

Secretary Matthews Now Reaps Abuses From Navy's Heyday Under Roosevelt

By DREW PEARSON

Navy Background—
To understand why Secretary of the Navy Matthews had to discipline Adm. Louis Denfield — whom this column has consistently praised — you have to understand what has gone on in the navy. Over the 50-year period be-

ginning with Teddy Roosevelt, the admirals have led almost a charmed life. They had behind them the personal glamour and publicity that radiated from those two dynamic presidents — Teddy and FDR — plus the secret but powerful support of Bethlehem steel, U. S. steel, Westinghouse electric and other big corporations whose business flourished from building battleships.

The only two presidents who bucked the navy in that period—Coolidge and Hoover—faced an admirals' revolt not unlike that of today, aided and abetted by the big steel and ship-building companies.

Greatest heyday of the admirals came under Franklin Roosevelt. They had never got over this, and Secretary Matthews is now reaping the consequences.

FDR appointed as his secretary of the navy Claude Swanson, a delightful and aging ex-senator from Virginia who knew little about the navy. Swanson died in office after letting Roosevelt and the admirals run the show. His successor was Charles Edison, son of the late great inventor, Thomas A. Edison.

Edison Knew Navy—

The new secretary had operated a big industrial firm, understood construction technicalities, and immediately got in the admirals' hair.

By this time FDR and diverted many hundreds of millions from public works administration funds to build warships. And, although congress howled, this was probably a good thing—in view of impending war. Certainly it would have been a good thing if the admirals had not insisted on building so many battleships but had built a few more escort vessels and antisubmarine craft.

This was where Secretary Edison and the top navy brass had their first big clash. Edison went out to Pearl Harbor and dared to criticize. He told the admirals that duty at Pearl Harbor did not mean spending all the time on the beach at Waikiki, and that the first thing they had to do was get their fuel-oil tanks underground.

Even more important, Edison told the admirals to clear off the superstructures of their battleships.

The next war, he said,

would be an air war; and fire straight up in the air, not broadside. Therefore, they couldn't be in the position of firing at their own crow's nest.

About this time, Edison also caught the admirals lousing up the new destroyers built with PWA funds. He found that out of 28 new destroyers, 20 were so top-heavy that extra weight had to be added to the keels to keep them from turning turtle in the water. In addition, the deck plates on three destroyers buckled in only a "moderately rolling sea." Furthermore, because the navy still insisted on using rivets, millions of defective rivets had to be replaced.

Edison not only discovered these facts but also learned that three of the private shipyards building the destroyers feared the center of gravity was too high and warned the admirals in advance. They even offered to submit the center-of-gravity test to Gibbs and Cox.

Secretary Edison also discovered that these errors were chiefly due to the fact that the chief of naval construction, Adm. William G. DuBose, was at loggerheads with Adm. Harold G. Bowen, the chief of naval engineering. So he shifted them both.

Edison Eased Out—

By this time the top brass who had been running the navy department in the past were really seething. And they took their complaint to their best friend — Franklin D. Roosevelt, who, ever since he had been assistant secretary of the navy, believed the admirals could do no wrong.

So FDR called in Charles Edison, told him the Democratic party needed a "good man to run for governor of New Jersey and that he, Edison, was just the man.

Furthermore, Roosevelt said he needed a Republican in the cabinet to further his bipartisan war policy.

Frank Knox was an easy-going ex-newspaper publisher who loved the navy, enjoyed the polish and precision of things nautical.

At first Knox and the admirals got along beautifully. The new secretary didn't know too much about the navy, let the admirals have free rein. But gradually, as Knox began to learn what it was all about, he began to realize that it was Franklin D. Roosevelt and the admirals who really ran things.

Spahns Return From Germany

DELOIT—Ewald Spahn and his father returned recently from a trip to Germany.

The pair left more than a month ago for their trip. They visited relatives and friends in Germany. They reported that people in Germany are underfed and are very serious about the reconstruction of their country.

Mrs. Ewald Spahn accompanied the pair to New York at the outset of the trip.

Other Deloit News

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Tomjack, Anna Van Zandt and Florence Butler went to Dallas, S. D., on Tuesday, November 29.

Pinocchio club held their December meeting on Thursday, December 1.

The HEO club met Wednesday, November 30, at the Maynard Stearns home. Next meeting will be at James Wiegand home on December 16 for a Christmas party.

Mr. and Mrs. Sylvester Bahm were callers at Henry Reimer's on Sunday.

Merlin Wright, of Norfolk, will be in charge of church services at 11 a. m. at Fairview on Sunday, December 11. The farm bureau will have a meeting for members and families at Henry Reimer's on December 15.

Ferdinand and Jim Hubby, of Omaha, are working on the house recently moved to this community.

Mr. and Mrs. John Sehi have been on two weeks vacation.

Mrs. Glen Harpster called Monday at the Henry Reimer home.

Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Bartak and daughters shopped in O'Neill on Saturday.

Frank Harpster has been at the Fred Harpster home.

