

State Department Security Chief Causes Storm Over Speeches, Methods Used



GENE H. FAVELL

By BEM PRICE

WASHINGTON (AP)—Robert Walter Scott McLeod, the State Department's security chief, is a former football player who is making headlines in the political arena with line plunges and end runs while the stands cheer and jeer.

It began with the Republicans cheering and the Democrats jeering as McLeod, a husky 39-year-old with a hide as tough as a hippo's, ripped through the State Department in search of Communists and security risks.

Now some Democrats are beginning to smile. After McLeod's series of Lincoln Day speeches for

the Republican party they think he may be an embarrassment to the party. McLeod himself is wondering if he hasn't become something of a problem to the Republicans.

In retrospect he believes his speaking tour may have been "ill-advised." He frankly says that since he became a target of the Democrats he may be dropped from his \$15,000-a-year job which bears the title: administrator of the Bureau of Security, Consular Affairs and Personnel.

McLeod unquestionably has aroused the ire of Democrats. Rep. Emmanuel Celler (D-N.Y.), for example, characterized him as a "party huckster canvassing votes." It's improper, said Celler, "for anyone who holds so sensitive a position as the security officer to enter the hurly-burly of the political arena."

On the other hand, the man who hired him, Under Secretary of State Donald Loring, thinks this former Iowa newspaperman, FBI agent and senatorial aide is doing a great job.

"You can't have a nambypamby in that job," he told me. "It takes guts, and Scotty's got 'em. If Scotty thinks he's right, he plows ahead."

Below the department's executive level the name of Robert Walter Scott McLeod is greeted with arctic silence. There exists a very real fear of him.

McLeod shakes his graying, closely cropped head over this and says he just can't understand why people fear him or say he's an administration hatchet man whose criterion is whether you're a Republican or a Democrat.

McLeod discussing McLeod.

considers him "a guy who is going to have the authority to clean up the State Department." He takes the stand that if you "waddle like a duck, quack like a duck and associate with ducks, you are a duck."

"I believe," he says, "in guilt by association."

He adds that association often is an innocent affair—but "within limits."

Around the State Department you hear rumors of wiretapping, dictaphones and lie detectors.

"I will swear," McLeod told me, "that the State Department is not wired for sound. There is only one room in which a listening device is used."

Which room?

"I cannot, of course, say which one it is."

McLeod says that as far as lie detectors are concerned, "the State Department as such doesn't own one. Whenever we have occasion to use one we call upon some other agency. It's true that we sometimes use them for evaluation and it often helps clear people."

William Huskey, a long-time security agent who had the job of guarding visiting foreign dignitaries, quit Jan. 27, proclaiming that he was fed up with McLeod's "party tyranny."

"For a long time," said Huskey, "I had hoped I could ride it out—that I could grit my teeth and stomach almost anything—but there comes a time when one's personal satisfaction and peace of mind becomes too precious to barter off."

At the time Huskey said he was just the latest of 15 or 20 "old-timers" in the security force who had quit because of McLeod. He never explained publicly his specific complaints.

Although McLeod consistently talks of "cleaning up the mess," he tells newsmen, "I won't play the numbers game with you."

When he was out of town on his controversial Lincoln Day speaking tour there was a leak of figures he purportedly presented to a House Appropriations Committee. Reportedly only 11 employees were discharged as "security" risks. Seven of the 11 "loyalty" firings were said to involve cases begun under the Truman administration but completed by McLeod.

Today McLeod says privately that the numbers which leaked are wrong.

He hit the news with a bang

few days after his appointment last March when Sen. McCarthy (R-Wis.) said McLeod was opposed to the appointment of Charles E. Bohlen as ambassador to Russia even though Bohlen was a Republican selection. McLeod refused to say at a committee hearing whether he considered Bohlen a security risk. Recently he told a group in a private talk that he never passed on the Bohlen case.

Last summer he made the news again when he told a Republican women's club: "As much as I hate to say it before a Republican club, New Dealers are not necessarily bad security risks."

