

EDITORIALS

Furse's Fresh Flashes

No Place Like Home?

Legislative SIDELIGHTS..



By Stanley James, Journal Washington Reporter

WASHINGTON, D. C.—President Harry Truman threw executive gears into confusion at his last April press conference. When he told assembled newsmen, including this paper's correspondent, that he was unleashing a hot-peek exclusive for the first time, about an ultimatum to Russia, he was not only giving newsmen a head-ache but also giving one to his own executive department. Much has been written about the poor members of the press, who felt their blood pressure rise to new heights when the red hot tip was uttered, but little has been said about the hot flushes which overtook State and Defense department members of the presidential press staff.

As the reader probably knows, Mr. Truman inadvertently misled the press about the ultimatum. It later turned out, according to presidential assistant press secretaries, that there had been no genuine ultimatum, and that the news Mr. Truman was releasing was not really news. Mr. Truman told his press conference that he had issued an ultimatum to Joe Stalin in 1945 telling him to get out of Persia by a certain period, and that Stalin had removed his troops.

When the press conference broke up, reporters were ready to send the ultimatum story beyond the world, and some did, but some waited to get a re-hashed version which later came from a press secretary. The President's words had been toned down astonishingly. No real ultimatum, no "first facts," and not 1945 at all but 1946! Those were the changes—or retortations.

When the President's utterings were dumped upon State Department heads, they suffered from temporary blindness, for one thing, hoping someone would say it wasn't so. But no one did. Other top government officials in the executive department were thunder-struck. The President of the United States had certainly said something! And unlike the occasion on which Mr. Truman expressed a belief he could take over the press and radio, when his words were blown up a little beyond what even Mr. Truman meant, on this occasion Mr. Truman had put his feet squarely in his mouth. And even the executive department was stunned.

General Matthew Ridgeway's appointment to the top NATO post was not the most satisfactory one possible to Europeans, but it was satisfactory. The tough fighter (Big Easy) expected to make a good NATO commander, but General Alfred M. Gruenther was probably the favorite among Europeans for the job—naturally. He has been Ike's Chief of Staff for many years—knows how to work, not only with Ike, but with the European nations themselves. In the appointing, which sent General Mark Clark to the Far East as theater commander, General James A. Van Fleet seems to have been the forgotten man. He stays right where he has been, commander of the Army on the Korean front. Van Fleet has proven a sound and efficient fighter, who has not lost a major battle since taking over the U. N. command. He was expected by many to move up to the Far East command post, as a reward for his job in Korea. But he and Gruenther were not moved up. They held two key jobs and it might well be that no one else could do an equal job in the same capacity at the moment. At least, Ridgeway insisted that Gruenther remain his CS in Europe.

Both parties are wondering what they can do about keynote speakers. Those in the G. O. P. who wanted General Douglas MacArthur to make the keynote speech at the Republican convention are finding that Eisenhower supporters will never agree to that. It is not objectionable to Taft's workers since General Mac has already indicated a preference for the Ohioan. But Eisenhower supporters fear the MacArthur charm might set the tone of the convention on the wrong pitch, which to them would be on a Taft policy pitch.

Most observers think that General Mac will make a speech, but that it will be only one of a number of regular guest speeches. For the Democratic keynote, a man like Senator Bob Kerr might be named. Of course, it has been a tradition that those actively running for the nomination are not invited to keynote the convention, and this might eliminate Kerr, if he is still in the race by July. Senator Hubert Humphrey has been almost ruled out because of Southern objections. He has the active animosity of some in that section. There is one suggestion that President Truman himself keynote the Democratic convention, but the President hasn't been drawn out on this idea. He would be expected to refuse the suggestion, however. At the top of his list, the President isn't an effective public speaker anyhow—compared to some available in the party, or either party.

Three Counties Are Shippers To Omaha Market

Three Cass counties were listed among shippers to the Omaha market last week. Shippers included Mrs. Louis Goebel, 15 hogs, weighing 22 pounds, that sold at \$17; Arnold Stohman, seven heifers, weighing 896 that brought \$33.75; and Siemoneit and Schmidt, 28 steers weighing 961 that sold at \$34 and three steers weighing 900 that brought \$32.

Livestock supply ran heavy Monday at Omaha with some 37,000 cattle, calves, hogs and sheep on sale. Fat cattle sold unevenly weak to 50-75 cents lower, while hogs were steady to 25 cents lower. DYNAMITE TRUCK EXPLODES. MERCERSBURG, Pa. — When his dynamite-laden truck went out of control and plunged down an embankment, the driver managed to escape in time to warn near-by residents before the flames ignited the dynamite. Although there was a deafening roar, no one was reported injured. A Classified Ad in The Journal costs as little as 35c.

FIGHT OVER KEYNOTERS

In Washington they are in a tizzy over the question of keynoters at the national conventions. Both parties are composed of various elements and the question of a keynote speaker is only one of three sixty-four dollar questions now facing rival groups within each party. Although the keynote speaker question ranks first in speculation, there are other important posts to be settled at each convention. Who will be the permanent chairman of the conventions? Who will write the platforms? These are other issues which will be settled in the in-fighting between now and July. The Republican convention opens first. There has been much talk that General Douglas MacArthur would be invited to deliver the keynote speech to the Republican delegates, but the thought here seems to be, now, that the General will be invited to be a guest speaker, but not the keynote speaker.

