same actions and reactions. But to one-half of the audience they mean quite different things than they mean to the other half. The spectators have come in through different doors and they were handed different programs to read in advance and prepare their understanding of the drama.



One of these men is William R. Mathews, the Arizona editor, whose advice is printed in the Atlantic magazine. The other is Salvador de Madariaga, the expatriate Spanish scholar, whose advice has appeared in the Neue Zürcher Zeitung. What Mr. Mathews says, in effect, is, "Let Moscow pluck the olive branch from your hand and you will find that the stick behind the back will be dropped."

What De Madariaga says is, "But put away the olive branch and free both hands to take up a stick of your own."

Perhaps the simplest way to illustrate this is to take two advance programs written

by two distinguished men of equal good will and comparable alarm at the world's drift. Both yearn for peace and the flourishing of Western values and institutions. Each, so it happens, has written his interpretation of the forthcoming performance in terms of advice to the new President of the United States.

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Mr. Mathews, as I read him, is one of those who, like so many European intellectuals, believe that both sides are equally at fault in preventing the peace the world desires. He tells the President that

there be no more illusions, he

Try and Stop Me

By BENNETT CERF

A NEWLY UNCOVERED Abraham Lincoln anecdote: At the age of 24 Lincoln served as postmaster in the obscure hamlet of New Salem, Ill., for which he drew down the princely annual salary of \$55.70.

The postoffice was abandoned in 1836, but it was several years before a federal agent arrived from Washington to settle the accounts with ex-postmaster Lincoln, now practicing law with indifferent results.

The agent determined that the sum of seventeen dollars was due the government. Lincoln opened, an old trunk, and took out a yellowed cotton bag containing exactly seventeen dollars. He had been holding it untouched for all the years. "I never use any man's money but my own," he said.

Orville Reed defines civilization as "a system under which a man pays a quarter to park his car so he won't be fined five dollars while spending a dime for a cup of coffee."



Flight o' Time

Medford and Jackson County History from the files of The Mail Tribune 10, 20, 30, 40 and 50 years ago.

10 YEARS AGO

Feb. 5, 1951 (Monday)
 With a railroad switchmen's strike crippling West Coast rail traffic, the venerable plant of the Medford Timber Products company was forced to close today, leaving 160 men temporarily out of work.

A \$50,000 gold dredge carrying \$1,800 worth of gold broke loose from its moorings last night near Grants Pass and was pounded to pieces by the flooding Rogue river.

20 YEARS AGO

Feb. 5, 1941 (Wednesday)
 Fourteen head of cattle, two calves and 25 tons of hay were destroyed early this morning when fire leveled a large barn owned by William Martin about two miles south of Eagle Point.

From Arthur Perry's "Frog Smudge Pot" column: "Ye Smudge Pot" column: "Frogs in throats and mud puddles are plentiful throughout the valley."

30 YEARS AGO

Feb. 5, 1931 (Friday)
 The city of Medford is considering building a road to the top of Roxy Ann as a means of solving local unemployment problems.

The West Side pharmacy was robbed of \$142 last night.

40 YEARS AGO

Feb. 5, 1921 (Saturday)
 A Gold Hill moonshiner was sentenced to three months in jail yesterday.

Medford High school basketballers defeated the Hill Military Academy of Portland 15 to 13 yesterday.

50 YEARS AGO

Feb. 5, 1811 (Sunday)
 Capt. M. F. Eggleston, a member of the legislature from Jackson county, died early this morning in a Salem hospital.

J. C. Hall of Medford has received a 10-year franchise to bring top shows to Medford, and has said this assures the city of having a new \$40,000 theater.

What's Your I.Q.?

Nine or ten correct is superior; seven or eight is excellent; five or six is good.

1. Is the term "Plimsoll's line" a surveying, mining, nautical, or medical term?
2. Is Percheron the name of a breed of swine, horses, or cattle?
3. Which is the earth's most abundant metallic element?
4. Does a biennial plant last one, two, or three years?
5. Samuel L. Clemens used what pen name?
6. Was butter, sugar, or meat the first to be rationed during W. W. II?
7. Name the singer who was called the "Swedish Nightingale."
8. Who was the first President to occupy the executive mansion?
9. Does the male, female or both sexes of crickets, produce the chirping sound?
10. An absolute vacuum has never been produced; true or false?

Answers: 1. Nautical term. 2. Horses. 3. Aluminum. 4. Two years. 5. Mark Twain. 6. Sugar. 7. Jenny Lind. 8. John Adams. 9. Only the male. 10. True.

ARBITRATION LAW

Canberra - The first nation to make disputes between capital and labor a matter of arbitration in special courts provided by law was Australia.