Comic Expresses Views On Political Situation

By DICK WEST

WASHINGTON (UPI)—The last time I saw Mort Sahl, the celebrated political scientist, he was telling jokes to about 80,000 empty seats in the Los Angeles Coliseum. He got a lot of laughs, too.

This was during the final session of the Democratic National Convention and I doubt that any comedian ever performed under more difficult circumstances unless it was Steve Allen. Allen appeared earlier in the program before about 90,000 empty seats.

I was interested in observing Sahl under more intimate conditions and so I attended a news conference he held here Thursday. This time there were only about 200 empty seats.

The seats were occupied mostly by high school and college journalists, who were seeking to further their education. Since I am old enough to remember Will Rogers, I felt a little out of place.

Attired In Sweater

Furthermore, when I attend a news conference of this sort I can never think of any questions to ask. Luckily, this was not true of my young colleagues. They were keenly curious to know Sahl's views on the presidential campaign, Russia, Castro, Khrushchev, conformity, student rioting and other humorous topics.

Sahl was wearing, among other things, a blue shirt unbuttoned at the collar, a green sweater and a watch band with two watches on it. There was some disagreement among his advisers as to whether he would sit behind the table or stand up. He finally compromised by sitting on the table.

Since his comments apparently mean a lot to a large segment of the population, I have attempted to prepare a rather abbreviated transcript of his remarks.

"Good evening. In Los Angeles, it's 11 o'clock in the morning. I don't want you to be inhibited by this formality. I want to do this the way the president does it, except that he doesn't do it very often, does he?

Attends Press Conference

"But I don't want to talk behind his back. Eisenhower takes things personally, except his office.

"I attended one of Kennedy's press conferences in New York yesterday. Anybody in this country can be president, except Adlai Stevenson. I don't know Kennedy at all but I know Nixon all too well. Knowing the candidates, you get a lot of laughs you wouldn't get otherwise.

"The great debates are pretty grim. Nixon likes to put across the image of charm. Kennedy doesn't have any either. He talks about 77 per cent of the gross national product and things like that. They both smile a lot, though. That's inner satisfaction or something.

"Yes, it's true that I spent 83 days on K.P. while I was in the Army. But I don't want that to sound heroic.

"I just got back from Russia, you know. They don't like nonconformists either. I traveled with a young lady. If you take a guy with you, they think you're defecting."

Disc Firms Returning To 'Talkies'

By BOB THOMAS
AP Movie-TV Writer

HOLLYWOOD (AP) — The record industry, which began with talk—Thomas A. Edison's "Mary Had a Little Lamb" — is going back to it.

Just about the hottest album in the country these days is something called "Button Down Mind." It contains no singing strings, no folk ballads nor rock tunes, not even a sound of music. Just talk.

The talk consists of some wacky monologues by comic Bob Newhart, in such guises as a submarine skipper mildly chastising the crew for shelling Miami Beach. Newhart is the latest and most successful of the new comics in the record field.

Talk records aren't new, of course. Many Americans remember Moran and Mack, the two black crows. They were the rare exceptions in a medium that was devoted almost entirely to music.

The pioneer was Mort Sahl, whose staccatto attack on political follies appealed to a rebellious generation. He has been a steady seller in albums.

Striking a broader audience was Shelly Berman, whose "inside" and "outside" albums have been No. 1 on the best-seller list. He delivers skits on such mundane matters as hangovers and children who babble on the telephone.

Why do folks buy the talk albums? It's a mystery to some. After all, how many times can you listen to the same jokes?

Elements that seem to favor the talk albums are these:

1. The rising intelligentsia. There is a growing mass of intellectuals who want their humor sharp and incisive and won't submit to the mediocrity of TV and other media.

2. Entertainment at home. With the continuing trend for Americans to stay home instead of seeking entertainment outside, the albums provide a floor show.

3. Joy of discovery. Note that all of the top sellers are new personalities. Record buyers can have the thrill of discovering the fresh approaches to comedy and introducing them to their friends.