In the case of the Republicans, the politicians in charge are said to be waiting to see who the nominee will be before writing the platform, and making other arrangements. Because of a wide difference in the views of the two leading G. O. P. candidates, the platform might have to be arranged to suit them—and no one can yet say which of the big two is "in," or if a compromise candidate may be the man.

The Republicans are expected to name either Minority Leader Joe Martin, of the House, to be permanent chairman of their convention, or, possibly, Senator Eugene D. Millikin. Tradition favors Martin, but there is strong support for Millikin, in many circles. So, too, does tradition favor Speaker Sam Rayburn as the permanent chairman of the Democratic convention. Rayburn is the favorite for that Democratic convention post until someone comes along to seriously threaten him. And, since there is much dissension in the senior major ranks this year, Rayburn might have strong opposition.

Drafting a platform calls for a resolutions chairman, and each party is also faced with that problem—neither having solved it as yet, of course. House Majority Leader McCormack, former Senator Myers, of Pennsylvania, and several other Democrats have been prominently mentioned. The Republican picture hasn't crystallized even that much as yet. The G.O.P. platform may have to be tailored to the man, and the man is a hot issue, at this stage.

THE DIPLOMA RACKET

Apparently there are several hundred so-called educational institutions in the United States that are operating a diploma racket running into millions of dollars a year.

This information was brought to the attention of those attending the National Conference on Higher Education sponsored by the National Education Association. Many of these fraudulent schools specialize in the issuance of fake theology degrees at a cost averaging about \$250. Dr. John Vale Russell, special consultant of the committee reporting on the fraudulent educational institutions, pointed out that a number of those receiving these phony degrees have succeeded in getting into the Chaplain Corps of the Armed Service.

While the Federal Government is virtually helpless to stop this unfortunate practice, the Federal Trade Commission did succeed last year in bringing suits against several "diploma mills" with the resulting success of obtaining "desist" orders.

New York and Virginia have effective laws to deal with the diploma racket. Other states in the nation should follow the lead of these two states to avoid the

A pedestrian is a man with a wife, a daughter, two sons and one car.

Flipper Fanny, our dainty little court-walker, became offended at her boy friend the other day and mailed his engagement ring back to him. Large red letters on the label attached read: Glass—Handle With Care."

Some people give and forgive—others get and forget.

In business, you charge a thing and pay for it later; in politics, the payments come first and the charges later.

A local kid says he can look into his girls eyes and tell what she thinks—and it's most discouraging.

That bathing suit that grandma wore. Looked like a Mother Hubbard, But nowadays the bathing suits. Look a lot more like her cupboard.

In our day the girls were more shy and demure—you had to whistle at them twice.

Some people's only idea of exercise is letting bills run.

need of federal legislation. There is less chance of losing educational freedom when the necessary laws are enacted by political subdivisions rather than the central government in a nation.

Down Memory Lane

20 YEARS AGO Harding Memorial Highway will be marked to follow U. S. 34 from Red Oak to Glenwood and through Plattsmouth across Nebraska. Miss Anna May Sandin was winner of second place as vocalist in the state music contest. A. H. Duxbury was presented a past commander's Jewel at the Knight's Templar banquet. U. S. Government has obtained permission to pave from the city limits of Plattsmouth north on Eighth street to the rifle range. Murray opened its baseball season Sunday with a 17-3 win over Union. Newman collected four hits to back the pitching of Hopkins and Taylor. Juniors were hosts to seniors at the annual banquet. Stuart Porter, junior class president, gave the farewell address to which Miss Helen Schulz, senior president, responded.

10 YEARS AGO George L. Farley has filed for the nomination as a member of the unicameral legislature. Mrs. Gertrude V. Gorton has filed as a candidate for the Republican nomination for the office that she now holds. Another filing was also announced today, Henry C. Backemeyer filed for the board of county commissioners from the third district. John J. Cloidt of Plattsmouth was elected president of the county petroleum industries committee. Other officers are Ralph V. Welshimer, Plattsmouth, secretary. E. A. Wurl was elected president of the Plattsmouth board of education. Dr. R. P. Westover was named vice president; and Frank A. Cloidt was elected secretary. Mrs. William Woolcott was installed as president of the Plattsmouth Women's Club at the annual banquet.

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

(Copyright 1949, By the Bell Syndicate, Inc.) DREW PEARSON SAYS: PRESIDENT TRUMAN AND PHIL MURRAY HAVE NOT BEEN INTIMATE FRIENDS; SEN. GILLETTE IS JITTERY OVER IOWA NEWSMAN; VEEP KEEPS AIR BASE FOR BLUEGRASS STATE.

Washington.—One of the personal paradoxes of the steel dispute which only three or four people know, is that President Truman and CIO chief Phil Murray for many years were not on too good personal terms. The public has the impression that they were intimate friends and that it was partly because of this intimacy that the White House went to bat for the steelworkers. However, though the CIO has thrown powerful political support to Truman, Truman's and Murray's personal relations for a long time were cool.