Soon afterwards he made headlines again when he told the American Legion in Topeka:

"Sometimes it is extremely difficult because of the Civil Service Act, the Veterans' Preference Act and the Foreign Service Act to replace an individual whose viewpoint does not coincide with that of the Republican party."

After that speech reports spread

that he was the department's lackey to McCarthy and his former boss, Sen. Styles Bridges (R-NH). While McLeod is the officially designated liaison officer between the department and Congress, he denies he is any man's "stooge."

McLeod was born in Davenport, Iowa, and enjoys reminiscing at length about sandlot football days. He worked his way through Grinnell College, where he was an enthusiastic football player and finally became a reporter on the Cedar Rapids Gazette.

After the war broke out McLeod got a job with the FBI and eventually was assigned to Concord, N. H., where he became a friend of Sen. Bridges. In 1949 Bridges offered him a job as administrative aide and McLeod took it. He was working for him when tapped for the State Department post.

and strong convictions. While a reporter he met and married Edna Marie von Pappelendam, a native of Keokuk, Iowa. They have two sons and a daughter and live comfortably in the country club area of Washington.

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Scholarships Announced

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON, Eugene (Special)—Applications for scholarships to the University of Oregon for the 1954-55 academic year are due by March 1, according to an announcement by Karl Onthank, chairman of the university's scholarship and financial aid committee.

Onthank emphasized that more scholarships are available this year than ever before for both entering freshmen and students already enrolled in the university.

Special honors awards presented by the University of Oregon Dads Club are also available to graduating high school students who are not in financial need, but who have been outstanding in high school.

The awards were set up to give recognition to many students who would ordinarily not receive it, Onthank said. Recommendations for the awards are made by the student's high school.

High school students may also take advantage of many local scholarships, in addition to those given by the university, he pointed out. Civic organizations such as the American Legion and the Eastern Star, award local grants.

Also available to students are scholarships given by Crown-Zellerbach, Standard Oil Company of California, and other large companies.

Fort Klamath To Hold Benefit

PORT KLAMATH — A benefit card party will be given in the C.I. clubhouse by the Civic Improvement Club Saturday evening, to pay for a new cement foundation.

Superintending arrangements for the event are Mrs. Joanna Taylor and Mrs. William A. Page, who will also be responsible for prizes.

Bridge, pinochle and other games will be featured, prizes given and refreshments served. Mrs. Donald P. Veatch will donate as a special guest award, a home-baked cake.

In charge of card arrangements will be Mrs. Eldon M. Brattain and Mrs. Harold L. Wimer; games will be conducted by Mrs. William Brewer and Mrs. Bert Gray, and the refreshment committee is Mrs. Richard O. Varnum and Mrs. Elmore Nicholson.

Card players of the neighboring area are extended a cordial invitation to attend the party.

John Day Baby Dies In Fire

JOHN DAY (AP)—A 17-month-old boy died Monday evening in a fire which swept through a two-story frame house here. His was Oregon's second infant fire death of the day.

The victim here was Eddie Dean Masonheimer, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Masonheimer. The boy's 12-year-old brother, Oris, suffered burns on his hands and face in an unsuccessful attempt to rescue the child.

The baby was alone in the house when the fire broke out. Oris and two other brothers were playing outside at the time. The parents were away. Firemen reported.

Early Monday, Steven Clifford Gaines, 20 months, died in a cabin fire 70 miles east of Roseburg. The father, John C. Gaines, rescued the victim's twin, Scott, but could not reach through the flames for the second child.

New Business In Klamath

One of the newest businesses to come to Klamath Falls is the Malin Nursery. Lloyd Scott, Malin rancher, has operated the nursery at Malin previously. Scott said that the location of the nursery will be announced about March 13, and that in the meantime he is conducting a shrub planting and planning service.

New Partner In Local Business

Announcement of the sale of half interest in Don's Mens' and Boys' Wear, 6th and Main Streets, was made today by Don Anderson and J. Wagner, to Gene H. Favell, resident of Klamath Falls for the past three years.

Favell purchased the partnership of Wagner who has been associated in the store with Anderson for the past four years. Wagner served in the firm as accountant and office manager.