Mrs. G. A. Bauer and Gladys were Norfolk visitors on Tuesday, November 29.

Infant Daughter Of Thiele's Dies—
DELOIT—The infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Marion Thiele, of Omaha, died November 24. Thiele's are former residents of this community and were the co-owners of the Hupp store before moving to Omaha.

Personals

Mrs. Guy Young spent the weekend visiting her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Carol Summerer, of Ewing.

Mrs. Henry Martin, Mrs. Clarence Wrede and Miss Martha Boshart were Wednesday, November 30, and Thursday, December 1, guests of Mr. and Mrs. John Hipke and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Carr, of Springfield.

Mr. and Mrs. George C. Robertson spent Friday in Norfolk on business.

Mrs. Anna Carson, of Red-bird, left Sunday for Gordon to be with her father, Charles Ladely, who is 94-years-old and in ill health.

Venetian blinds, prompt delivery, made to measure, metal or wood, all colors—J. M. McDonald Co., O'Neill 1117

Staff Sergeant Charles E. Worth left Monday for Chennault Field, Ill., after spending a 30-day furlough visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Worth.

Mr. and Mrs. John Shoemaker, jr., of Omaha, spent the weekend visiting the former's parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Shoemaker, sr.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas R. Watson took Mrs. E. L. Watson to Lincoln Friday where she remained for a visit with relatives. They went on to Omaha to get Mrs. Theresa Murray, who had been visiting there.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred McNally, of North Platte, arrived Saturday to visit at the home of their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Tomlinson.

Mr. and Mrs. George Van Every visited in Grand Island Sunday.

Bernard Spry spent the weekend at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Blake Benson and family. Mr. and Mrs. Boyd Boelter, of Middle Branch, were in O'Neill on business Monday.

Methodist WSCS Meets—
PAGE — The WSCS met Thursday afternoon, December 1, in the Methodist church parlors with 25 present. Mrs. Harry Harper led the devotions and gave the lesson, "Christmas in Different Countries." Mrs.

Melvin Smith and Mrs. Ralph Prill were hostesses.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Man-

son attended a family Thank-

sgiving dinner at Bartlett.

Thursday.



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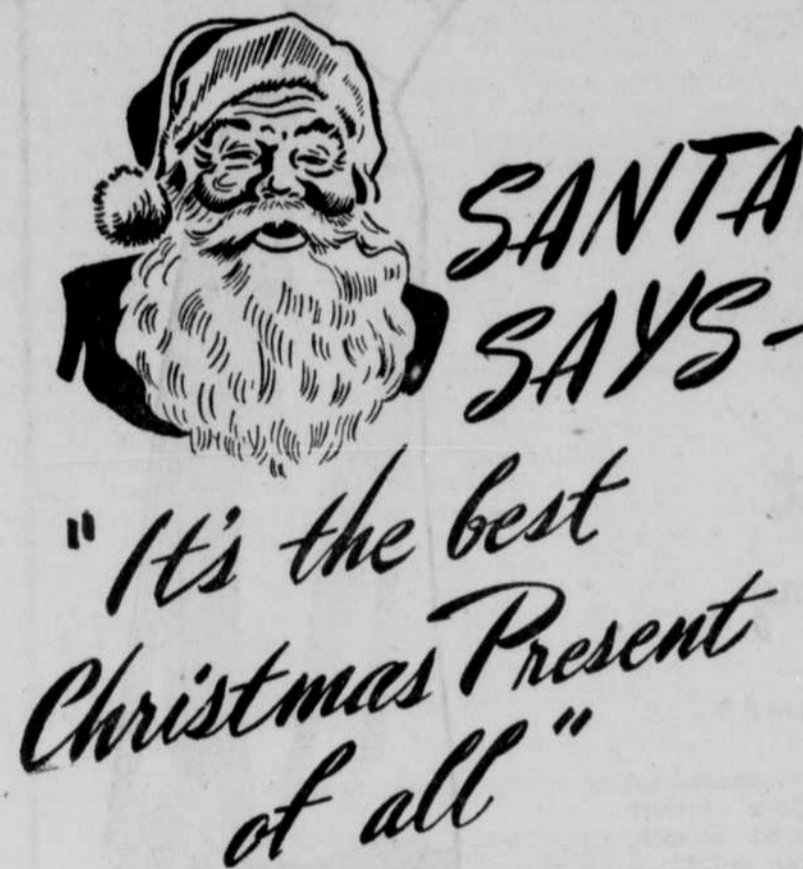
STORING NEBRASKA'S BIG CORN CROP IS A PROBLEM

Many Nebraska farmers face the serious problem of having far more corn than storage space. They must decide whether to build a temporary crib or provide real protection that will merit Government price support.

They are asking their farm leaders as to the right way to solve their problem.

Tavern owners, too, often have problems. They want to operate their places in the public interest. They want to earn the respect and goodwill of the citizens in the community. To this end, they welcome the advice of the brewing industry. And they are applying proved methods to their own benefit and that of the community.