The coolness dates back to the 1944 Democratic convention in Chicago when Murray was a strong supporter of Henry Wallace for the vice presidency. As such he opposed Truman, and was not in sympathy with the way Sen. Sam Jackson of Indiana abruptly gavelled the convention to a close in order to stop a bandwagon rush for Wallace.

That night Murray received a call from some of the big democratic bosses, including Ed Flynn of the Bronx and the late Ed Kelly of Chicago. They reported that they had been trying to stop Sen. Harry S. Tri-



man in his determination to be vice president, but wasn't successful. They asked Murray if he would talk to Truman. Murray, who was in a room in the Blackstone Hotel where Senator Truman also lived, picked up the phone, asked if he could come down and see him. "I'll come up and see you," replied Truman. And he did. Almost bursting into the room a minute or two later, the Senator from Missouri didn't wait for Murray to open the conversation. "I know what you want," he said, "and I'm not going to do it."

Washington Pipeline Few people, even in Kentucky, know how much it pays to have Alben Barkley pulling wires for the Bluegrass State. The other day Truman himself telephoned Senator for Air Fillette and half apologetically explained that the veep was concerned about the transfer of an air force training center from Boone County, Kentucky, to Clinton County, Ohio. The transfer had already been partially made, but now is being made back to Kentucky. Meanwhile the Senate Armed Services Committee is investigating why the Air Force spent the extra money to shift an air base from Kentucky to Ohio and back again.

Washing the Veep The committee doesn't know that the veep is involved in the messes of Senator McKellar are discussing the possibility of hiring a private railroad car for the Senator's reelection campaign. McKellar is too feeble to travel by automobile and climb up on platforms so they plan a series of R.R. round-trip trips. Senate secretary Les Bieff has been quietly boosting the elderly veep for president together with the dynamic, young Secretary of the Interior, Oscar Chapman, for vice president.

Merry-Go-Round When President Truman greeted big steel executives the other day he made a special point of shaking hands with Clarence Randall, president of Inland Steel, who had attacked him bitterly on the air. Democratic bosses in Westmoreland, Ohio, were really out to get Kefauver. They had bitter memories of his Cleveland crime hearings when he subpoenaed various mobsters who had enjoyed political protection and patronage from a Republican reform mayor. Charles B. Anderson and Thurston D. Power, chief Edward J. Allen for cleaning up the city. Congressman Walter Brehm of Ohio, Republican, convicted of taking kickbacks after an expose in this column, finally decided not to run for re-election and Senator Williams of Delaware has made such a name for himself as a tax-fraud exposé that people outside his state now appeal to him for help. When the Tennessee Gas and Transmission Company abused farmers by putting a gas line across western New York, people of that area appealed to Delaware's Williams, in addition to their own New York Senators.

Pension Cost of Living Increases Recent legislation has authorized certain minor increases in pension and compensation payments to disabled veterans and their dependents. These increases are automatic and no application is necessary. Some veterans should have already received checks by this time paying the increases. Disability payments are increased as follows: For service connected disability, a 5% increase on ratings from 10% to 49%, and 15% on ratings from 50% to 100%. Non-service connected disability an increase of \$3.00 per month on regular cases and an increase of \$9.00 per month for those persons in need of regular attendance and aid. Death compensation payments to dependents of a veteran who

VETERANS' COLUMN

By RICHARD C. PECK, Cass County Veterans' Service Officer

Richard C. Peck, Cass County Veterans' Service Officer, is shown in a portrait. He is a man with glasses, wearing a suit and tie.

WEEKLY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for 'Spring Harbinger' and 'Here's the Answer'. Clues include: 1 Depicted songbird, 6 It belongs to the family, 12 Gets up, 14 Baby's toy, 15 Brown goddess, 16 Mongolian, 18 Dawn goddess, 19 Those in power, 20 Slant, 21 Drunkard, 22 Giant king of Bashan, 23 Mixed type, 24 Observed, 29 Pronoun, 30 Area measure, 31 Plural suffix, 32 Thus, 33 Direction, 35 Finishes, 38 Not (prefix), 39 Exclamation, 40 Scold, 42 Rods, 47 Greek letter, 48 Cravat, 49 Cognizant, 50 Armed conflict, 51 Total, 53 Revoke, 55 Reposed, 56 Orifices. Answers include: 4 Exists, 5 Seines, 6 Sparrow, 7 Rabbit, 8 Right (ab.), 9 Indians, 10 Sailboats, 11 Hearth, 13 Toward, 14 Doll, 17 Astolat, 18 Toward, 19 Power, 20 Slant, 21 Drunkard, 22 Giant king of Bashan, 23 Mixed type, 24 Observed, 29 Pronoun, 30 Area measure, 31 Plural suffix, 32 Thus, 33 Direction, 35 Finishes, 38 Not (prefix), 39 Exclamation, 40 Scold, 42 Rods, 47 Greek letter, 48 Cravat, 49 Cognizant, 50 Armed conflict, 51 Total, 53 Revoke, 55 Reposed, 56 Orifices.

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