

Merriman Smith Writes Book on Social Climbers

Washington — (UPI) — Being shoved into Bobby Kennedy's swimming pool used to be worth a full four points on the status scale used in Washington to determine who's really in.

Today, it's barely worth a point, even if you ruin a Givenchy original. "The pool" has been downgraded as a status symbol because too many social climbers have leaped in without a bona fide shove.

Tough football also is passe. Since President Kennedy developed back trouble, there is less emphasis on "sweatshirt vigor" as a sign of fitness for the New Frontier. It has even become "permissible to be frail occasionally."

Still Important

But it's still important to "keep down with the Joneses" by driving a Porsche or Volkswagen instead of a Cadillac. And women continue to rate two points for achieving a "Sealyham hair effect."

These observations of the changing Washington scene are recorded in Merriman Smith's "The Good New Days" (Bobbs-Merrill, \$5), a hilariously irreverent report on the "new people" who have taken over the nation's capital "since Ike and Mamie moved to the farm."

Merriman Smith has been White House correspondent for United Press International since 1941. Apparently the long hours have been too much for him, for in this book he has risen in revolt against an entire city, and has managed to insult everyone from the bartenders at the Statler Hotel to the "untouchables" of the press corps who can be quite nasty and vindictive "when their superb qualities are overlooked."

Prepared To Tell Truth

If you want to know what life in Washington is really like, without any of the phony glamour that outside writers spray over the subject, Smith is prepared to tell you the awful truth.

Smith proved in four previous books, including "Thank You, Mr. President," that he can write discerningly about serious subjects, such as politics and international affairs. But in "The Good New Days" he is not concerned with appraising the impact of the Kennedy administration on history. His sole purpose is to provide a "baleful Baedeker" for the stranger to Washington.

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"AN' NEXT TIME I'M GONNA KNOCK THE SOCKS OFF HIM, TOO!"

President's Adviser Proposes Over-All Reduction in Taxes

Washington — (UPI) — President Kennedy's chief economic adviser feels corporation taxes should be cut next year by about 10 per cent.

Over-all taxes—both for business and individuals—should be reduced by well over \$5 billion, according to Walter W. Heller, chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisers.

Heller indicated Wednesday night that he thought a break for the individual should make up the "bulk" of a tax relief program. But he did not mention any figures in this area.

Addresses Officials

Heller addressed about 150 business and labor leaders, university teachers and government officials at a dinner

opening a fiscal policy conference sponsored by the President's Committee on Labor-Management Policy.

Labor Secretary W. Willard Wirtz was scheduled to address the group today.

Treasury Secretary Douglas Dillon planned to address a luncheon session later today. In his speech to the conference Wednesday night, Heller made it clear that despite the newly reported \$7.8 billion budget deficit, the administration is firmly committed to seeking tax relief in 1963.

Program Being Drafted

Heller did not say exactly what the President's recommendations to Congress would be. The administration's tax program is still being drafted. But his remarks appeared to be strongly suggestive of administration thinking.

Heller was the first high-ranking official to specify in numbers the possible amount of tax reduction for corporations the administration is considering. His figure of 10 per cent—or \$2 billion to \$2.5 billion—implied a drop in the corporate tax rate from 52 per cent to 47 per cent.

Rates for individuals range from 20 per cent to 91 per cent.

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