Don's is an old established firm, started over 50 years ago by the late K. Sugarman, Anderson and Wagner purchased it from a latter owner, William Hibbs.

Favell has been with the store as salesman since 1952. He is a former resident of Lakeview.

The new partners will both be active in the firm and announce that the same policies of courtesy and satisfaction will be continued. Wagner is undecided as to his future plans.

Oregon Trucker Escapes Injury

DUNSMUIR, Calif. (AP)—Elmer E. Thommen of Portland, narrowly escaped death in an unusual highway accident Monday.

He was driving a truck hauling a 35-foot Army cannon on an S-curve 20 miles south of here. He slammed on the brakes when he came upon a parked car which had run out of gas.

The cannon catapulted forward through the truck's cab, missing Thommen's head by only a few inches.

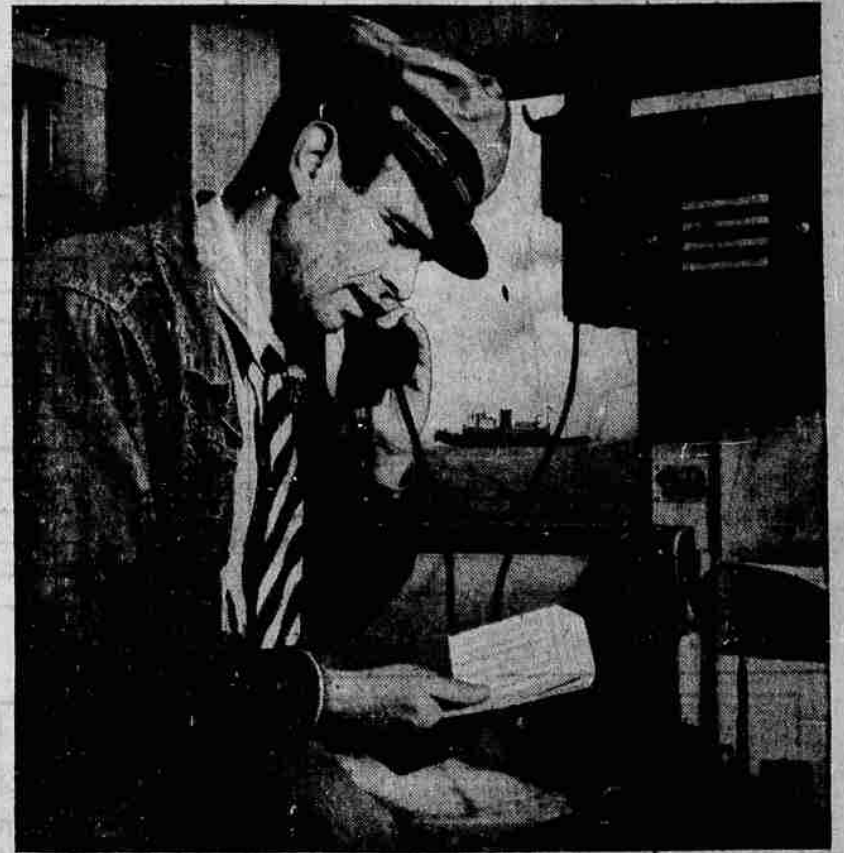
He was not injured and the parked car was not hit.

Invalid Unable To Save Son From Fire

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An invalid father watched helplessly from a wheel chair while his son, 4, burned to death in a garage fire.

Firemen said the boy, Mark Clark, apparently hid in a car in the garage while playing with neighborhood children yesterday. His brothers David, 12, and Edward, 15, tried to reach him but were driven back by the flames.

Overcome by grief, the father, Archie Clark, was taken to a hospital.



They take telephones to sea. Fishing boats alert canneries when they're bringing in their catch. Yachtsmen keep in touch with their families and business associates. Ship Telephone Service has meant much to sea-going Westerners in safety, efficiency and pleasure. The six radio-telephone stations we operate along the Coast are an important part of our constant effort to make the telephone grow in low-cost usefulness. Pacific Telephone works to make your telephone a bigger value every day.

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