To Be Returned

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP)—A quarter million acres of farm land owned by French settlers will be returned to Tunisian control under an agreement signed Thursday. Tunisia will pay $2.38 million and the settlers will be allowed to transfer the funds out of the country, but farm equipment must be left.

BOYS WEAR BEARDS

DALLAS, Tex. (UPI)—Mrs. Mildred Sale of the Southwestern Artists Service spoke at this week's meeting of the Dallas Jazz Society about jazz and jazz musicians.

"If you see a father and his son together, it's ten to one that the bearded one is the son," she said.

Sea Lions Cause Woe; No Remedy

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Sea lions are seals with ears, beady eyes and whiskers. They lie on rocks off the California coast and honk.

They are divided into bulls, cows and pups. They eat fish and squid.

Sometimes they gobble anchovies, perch, white croakers and stingrays, then regurgitate them.

Sometimes they don't eat a thing for six months.

Sea lions are crosses between schooms and schmoes. Alive, they amuse tourists and make children laugh in zoos and circuses.

Dead, they're not worth a thing. There was a time, before electricity, when they could be melted down into oil for lamps.

Sea lions are hard to kill. During World War II, soldiers shot cannons at the off-coast rocks for artillery practice, but it didn't reduce the sea lion population at all. In fact in 50 years, the number of sea lions off California's coast hasn't changed much.

Sea lions are smarter than they look. Fishermen—who try to shoot them because they foul up their nets—say the critters seem able to move just out of range.

Some fisherman groups have demanded that the state kill off the sea lions on grounds that they are eating salmon and other commercially valuable fish.

Deputy Director Harry Anderson of the State Fish and Game Department says there's no evidence that sea lions eat salmon. Furthermore he says the cost of killing the beasts is prohibitive.

He reports that past efforts to eliminate the sea lions have failed. Machine guns wound many but kill few. Depth charges miss the sea lions, but kill the fish.

Anderson is afraid to try chemical, biological or radiological warfare, or mining the rookeries with fragmentation explosives.

Anderson's conclusion about what should be done with the sea lions: Nothing.

Expert Says Reds Failed

LOS ANGELES (UPI) — A top space scientist said Thursday there were indications Russia planned to put a man in space early this month and failed.

Dr. William Pickering, director of the California Institute of Technology's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, told the first annual World Newspaper Forum Thursday:

"Oct. 4 was the third anniversary of the launching of the first Sputnik and scientists throughout the world were wondering if Russia was planning something new."

Evidence that Russia indeed did expect to perform a major scientific feat about that time was indicated by numerous boastings by Radio Moscow in September that a significant space achievement could soon be expected, Pickering said.

"It is entirely out of character for the Russians to announce their plans ahead of time," said Pickering. "This most unusual (announcement) indicated that some significant space experiment had been planned and that it either failed or was called off for some reason. It could have been another moon shot—but there had been talk of putting a man in space."

Pickering was careful to point out that he had no concrete evidence of Russia's plans and that he was drawing his conclusions on the sequence of events and the fact that it was the first time the Russians had indicated in advance some space project.

Power Need Reported

WENATCHEE (AP) — At least 14 major dams can be built in the Northwest to fill the area's future power needs, a Columbia Basin Inter-Agency Committee group says.

They would add seven million kilowatts to the Northwest's present rating of 11,038,610 kilowatts, a CBIA subcommittee said Friday as a two-day meeting here wound up.

But the area's power demands, the committee said, are growing at a rate of five per cent a year, without considering unexpected increases due to new industries, and still more power will eventually be needed.

"The hydroelectric potential of this region is great (but) it is not unlimited and the ever-growing demand will eventually exceed it," the report said.

"Thermal (steam) capacity, which now constitutes less than four per cent of the total system capacity, will be expanded . . . Nuclear power plants are expected to become economically competitive within the next 15 or 20 years."

