

EDITORIALS

THE MANIAC

Navy and Air Force meteorologists are depending on help from "the maniac" in making improvements in weather predictions in the coming months and years. "The maniac" is a new machine which contains about 2,000 radio tubes and is expected to set new computing speed records.

Some meteorologists say that the development needed most for greater accuracy in predictions is a faster means of making calculations, which are the basis of all weather forecasts. "The maniac" analyzes the entire atmosphere up to a height of 12 miles which requires a billion multiplications of 10 digit numbers for a single 24-hour forecast. This sort of arithmetic is too much for the human mind to comprehend.

As an example of the speed average with which "the maniac" will work, a comparable job of computation by a desk-type adding machine would take three centuries. The fastest electronic computers in existence would require about two weeks to do the same job. "The maniac" will handle the problem in two and a half hours, and may raise the precision of day-ahead predictions from 80 to 90 per cent accuracy.

Such an improvement in weather predictions, though seemingly small, would be worth hundreds of millions of dollars to citrus growers, airlines and many other industries. It would be a boon for prospective holiday travelers. "The maniac" has recently been completed and will go into the weather-predicting business in the near future.

KE'S NOMINATION

The action of Republican delegates at Chicago, in nominating General Dwight D. Eisenhower for the Presidency, gives the Republican Party a popular hero with which to battle the Democrats in November. If the public opinion polls can be relied upon, General Eisenhower has a greater popularity rating among American citizens than any other candidate, Republican or Democratic.

Obviously, this belief was the greatest asset General Eisenhower and his supporters had in their battle to win the nomination for the General. Many Republicans who thought that Senator Robert A. Taft deserved the nomination because of his long service to the Party and because of his generally-accepted position as "Mr. Republican", and because of his long service and courage in the Party's darkest days, nevertheless were persuaded to support General Eisenhower on the assumption that he would be a better drawing card.

General Eisenhower has an opportunity to crack the Solid South, depending partly on the Democrats, and he has high hopes of winning independent and former Democratic voters to the Republican Party this year. However, General Eisenhower has yet to prove his campaigning abilities against the Democrats. His nomination means that the Democrats have a less clear-cut case against the opposition and that the Democratic candidate will be up against one who might attract large numbers of Democratic voters.

General Eisenhower himself believes he is rejuvenating the Republican Party and once again making it the party of the average voter. It is probably accurate to say the Eisenhower threat is the greatest challenge to the Democratic Party in the past 20 years. Unless all the polls, and most of the experts, are wrong, General Eisenhower is going to be a tough candidate to defeat.

Britain, traditionally a large exporter of coal, found it necessary in 1951 to import between one and two million tons from the U. S.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

The evil that men do lives after them;
The good is often interred with their bones.
—Shakespeare

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Furse's Fresh Flashes

During a discussion of the purchase of new chairs by a local woman's club, one member said she was in favor of buying the chairs but she didn't think they should strip themselves to the bottom.

While this country has turned out some great men, there are still plenty of others that should be turned out.

Flipper Fanny, our dainty little court twister, can't add, but she can certainly distract.

We learned a long time ago to learn from the mistakes of others. We'll never live long enough to make them all ourself.

One reason we don't take up golf is by the time we reached the point where we could afford to lose a golf ball, we can't hit it that far.

A Cass county housewife says she lost all her kitchen equipment in a recent fire at her house. We've never learned whether it was the can-opener or the corkscrew.

A local bachelor says he is waiting for a girl who doesn't smoke, drink, swear, or have any bad habits. We don't know why.

We used to dream about getting the kind of money we're starving on now.

There is one thing that can be said for ignorance—it sure causes a lot of interesting arguments.

Down Memory Lane

10 YEARS AGO

Don Sievers has been appointed chairman of a "youth commando" unit which includes youngsters in Plattsmouth to collect scrap metal for the war effort. Ward chairmen are Miss Minnie Guthman, Mrs. Don Sievers, Mrs. William Woolcott, Mrs. Wylie Sigler and Miss Ida Patton. Miss Flora Irene Graham and William E. Royer, both of Plattsmouth, were married at Nebraska City. Ray Story, proprietor of Kent Cafe and Service Station, announced purchase of Home Dairy from Mary Richey. Virginia Pollard of Nehawka has been presented a \$25 war savings bond for outstanding 4-H club work. Miss Pollard is currently a freshman in home economics at the University of Nebraska, and was among four Nebraskans to win a trip to the National 4-H Club Congress at Washington, D. C.

20 YEARS AGO

The Platte river, which for several days has threatened sand pits northwest of here has swept away the last resisting barriers and levees and has overrun the pits. Forces of men labored for two days to strengthen the levees but undermining of banks proved their efforts in vain. Destruction of the pits will make it necessary to open nearby pits. Pupils of Mrs. Lillian Freeman presented a piano recital. Frank Gradoville has received notice that a car stolen from him two years ago has been partially recovered. Gradoville lost the car two years ago while a teacher at Schuyler. Omaha police have identified the motor, but find that the motor is now in a coupe, while Mr. Gradoville had driven a coach.

