

Writers Guild Drops Suit

HOLLYWOOD (AP)—The membership of the Screen Writers Guild has voted overwhelmingly to drop the guild's suit to enjoin the Motion Picture Association of America from enforcing an agreement not to employ members of a subversive group.

The suit, filed in New York Federal Court, was nearing trial. The guild announced that the withdrawal was the result of a letter to Richard Breen, guild president,

from Eric Johnston, MPA head, which declared that the producers in their 1947 policy statement had not taken concerted action but were acting independently.

The guild said it is satisfied the producers had intended no industry-wide blacklist, and Johnston's letter explained that "the decision of one producer would not bind any other producer."

Young Officer Right On Job

ALBUQUERQUE, N. M. (AP)—To oblige a fellow officer, Sheriff Harold Hubbell made 5-year-old Frank Du Bois a deputy.

Frankie got a real deputy's badge, Hubbell signed but (don't tell the boy) didn't notarize the commission.

The child's harassed mother complained: "He's taking it too seriously. Last night after school we found him directing traffic."

Congressional Vote Compiled

WASHINGTON (AP)—Revised official figures compiled by the House Republican Campaign Committee showed today that Democratic candidates for the House last November outpolled Republican candidates by 262,468 in aggregate popular vote.

The figures, changed since a

tabulation Jan. 16, showed: Democrats 26,641,644; Republicans 23,779,176.

The earlier compilation gave the Democrats a plurality of 238,371.

Counting only districts where the Democrats and Republicans opposed each other for the House, the vote showed a plurality of 3,266,321.

Republican vote was 26,641,644; Democrats 23,779,176.

Eighty-two Democrats unopposed by Republicans, including 75 in the South, polled 4,931,488 in the aggregate. Eleven unopposed Republicans received 1,409,699 votes.

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Smith Gets Nod For State Post

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Eisenhower administration's No. 2 State Department man appeared likely to win Senate approval today.

Republican Leader Taft of Ohio planned to call up the nomination of Gen. Walter Bedell Smith as under secretary of state. Quick Senate approval seemed assured. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee approved Smith 15-0 on Wednesday.

Smith, chief of staff under Eisenhower in World War II, has been head of the Central Intelligence Agency in the last two years.



Adopts Theories

The National Association of Soil Conservation Districts had some new of- ficially approved theories on soil conservation that should be accom- plished by their seventh annual national con- gress Tuesday night, the group approved a series of reports setting out recommendations, some of which would be put into effect by the plea for a sin- gle conservation agency with- in the Department of Agriculture. The group's functions now han- dled by several agencies.

The group also was the retention of soil conservation districts and "programming and policy groups" for their areas in order to use federal funds to assist in financing conservation measures on the land.

In a series of newly recom- mended "immediate steps," the group urged that the Depart- ment of Agriculture's proposed budget for 1954 be revised, with- out increasing the total amount, so that more money will go to the conservation groups and that the money can be used validly.

The group recommended the creation of a "National Com- mittee on Agriculture" Secret- ary of Agriculture. The group also urged that the Secretary of Agriculture be given authority to coordinate and prevent pro-

Case Settled

ANN ARBOR (AP)—A contract for the boy who re- ceived a two million copy hit, "Kissing Santa Claus," has been settled out of court.

The agreement signed by the 14-year-old Jimmy Kestner, freckle-faced hill- billy, has severed some of the legal ties of the boy's attorney, Edward J. Greshler. The producer retains the boy's services for 1953. Two are for radio, two for television.

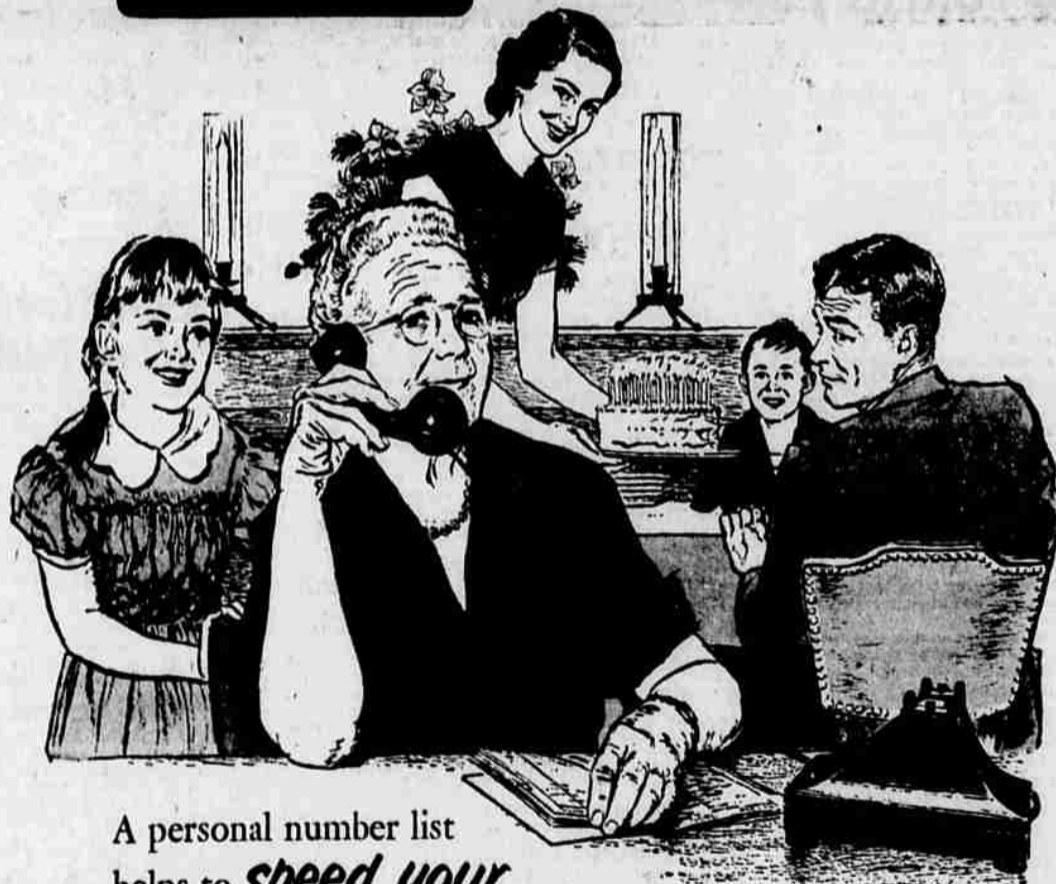
The boy can work for whom he wants to," the attorney said.

Mrs. Winnie Kestner, mother, had in court recently a previous agreement with Greshler for collecting be- nefits for the boy's mother.

Man Dies

ANN ARBOR (AP)—Benjamin, 63, author of more than 100 stories and about 100 books, died of a heart attack at his home in Ann Arbor last night while participat- ing in a Scottish game of golf.

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