The subcommittee was headed by Allan J. Meadowcroft of the Federal Power Commission.

The group discussed in detail two rival plans for links with California but expressed no preference between them.

"DENNIS THE MENACE"

Red Infiltration Cited

PANAMA (AP)—President Roberto Chiari says "Communist influence in Latin America is deeply increasing."

In an interview with The Associated Press, Chiari said: "It is no longer a time for words—it is a time for actual and positive action."

The 55-year-old Panamanian leader took office two weeks ago and pledged a program of economic austerity and political moderation.

United States sources here say already there has been improvement in the often stormy relations between Washington and this republic, which has strategic importance because of the Panama Canal.

"There is no middle way," said Chiari. "It's a simple choice between democracy or communism.

"Washington's plan for a $500-million aid program for Latin America is a good beginning but it must be urgently implemented. Recent Pan American conferences clarified the continents' opposition to communism.

"The answer to communism is economic. The main reason Communists made such deep advances is the willingness of the people to listen because of unemployment and lack of progress in education and housing. Also the people of the United States must pay more attention to the problem and realize its urgency."

Chiari said no new developments in U.S.-Panamanian relations are expected in the next few months.

Panama has been demanding a substantial increase in the annual million-dollar rent the United States pays for the canal—plus better wages for Panamanian workers employed there.

"These things can be worked out easily, with a square deal for everybody," said the Italian-descended president.

There have been predictions that ultranationalists might cause anti-U.S. outbreaks in the Canal Zone on Nov. 3, Panama's national holiday.

To take the initiative away from extremists, the government has been planning a peaceful, controlled parade in which Panama's flag will be carried through a portion of the Canal Zone jutting into downtown Panama City Park.

Chiari denied reports that he personally might carry the flag.

"I believe it will all be very, very quiet," he said.

Picture Boss Praises Films For Selling US

LOS ANGELES (UPI) — Eric Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Association of America, said Friday one of the best ways of selling the United States abroad was with motion pictures.

Johnston, in a speech prepared for delivery to about 3,000 editors, publishers and guests attending the first World Newspaper Forum, said:

"The average attendance at American films around the world runs upward to 250 million persons a week.

"To these peoples our films have brought, without setting out to do so, the moving image of a land that has achieved great material progress without sacrificing individual liberties."

Johnston told his audience at the two-day event sponsored by the California Newspaper Publishers Association that he realizes there has been criticism that films convey a sordid impression sometimes.

"But to balance off, it is no less clear to me that our plus marks very far outweigh the minuses," he said. "And I hope we will add more pluses and minimize the minuses. This hope, I assure you, is shared by every responsible Hollywood producer I know."

Other Friday speaches were Eligio Esquivel Mendez, governor of Baja California; Henry J. Kaiser, vice president of Kaiser Industries Corp.; and Ramon Beteta, general director of Novadades and the News of Mexico City.

Vice President Richard M. Nixon addressed the group also, following Gov. Abraham A. Ribicoff's appearance as a spokesman for Sen. John F. Kennedy Thursday night.

Navy Aids AF Man In Theft

FAIRFIELD (UPI) — A young Air Force man was in custody today charged with stealing a 40-foot, $17,350 launch from the Navy.

What's more, said the FBI the Navy helped him do it.

FBI, Air Force and Navy officials gave this account:

Airman I.C. Lawrence Lionel Lynch, 23, Travis Air Force Base, appeared Monday at Mare Island Navy Shipyard in Vallejo and identified himself as a Navy pipefitter third class. He said he had been assigned to select a boat for Travis airmen. He made his choice and left, saying he would be back the next day to pick it up.

Tuesday, Lynch was back with an Air Force work crew and a truck, which he obtained by misrepresenting his assignment. Under Lynch's direction, Navy and Air Force men loaded the nineton boat onto the truck.

Lynch carried a bona fide requisition number for the boat. Travis officials said Lynch obtained the number by phone from the Oakland Naval Supply Center.