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

(Copyright 1949, By the Bell Syndicate, Inc.)
DREW PEARSON SAYS: KEFAUVER HELPED EISENHOWER GET NOMINATED; REPUBLICANS KNEW TENNESSEE SENATOR COULD HAVE BEATEN TAFT; COSTELLO'S PUBLIC RELATIONS MAN NOW WORKS FOR SEN. RUSSELL AGAINST KEFAUVER.

(Ed. Note—Senator Estes Kefauver of Tennessee, top Democratic contender, gets the once-over today in Drew Pearson's series on the Democratic candidates.)
Chicago.—If you had told Estes Kefauver's colleagues in the Senate one year ago that he would emerge with the top number of delegates at the next Democratic convention, they would have snorted with disbelief. Some of them are still snorting.

This attitude, however, is solely confined to Washington and a few big cities where the political bosses had their machines bounced off the track by Kefauver's crime expose. In Washington, the attitude is based on something which is all-important in the nation's capital but not readily understood elsewhere—seniority. Young Estes Kefauver has been in Congress only 12 years. On the other hand, his colleague, McKellar of Tennessee, is 85 years old and has been in Congress for 35 years. And every time McKellar passes young Kefauver in a Senate corridor, he curses.

Other Senators do not curse. But some of them are jealous. They do not realize that these are fast-moving days when the American people are fed up with old, as witnessed by Eisenhower's nomination and

Ticklers

By George



"Why it's from Burt and Ethel. It says, 'Greetings from Yellowstone National Park.'"

by the sudden elevation of a political unknown, Nixon of California, to the No. 2 spot on the Republican ticket.

Kefauver's Record
Perhaps also they don't entirely appreciate the fact that Kefauver has a magnificent voting record. He has shown more courage in facing racial problems than any other southern senator, and had the vision to realize the danger of permitting an underworld to snaw at the foundation of America.

On top of this, he has gone through an intense political campaign, during which he hasn't made a single mistake. Eisenhower, on the other hand, has made several.
Kefauver, meanwhile, did Eisenhower the biggest political favor of his life. He is the chief reason Eisenhower was nominated. For the main factor motivating Republican delegates at their recent convention was that they badly needed a winner. And they knew, first from the Gallup Poll, second from their own political observations, that Kefauver could outpoll Taft in most of the nation. To beat him they had to nominate Eisenhower.

For they had seen Kefauver defeat President Truman in a self, plus an old and established Democratic machine in New Hampshire. They also saw him swamp the Democratic organization in Ohio, even with a bunch of unknown delegates; while in California they saw him roll up a vote bigger than Governor Earl Warren. Again he did it by bucking the old-line leaders of the Democratic party using a bootial assortment of young and enthusiastic amateurs that nobody had ever heard of.

In many respects, the novices who rolled up the votes for Kefauver out in the sticks, were like the novices who rolled behind Eisenhower in the same areas.
And Republican delegates, led by shrewd nonamateur, Tom Dewey, sensed the need for a change plus the danger of being defeated by a Kefauver.

After Estes Kefauver first started his New Hampshire campaign, he remarked to one of his advisers:
"I'm tired of talking about crime. I think I should make some speeches on foreign policy."
"Stick to crime, Estes, stick to crime," replied the adviser. "That's what the people understand."
However, Estes has not stuck to crime, either in his subsequent speeches or in his earlier record in Congress. That record is one which shows up well under the most critical microscope. Though a southerner, Kefauver voted for the controversial anti-lynching bill. He also voted to abolish the poll tax, though he did not vote for cloture or a compulsory FEPC. He voted against the Taft-Hartley Act, at a time when it took courage to do so—unlike Sen. Russell who voted to override the presidential veto but now says Taft-Hartley should be abolished. He has also campaigned against the monopoly of war contracts to a few big companies and led an investigation to aid small business. He had the courage to circulate a petition in the House to get the Taft-Wagner Housing Bill out of the Rules Committee, and finally helped to get it passed.

He has been a leader in backing the President in foreign affairs and defense. And while a member of the House of Representatives, he wrote a book, "The 20th Century Congress: carefully diagnosing our current legislative system."

Reason For Crime Probe
None of these, of course, has received the publicity of the Kefauver crime probe. Some of his senatorial colleagues regarded the latter as a publicity stunt, though actually it took twelve months of backbreaking work—plus four months of persuasion to get the crime probe authorized by the Senate.

Even the Republicans, who, in the end, benefited politically, were at first opposed. I talked with the Tennessee Senator many times during the days when he was trying to persuade his colleagues to let him investigate crime. He saw clearly, as few others did, that the underworld had built up powerful syndicates which were taking over hotels, dominating certain labor unions, dictating what ice companies, what laundries, what brand of beer should be used in the restaurants of certain cities.

This was business by blackmail and the blackjack—just the anti-thesis of free enterprise. Kefauver was convinced that these underworld syndicates existed through paying tribute to political parties. I don't believe he knew all the political headaches he would get into when he opened up this seething cauldron of graft and intrigue. He did not dream, for instance, that the public relations counsel for Frankie Costello, David Charney, would later attach himself to Senator Russell's staff as public relations man, in an effort to defeat Kefauver; and that the underworld would go to any length to stop him.

