

Herald and News

Editorial Page

The President Face To Face

Aftermath reaction to President Kennedy's special one-hour television interview with reporters from the three major networks seems to be that he has found a new method of bringing the problems, aims and workings of the presidency home to the American people in a way never before possible. It is a method likely to be used more and more in the future.

Not since Franklin Roosevelt gave his first "fireside chat" over radio has an American president spoken so directly and intimately to his fellow citizens.

The President is tremendously aware of the impact and immediacy his personality has made through modern electronic means of communication, beginning with his campaign debates with Richard Nixon in 1960 and carrying through with televised press conferences.

The latter, however, have sometimes offered more spectacle than information to the viewing public—with some 300 reporters vying for attention, scrambling madly to get out of the room at the end and the President himself not always at his grammatical best.

There was, and is, in such conferences, the possibility of embarrassing questions and hasty answers which cannot be recalled or "edited" out of the program.

The recent interview was entirely different. Although the reporters' questions were not submitted or cleared beforehand—President Kennedy's responses were extemporaneous in that respect—the tape was edited at leisure and the program was generally tightened up.

Here was the President of the United States sitting in a room of his official home

(the same room, incidentally, where Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko assured him that Russia would certainly never send missiles to Cuba), relaxed, frank, self-assured and fluent, speaking face to face with uncounted millions of the American people in their own homes.

Here was given the President's summation of his first two years in office, his personal feelings about holding the most important job in the world, the workings of the executive branch of the government, the chances for his legislative program in the new Congress, his estimates and predictions on a number of world problems.

The President displayed extreme confidence in himself and in the nation, and the viewer could not help but come away from the program with some of the same confidence, and with the feeling that he had really spoken to the President as a man and as a fellow American.

It was inevitable that the Republicans should demand equal time of their own, if only to show that while John F. Kennedy wears a laurel wreath, he is but mortal. They should of course, be allowed equal time.

But how they can match the glamour and force of an interview from the White House, or which of their outstanding men they will use—they might interview more than one, such as Rockefeller, Goldwater and Eisenhower—is a problem that is one of the greatest disadvantages for the party out of power.

Whatever may be the partisan aspects of the President's appearance, however, they do not begin to take away from the fact that it was an important—perhaps even a landmark—event in American history.



IN WASHINGTON . . .

Soviet Education Fails

Nothing could be further from the truth. Since 1958 the number of young people permitted to continue their studies beyond secondary school was drastically curtailed in the Soviet Union. In 1960, only 67,500 students of a high school graduating class of one million, or 6.7 per cent, were admitted into Soviet universities. This year, the percentage of students in universities and advanced technical schools had dropped to less than 6.5 per cent of the school population.

Simple arithmetic shows that five times as many American young people were given their chance at a college education. More than twice as many as in the Soviet Union completed this work. In the U.S.S.R., what's more, an engineering or medical degree frequently puts one in the category of skilled mechanic or male nurse.

The boast that the Soviet Union is turning out more scientists than the United States—and that these scientists are encouraged—also doesn't bear close scrutiny. Don't take my word for this, but listen to what Russians have to say about their own system.



STRICTLY PERSONAL

I was talking about the high cost of automobile insurance to a friend of mine from California, who happens to be an insurance broker.

Companies — but the metering public, of course, pays the price at the end, because as an insurance rates are pretty much based on how much the companies have to pay out in claims each year.

A member of the Soviet Academy of Science pointed out that in examinations for schools of higher learning family connections counted more than academic ability, and that not a scholastic achievement, including athletic prowess was more important than talent.

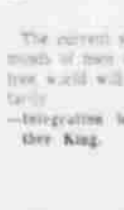


POTOMAC FEVER

It is in his "Meet the Press" news, was a name-dropper's delight. Now any American can say, "As Jack was telling me of the record the other night, . . ."

It seems that the trouble with this Skybolt missile program is all his — and so left.

Now that Mariner has sent back information on Venus, the question is whether we can put those arms on her before Russia does.



THEY SAY . . .

The current struggle to win the minds of men and nations in the free world will not be won militarily.

The New York newspaper strike isn't an untimed blessing. For J.F.K. that would be a wonderful time to send Neely Williams up there for a series of speeches.

Former advertising tycoon Ben-Hur had better take another look.



EDSON IN WASHINGTON . . . Congress Must Act To Keep U.S. Operating

By PETER EDSON, Washington Correspondent, Newspaper Enterprise Assn. WASHINGTON (NEA)—Over 34 important laws and congressional authorizations expiring in 1963 will give the next Congress a heavy work load on top of any new programs President Kennedy may ask for.

limitation expires March 31. If not extended it will revert to \$300 billion through June 30. It is probable that an increased debt authorization will be asked for, particularly if there is any tax reduction.

Presidential authority to call the ready reserves to active duty expires Feb. 28. The authorization granted by Congress last October will have to be extended if the present tough posture against potential threats to world peace is to be maintained.

Authorization for aid to federally affected schools expires June 30. Its renewal will be only one part of the broad aid to education the administration again will ask for.

In March the President and the Secretaries of Labor and Health, Education and Welfare must report to Congress on progress under the manpower training act of 1962. This was an experimental program to cut down technological unemployment as well as to train workers for needed new skills.

Expiration of Export-Import lending authority on June 30 probably will bring requests for increased lending power as part of sweeping revisions in all foreign aid programs.



WASHINGTON REPORT . . . Changes Pending In House Rules Makeup

By FULTON LEWIS JR., Cantankerous Clarence Cannon, powerful chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, has thrown a monkey wrench into White House plans to repack the House Rules Committee.

They point out that many Democrats up for re-election are political freaks, elected in the districts for the GOP year of 1962.

Two years ago, Cannon reluctantly went along with his longtime friend, Speaker Sam Rayburn, and cast his vote to increase the committee from 12 to 15 members.

Republicans hope to knock off Indiana's Vance Hartke at the same time. State Sen. Russell Bontrager is a possibility for the nomination. So is Congressman Donald Bruce, recently elected in his second term.

At least one other Missouri Democrat, W. R. Hull Jr., was known to have been influenced by Cannon on the 1961 vote.

The moon is approaching its first quarter. The morning stars are Venus and Mars. The evening stars are Jupiter and Saturn.

Letters To The Editor

Deerslaying

I would like to take this opportunity to make a few remarks of my own, in answer to a letter published in the paper last week in regard to the deerslaying.

pick them up, but very seldom ever did. Makes much more sense than letting them suffer, don't you agree?

we should be helping them fight instead of just complaining about this zoning issue.

Principles

I read the letter on zoning by Mr. & Mrs. Name Withheld. I don't blame them for not signing their name. Why is zoning a must? People who live in the suburban area do so because they are not restricted as the city's are in zoning laws, etc.

Principles. I wish to state first that I live in the suburban area and I am 100 per cent for zoning. I am somewhat annoyed at the people who are bandstanding against this.

Freedom. We bought our home in the suburban area because we wanted the extra freedom that we could not have in the city limits.

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