The launch was returned to Travis and unloaded behind a large shed. Lynch planned to overhaul it, agents said, but his further plans for it were not learned.

But Thursday after Mare Island, Oakland and Travis officials compared notes, Lynch was arrested on a charge of theft of government property. It carries a maximum penalty on conviction of 10 years in prison and $10,000 fine.

Army Censor Draws Blast From Solon

WASHINGTON (UPI) — A congressional investigator charged today that the Army censored a Washington newsman's story it transmitted to his newspaper by way of the Courier satellite.

Rep. John E. Moss, D-Calif., chairman of the House government information subcommittee, said the Army Signal Corps struck out a paragraph in the story which called the atmospheric mode of transmission a "stunt" and a "gimmick."

In its place, Moss said, Signal Corps personnel substituted this sentence: "This historical experiment in news-broadcasting may well be the forerunner of tomorrow's mode of communication."

There was no immediate comment from the Army on Moss' charge.

TODAY
The Story of MARTHA WAYNE
...ily — H&N Comics

Voters Face Heavy Job Of Law-Making

By PAUL W. HARVEY JR.
Associated Press Staff Writer

Oregon's voters face a heavy job of law-making at the general election, with 15 measures on the ballot. Thirteen of them were put there by the Legislature, and one each by initiative and by referendum.

Only once since 1914 have there been more ballot measures before the people at one election. That was in 1952, when there were 18.

This year's Measure No. 1 would make the terms of legislators start on the opening day of the legislative session. This would be a week later than at present.

This is a simple housekeeping measure that no one opposes. The 1959 Legislature felt it would be more efficient.

Measure No. 2, to establish daylight saving time from the last Sunday in April until the last Sunday in September, has been the subject of hot controversy for several years.

Proponents argue that it would give families an extra hour of daylight for outdoor work and recreation, would conserve electricity, would stimulate the tourist trade, and benefit the radio and television industries by making it unnecessary to tape many programs originating in the East.

But opponents claim that it penalizes farmers, who have to get up early; that it makes it harden to get young children to bed, and that it hurts outdoor theaters.

Measure No. 3 would permit financing of urban renewal projects through the increased taxation that results from these improvements. This is non-controversial. There is no known opposition. Yet the people defeated the same measure in 1958 by a margin of 268,716 to 221,330.

Measure No. 4 would let district attorneys bring charges in criminal cases by filing information, as is done in many states. Such charges now are brought by grand juries. The proposed amendment would retain the grand jury system, using the information method as an alternative.

Supporters of the proposal argue that grand juries, in bringing indictments, generally do just what the district attorney recommends. So, they ask, why not streamline things and let the D. A. bring the charges in the first place.

But opponents feel that the grand jury system is a fundamental protection of the rights of the accused, being a protection against a capricious act of a district attorney.

A new state constitution could result from Measure No. 5, which is the Legislature's answer to demands by both Republican and Democratic governors that Oregon have a constitutional convention to write a new constitution.

Oregon's constitution has been amended many times since statehood in 1858, but never has been rewritten. There is general agreement that a new constitution is needed. The question is who will write it.

The 1959 Legislature, in effect, rejected the convention idea when it proposed this measure to let the Legislature write a new charter.

Now, the constitution can be amended only an article at a time. This ballot measure would permit the lawmakers to propose amendments to as many articles as they wish, even to the extent of writing a new constitution.

Supporters claim that giving the Legislature this power would be cheaper and more practical. Opponents favor a convention on the ground that the job should be done by a body that is more representative of the public.

Nice Prop

BRISTOL, England (AP) — A blind woman learned Thursday she has been propping up a leg of her work bench for eight years with a live bomb. She had tied the bomb to a leg of the table in Bristol's workshop for the blind. A worker who had been a World War II bomb expert spotted it while he was working on a rebuilding project. Workshop officials said the bomb must have been brought in with pieces of knitting machinery.

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