

Kennedy's Men

# Stewart Udall, Interior Secretary, Has Unusual Ability To Irk Foes

Washington—(AP)—Stewart Udall, the "young curmudgeon" of the Kennedy administration, has at least four notable accomplishments to his credit since he took office as secretary of the interior.

Serving in what is normally a rather obscure post, the 41-year-old congressman from Arizona has reaped more newspaper headlines than any other member of the Kennedy cabinet.

He has demonstrated an unusual ability to draw howls of rage from Republicans—and sometimes from his fellow Democrats—in Congress.

He has shocked the blue capital by saying out loud what is widely believed but seldom acknowledged—that "there are times when you have to be ruthless in politics."

Finally, along the way, he has attracted public attention to the urgent and often-neglected problem of conserving America's natural resources, particularly its disappearing wilderness areas.

The Washington judgment on Udall is that he is likely to be the most controversial secretary of interior since the late Harold L. Ickes, the self-styled "old curmudgeon" of the Franklin D. Roosevelt cabinet.

Like Ickes, Udall seems to consider it a dull week when he does not get himself involved in at least one great roaring row.

Battles for Votes

Republican toes first felt the heavy tread of his foot during the House battle over enlargement of the rules committee. Udall helped to swing enough votes to give the administration its narrow victory in that battle. He did so by reminding southern and western congressmen that he could impede their future access to the pork barrel of public works projects if they voted the wrong way.

House Republican Leader Charles A. Halleck emitted a loud outcry against this horn-handed intervention.

"Halleck styles himself a gut-fighter," Udall commented scornfully. "But he doesn't like it when somebody else plays the game to the hilt."

Last month, when the nation was trying to assess blame for the Cuban invasion debacle, Udall took occasion to mention that the invasion plan was "prepared in the previous administration" under President Eisenhower's direction. He said the Kennedy administration "carried out" a plan it had inherited.

Senate Republican Leader Everett M. Dirksen arose in wrath and demanded that President Kennedy "discipline" Udall for this remark. Udall, said Dirksen, seems to regard himself as "secretary of exterior as well as the interior." Even the Senate's Democratic leader, Mike Mansfield, tut-tutted Udall for trying to find a "scapegoat" for the Cuban embarrassment.

Wouldn't Shift Blame

The White House issued a statement in which it said that Kennedy took the full responsibility for the incident and told other officials not to try to shift the blame on anyone else.

Hardly had the dust settled from that flap when Udall again found himself on the front pages in connection with a letter written by Jack K. Evans, an oil industry representative here, soliciting oil lobbyists to buy \$100-a-plate tickets to a May 27 Democratic fund-raising dinner honoring Kennedy's birthday.

Evans said in his letter that Udall, "who happens to be a friend of long-standing," had asked him to put the bite on his fellow oilmen "as a personal favor to him."

Udall told a news conference he was "appalled and flabbergasted" when he saw a copy of Evans' letter, and had immediately asked that it be withdrawn. "I categorically deny that I asked Evans to solicit the oil and gas industry," the secretary said.

At times, the 41-year-old Udall appears to be consciously imitating the "old curmudgeon." Ickes once created a national sensation by inviting Negro soprano Marian Anderson to sing from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial after she had been barred from giving a concert in the DAR's Constitution Hall. Udall has stirred up a similar storm by serving notice on the Washington Redskins pro football team that it will have to hire some Negro players if it expects to use the new stadium being built on government land here.

Has Cavernous Office

Ickes' cavernous spirit pervades the very room in which Udall works. The Interior Department building was erected while Ickes was feuding with Postmaster General James A. Farley. Ickes gave the architect explicit orders to make his office bigger than Farley's. As a result, even today, the secretary of interior since

Ickes has worked, in a mammoth, paneled room which is almost as big as a basketball court.

Udall submitted, more or less restively, to an interview in this cavernous chamber. He is chronically late for appointments, and in an effort to keep up with his schedule, he sometimes tries to carry on conversations with visitors while sneaking in a few quick glances at correspondence or reports lying on his desk.

Udall is not given to small talk or levity, especially when he is in a hurry, which, apparently, he nearly always is. He may break into a hearty guffaw over a political joke, but his face is usually fixed in a fairly grim expression. He has dark, crew-cut hair, a hawk nose, and the athletic build (5 feet 11 inches, 180 pounds) of a prizefighter.