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PHONE 410

REA Comes to Deloit Community

DELOIT—This week a rural electrification line in this community was energized and already some homes have power. It is supposed that other farms in the area will have it soon.

First REA contracts were signed in 1941 for this area. However, World War II interfered and work was delayed until this year.

Roller Skating Resumes in Atkinson—

ATKINSON — C. J. Brooke, owner of the Crystal Ballroom, has announced the start of roller skating at that recreation center. He is certain there will be skating Sunday afternoons and evenings and will announce week night schedules later.

The fact that there will be skating does not mean there will be fewer dances, he pointed out. Addition of this recreation was made possible at the ballroom by the construction of a new masonite floor.

Mr. and Mrs. R. P. Orph and son, Steven, of Lincoln, spent the weekend visiting at the home of Mrs. Orph's parents, Mr. and Mrs. George C. Robertson.

Mrs. Addie L. Wrede and John Lansworth spent Sunday visiting their sister and niece, Mrs. Cora Van Hove and DeLores.

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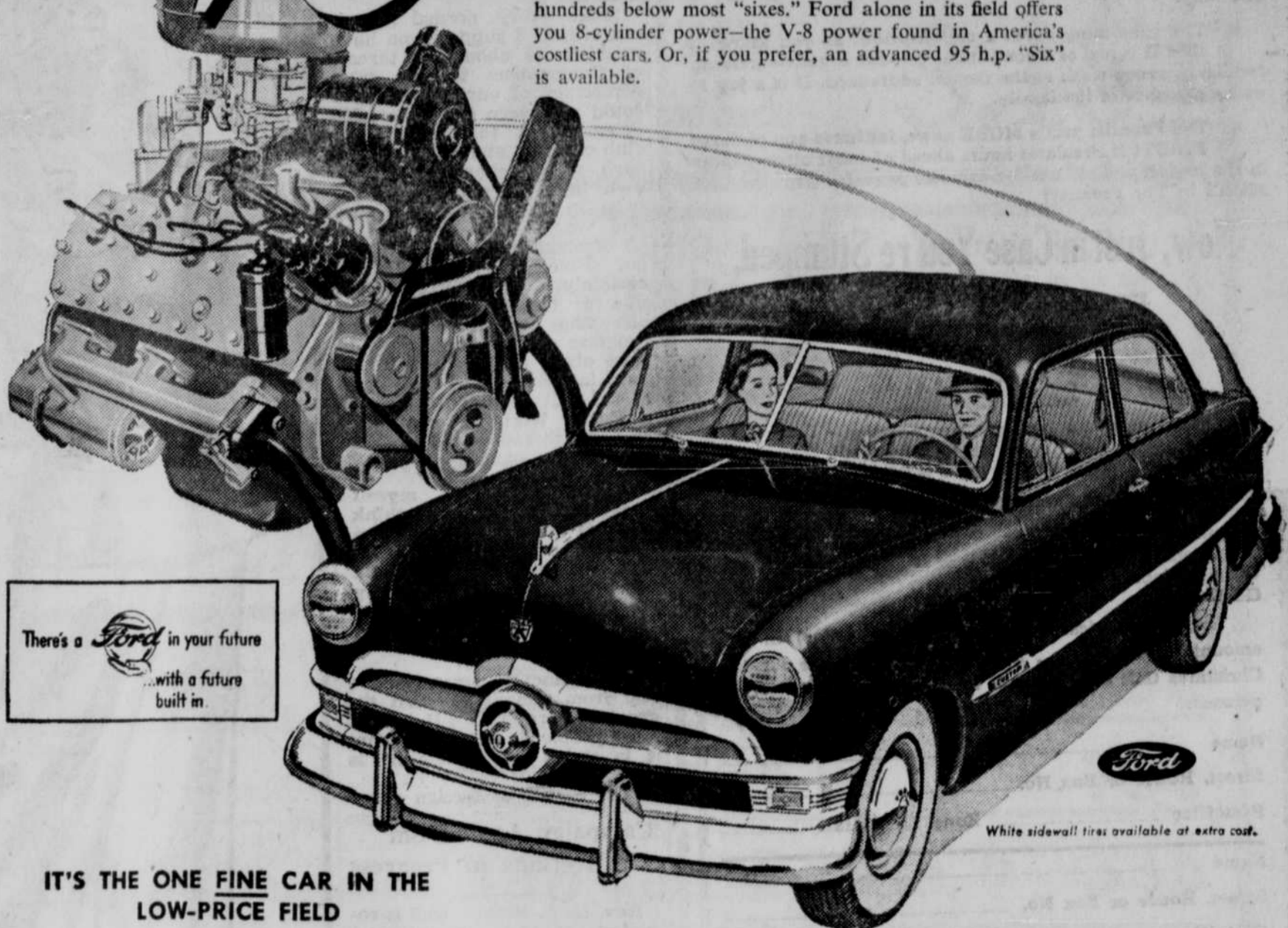
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