

Eisenhower Shies Away From Role as Chief Republican Spokesman

Editor's Note — Merriman Smith, who has reported the activities of four presidents for UPI, recently paid an informal visit to an old friend and news subject, former President Dwight D. Eisenhower. They chatted for about two hours in Eisenhower's Gettysburg office. No notes were made, no records kept, but here is Smith's report on Eisenhower's current mood and manner.

By MERRIMAN SMITH
UPI White House Reporter
GETTYSBURG, Pa. UPI — It was more of a friendly chat than an interview. We compared notes on children and grandchildren, on aches and pains, trends in presidential news conferences, reading tastes and the 1964 political outlook. After about two hours, I asked him how he would describe our conversation.

"Just say you dropped in for a talk with the old farmer," replied former President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Eisenhower will be 73 years old next Oct. 14. He seems a bit heavier than when he left office in 1961, particularly around the face and middle. This may be because he has not been getting as much exercise as he used to.

His principal preoccupation these days is completion of the second volume of his massive review of eight years in the White House, plus occasional articles for a national magazine. He keeps in close touch with

politics, particularly those involving the GOP. But more and more, Eisenhower shies away from the role of chief party spokesman. He is convinced this is a job for promising new Republican leaders.

Sitting in his small, cheerful office on the second floor of a building at the edge of the Gettysburg college campus, Eisenhower seemed quite relaxed. It was 9 a.m. and he had been

in his office for nearly an hour. A visitor to Eisenhower's office punches a doorbell. The disembodied voice of Brig. Gen. Robert Schulz, military aide to the five-star general, asks the visitor's business through a small combination microphone-speaker embedded in a wall.

The locked door was opened by a buzzing contraption and moments later the visitor was

escorted into Eisenhower's sunny office. The former president was studying the preliminary draft of a magazine article.

His first conversation, however, was about his grandchildren. David was enroute to his second year at Exeter, but like, as the kids call their grandfather, was more talkative about their jobs this past summer. David worked in a college book binding plant; Anne was Mother Goose in a local amusement park pageant and Susie got a job as a restaurant helper.

Roars With Laughter

The general rocked with laughter as he described the levels of their wages. David, 15, made only 15 cents an hour less. Susan, 11, received 50 cents an hour.

The talk of his literary career led to discussion of the presidential news conferences — past and present. Eisenhower feels that television cameras and radiomicrophone s have a strong and permanent right at such occasions.

Eisenhower shies away from saying anything that could be construed as direct, personal criticism of President Kennedy. But he recently told friends on an eastern newspaper who had inquired that he thought overuse of political or administrative propaganda in a presidential news conference tended to tarnish the integrity of the event.

To this day, he seldom reads

anything written about himself. This is a pattern he began during World War II. He deliberately restricted his newspaper reading while he was in the White House and for this, he had an interesting explanation.

Read Top Secrets

As president, Eisenhower read a constant stream of top-secret reports, many of them dealing with paramount news stories of the day and containing a great many classified details which did not appear in public print.

He soon found that in discussing such subjects later, it was hard to separate between classified material and what had been published about a given situation.

As a result, he confined most of his newspaper reading — aside from brief morning and evening rundowns — to Sunday afternoons when he carefully scrutinized the weekly review sections of about a half dozen major newspapers.

Gives General Views

In other areas D.D.E. reflected these general attitudes:

Nuclear Test Ban: Like many top U. S. diplomats, he believes it may be a turning point and should be ratified by the Senate. But he hopes the public does not get the idea that the limited

test ban is any guarantee of peace. He did not mean in a recent comment that the Senate should insist on a reservation to the point of amending the treaty. He merely was asking that it be made clear the United

States retain freedom at all times to use its nuclear arms should this extreme step be necessary to defend this country or her allies.

President Kennedy made such an assurance last week.

Budget: Eisenhower's feelings about federal spending seem to grow stronger with the passage of time. He thinks there can be no greater threat to national security than unwise, unnecessary spending which in turn

weakens the national economy. Politics: He's not taking public sides between New York Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller and Arizona Sen. Barry Goldwater in their quest for the GOP presidential nomination.

STAR GAZER**

By CLAY R. POLLAN

Your Daily Activity Guide According to the Stars.

To develop message for Tuesday, read words corresponding to numbers of your Zodiac birth sign.

ARIES MAR. 21 - APR. 20	1 Ideal	21 Much	41 Sake
2 Good	22 Foreign	42 Interesting	42 Curious
3-6-17-19-22-28-85-87	3 Good	23 Desire	43 A
Taurus APR. 21 - MAY 21	4 Those	24 Combining	44 Likely
5 In	25 May	45 Must	45 Live
6 Future	26 Events	46 Live	46 Die
7 Travel	27 Medical	47 Of	47 Of
8 Day	28 And	48 Agreements	48 And
9 For	29 The	49 And	49 And
Gemini MAY 22 - JUNE 21	10 Authority	30 Welcome	50 Welcome
11 Cheerful	31 Show	51 Show	51 Show
12 There is	32 From	52 From	52 From
Cancer JUNE 22 - JULY 23	13 You	33 Re	53 Re
14 News	34 For	54 For	54 For
15 Indications	35 Rejoice	55 Rejoice	55 Rejoice
16 Today	36 Business	56 Business	56 Business
17 Rings	37 No	57 No	57 No
18 Or	38 Gals	58 Gals	58 Gals
19 The	39 Surface	59 Surface	59 Surface
20 Unless	40 Unwisely	60 Unwisely	60 Unwisely
21 May	41 For	61 For	61 For
22 Good	42 Advice	62 Advice	62 Advice
23 Scratch	43 Attention	63 Attention	63 Attention
24 Sweet	44 Wrap	64 Wrap	64 Wrap
25 If's	45 The	65 The	65 The
26 Your	46 And	66 And	66 And
27 Hear's	47 Up	67 Up	67 Up
28 Things	48 In	68 In	68 In
29 Or	49 Good	69 Good	69 Good
30 Need	50 With	70 With	70 With
Leo JULY 24 - AUG. 23	1 Good	31 Advise	61 Neutral
2-7-16-20-25-43-45	2 Good	32 Advise	62 Neutral
Virgo AUG. 24 - SEPT. 23	3 Good	33 Advise	63 Neutral
4-11-15-18-22-34-38-84-86	4 Good	34 Advise	64 Neutral

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