But if you steer him onto his favorite subject—the outdoors—he begins to sound more like a poet. He grew up in the wide open spaces of Arizona, and he has retained an almost mystical passion for nature in its unspoiled state.

Conserved Over Resources

His greatest concern is that Americans will do too little, too late, to preserve their fast-widening heritage of majestic streams and forests. "This is the most urgent problem in the whole field of natural resources," he said with conviction. "The glory of America has always been its green face... its spaciousness. The whole character of the American people has been shaped by living on a virgin continent where men could test themselves against the wilderness."

"But our land is changing before our eyes. The bulldozers are eating away the last remaining wild areas in the East, and even in the

West rapid population growth is exerting pressure on the open spaces.

Udall considers it disgraceful that only 92,000 acres of land were added to the national park system under Presidents Truman and Eisenhower. He wants President Kennedy to go into the history books as the greatest conservationist since Woodrow Wilson, who added 5.5 million acres to the park system. He is particularly anxious to acquire more parklands in the East, where most of the nation's people live. The vast majority of present parks are in the West, far from centers of population.

Presses for Action

As a starter, he is pressing for congressional action on long-stalled legislation to preserve three of the 8 or 10 U.S. shorelines which have not yet been taken over by commercial resort developers. The proposed "national seashores" are located at Cape Cod, Mass., Padre Island,

Tex., and Oregon Dunes, Ore. Another project dear to his heart is development of the Delaware river basin to create a vast man-made lake in the Catskill Mountains, within two hours' driving time of New York and Philadelphia.

"We have got to move fast" on these projects, he said earnestly. "It will never get any cheaper. In many areas, land prices are doubling every 10 years."

Udall's department is possibly the least understood in the government, partly because its name—interior—means nothing to the average citizen. It might more accurately be described as the department of natural resources.

Its major functions include managing about 500 million acres of land, mostly in the West, which are still in the public domain; providing irrigation for nearly 8 million acres of reclaimed land, also in the West; building and operating hydroelectric systems

which now generate 6 million kilowatts of power; fostering the economic health of mineral extraction industries, including such chronic invalids as coal, lead and zinc; promoting mine safety; protecting fish and surveys; operating a railroad in Alaska; and looking out for the welfare of 400,000 American Indians and Eskimos who are wards of the federal government.

Champions Indian Interests

Nearly one-fourth of the nation's Indians live within the Arizona congressional district which Udall formerly represented, and he is a militant champion of their interests. He thinks it is a national scandal that the living standards on many Indian reservations are as low as those of any underdeveloped nation in Asia or Africa, and that it is past time for the United States to launch a sort of domestic Point Four program for economic development of Indian reservations.

Udall's forebears were rugged Mormon pioneers who settled in Arizona before the Civil War.

He was born Jan. 31, 1920, in St. Johns, Ariz., a town founded by his grandfather.

There are almost as many Udalls as Indians in Arizona, and most of them are prominent in the business and political life of the state. His father was Levi S. Udall, chief justice of the Arizona Supreme Court.

Washington is getting another Udall-Stewart's brother Morris, who won the Arizona election recently to replace the interior secretary in the House.

When the United States entered World War II, he signed up for bombardier training in the Air Force, but washed out of cadet school, and became an enlisted gunner. As a technical sergeant, he made 50 missions over Western Europe in B24 Liberators.

Played College Basketball

After the war, he went to

the University of Arizona, where he played guard on a basketball team which was good enough to make the National Invitational Tournament in Madison Square Garden.

He still likes basketball. During a recent mine inspection tour of West Virginia, he spotted a group of kids playing basketball on a crude home-made court. He ordered his driver to stop, leaped out of the car, and sank three baskets in a row.

He graduated from the university in 1948 with a law degree and a wife, a blonde coed named Ermalee Webb, whom he married during his senior year. After a few years of private law practice with a family firm, he was elected to Congress in 1954.

He was known in Congress as an able member of the "western liberal bloc." He served on the House Interior Committee, where he got a thorough grounding in the

problems of the department he now heads, and also on the labor committee, where he had the opportunity of working closely with Senator John F. Kennedy on passage of a moderate union reform bill.

His relationship with Kennedy was cemented during the 1960 campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination, when Udall swung to Kennedy the 17 Arizona convention votes which were supposed to be in Lyndon B. Johnson's bag.

Enjoys New Power

Udall clearly enjoys the power and responsibility of his new job, but he does not seem to be greatly interested in the status symbols and personal perquisites of cabinet office. His private life has undergone little change since his days as a member of Congress, and he still is more at home driving his own station wagon than sitting in the back seat of a chauffeur-driven limousine.

He lives with his wife, six children, two dogs and a badly outnumbered cat in a modest house in suburban Virginia. The whole family is outdoors minded. Udall sometimes packs the entire menagerie, including dogs and cat, into the family station wagon for a drive across the continent to the open spaces of Arizona.

After a recent visit to Capitol Hill to testify on a pending park bill, Udall strode down a corridor, his right hand clutching the yellow memo pad on which he jots down ideas and things-to-do as they occur to him, and a pack of harried Interior Department underlings at his heels. He looked like a young man in a hurry, and the spectacle caused an old Washington hand to muse aloud: "That fellow is either going to make a mark for himself—or get a bloody nose." He might, like honest Harold Ickes, do both.

## Bank Officials Review Plans for New Structure

Ashland—Plans for a modern new First National Bank of Oregon building in Ashland were discussed Tuesday by Richard Isaacs, Ashland branch manager, and Howard Pierce, assistant manager.

In describing preliminary plans at the Ashland Chamber of Commerce meeting, Isaacs said the building will be located on the corner of Main and Pioneer sts. An architect's drawing indicated the two-level building will be constructed of wood, glass and stone along modern lines. It will be 100 feet long and 60 feet wide, Isaacs said.

According to Pierce, the building will offer convenient and easy banking service. He said it should be an asset for the community.

Express Regrets

Both men expressed regrets that the building wouldn't incorporate Elizabethan or Tudor styling. Isaacs said a number of letters had been sent to bank officials asking that the new structure be designed along these lines adding atmosphere to the Shakespearean festival.

"It was a good idea but it just isn't practical," Isaacs said. He explained that Tudor styling isn't functional for modern banking.

The new bank will be located at the site of the old Ashland hotel, Isaacs said the hotel should be completely razed in three weeks.

Isaacs said he couldn't foresee hiring of additional bank personnel in the immediate future.

No specific plans have been made for the building the bank currently occupies at 74 East Main st., he said.

## Duncan Names Four To Emergency Board

Salem—(AP)—House Speaker Robert B. Duncan has named five representatives to the state emergency board. They are Reps. Clarence Barton (D-Coquille); Ben Evick (D-Medford); Leon S. Davis (R-Hillsboro); and F. F. Montgomery (R-Eugene).

So far Senate President Harry Bolvin has appointed himself, Sen. Daniel Thiel (D-Astoria); Sen. E. D. Potts (D-Grants Pass); and Sen. Robert White (R-Salem) to the board.

S-W Floor Covering Listed in Blue Book

S-W Floor Covering shop, 709 South Riverside ave., is listed in the new Blue Book directory published by Formica corporation, Cincinnati. The local shop fabricates and sells laminated plastic applications for residential use.

Formica's book is a customers nationwide directory of laminate dealer-fabricators, listed by state, city, address and telephone number.

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**LIQUID DETERGENT PINK VEL** Giant Size 49¢

**MAXWELL HOUSE COFFEE** Pound Can 49¢

**INSTANT SANKA COFFEE** 5-Oz. Jar 79¢

**ABC FIG BARS** Pound Cello 3/1.00

**WIZARD CHARCOAL LIGHTER** 1/2 Gal. 99¢

**COUNTRY SYRUP** 24-Oz. Bottle 37¢

**S&W CATSUP** 14-Oz. Bottle 19¢

**FRISKIES** Pound Can 4/49¢

**FRISKIES** Meal or Cubes 5 lb. bag 69¢

**CAMPBELL'S TOMATO SOUP** 10/99¢

**SPIRIT OF NORWAY SARDINES** 5/99¢

**LOU-Z-ANA BROKEN SHRIMP** 3/1.00

**FRENCH MUSTARD** 9-oz. Jar 2/29¢

**LINDSEY MEDIUM PITTED OLIVES** Tall Can 3/1.00

**SWIFT'S MEAT for BABIES** 2/45¢

**KLEENEX TOWELS** Twin Pack 39¢

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