But anyway, after introducing his crime resolution in January, he finally persuaded his colleagues to give him the green light—only in April. The rest is current history. But that crime probe is why certain politicians in New York, Kansas City, Chicago, Boston, Los Angeles, Miami, do not want Estes Kefauver as president. They know that instead of a 12-month investigation they would be in hot water for 4 years.

Legislative SIDELIGHTS..

by BERNIE CAMP
(Legislative Sidelights is made available to your local newspaper as a service of the Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of this newspaper.)
Information Director
Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation

Is This Diversion?
Nebraska automobile owners pay the highest total tax on their vehicles of any state in the nation. This is a fact that is admitted by any one who have made a study of this situation.

In addition to state and federal gasoline taxes, motor vehicle license fees, drivers licenses, federal excise taxes on new cars and oil, parts and equipment, Nebraska motor vehicles carry a heavy burden of personal property tax. This property tax on automobiles is out of proportion to the levies on most other items of personal property and real estate because for tax purposes automobiles are valued at more nearly their real value than is other property.

The property tax on automotive vehicles comes nearer to a perfect record for collection than other items of property for two reasons: First, an automobile is easily identified for assessment; and, second, the automobile owner must in obtaining a vehicle license show proof that property taxes have been paid on the vehicle.

A comparison of the proportionate shares of the tax borne by automobiles and all property in Nebraska presents striking evidence of the disparity.
For 1951, Nebraska had a total property valuation of \$3,014,000,000 for tax purposes. This was 25 per cent of the sale value in the case of town property and 40 per cent of the sale value of farm lands. Nebraska motor vehicles (automobiles, trucks and buses) in 1951 were valued for tax purposes at \$252,600,000, at least 80 per cent of their actual value.

Total property taxes paid in Nebraska in 1951 amounted to \$118,000,000. The total tax paid on motor vehicles as property amounted to \$14,580,000. The tax on automobiles as property was about 12.35 per cent of the total taxes paid on property in 1951. For tax purposes, the average value of the 532,461 motor vehicles in Nebraska was considered to be \$474.48; on which an average of \$27.40 in taxes was paid.

The 1951 average of levies for all purposes (village and city, county, school, and state) was in the neighborhood of 57.7 mills; that is 5.7 cents on the dollar of valuation; or just short of 6 per cent of the sale value of the automobile.

What uses are made of the revenue from property taxes on motor vehicles?
1. Some \$1,380,000 of the property tax on motor vehicles goes into the state general fund.

2. Counties receive a total of \$1,387,000 from this source.

3. Cities and villages get a \$4,446,000 share of the tax.

4. Schools receive about half of the total, or \$7,350,000.

None of the state general fund revenue goes to roads and highways.

County roads share in the county portion as other county property tax revenues are expended on roads, except where there is a special county levy for roads.
City and village streets share in the city and village portion in a similar manner. Schools receive approximately 53.7 per cent of the total property tax paid by motor vehicle owners; none of which goes on roads or highways.

The use of motor vehicles is dependent upon good roads and highways. The roads and highways make possible the large number of motor vehicles in the state; however, the item of property which uses these roads carries a disproportionate share of the tax to support general government and schools because it is an easy source of revenue. Is this fair and reasonable taxation?

A widely recognized principle is that highway user taxes should be used on roads and highways, and not diverted by law or otherwise to the general purposes of government financing. Is not the property tax on automobile a highway user tax? Is it not diversion to use these funds for general purposes of government and schools?

Why should the motor vehicle owned be singled out to bear the heaviest proportion in financing the implements of general government? Does not this situation indicate need for thorough study and re-evaluation of the whole Nebraska tax structure so that inequities and legal diversions of various sorts are eliminated?

With amendment of the State Constitution, it should be possible to take action to correct this situation with regard to motor vehicle taxation as personal property, perhaps to provide that motor vehicle owners pay a special tax in combination with the license fee. Such a combination of tax and license fee could then, by law, be earmarked for road and highway construction and maintenance.

Journal Want Ads Pay!

Test Your Intelligence

- Score 10 points for each correct answer in the first six questions:
- Who composed the opera Carmen?
—Bizet —Massenet —Wagner —Puccini
 - Rhodesia is in:
—Australia —Central Asia —Africa —West Indies
 - England is presently ruled by the House of:
—Hanover —Windsor —Stuart —Tudor
 - Which of the following Communist countries is led by an anti-Soviet?
—Czechoslovakia —Albania —Hungary —Yugoslavia
 - President when the White House was burned in the War of 1812 was:
—Jefferson —Monroe —Madison —Pierce
 - The Diligent quintuplets were born in:
—Italy —Spain —Sicily —Argentina
 - Listed below, at left, are four U. S. Presidents and opposite them, mixed up, are their Secretaries of State. Match them, scoring 10 points for each correct answer.
(A) Washington —Root
(B) Lincoln —Kellogg
(C) T. Roosevelt —Jefferson
(D) Coolidge —Seward
- Total your points. A score of 0-20 is poor; 30-60, average; 70-80, superior; 90-100, very superior.
(Answers on Page 5)

--- Extension --- Notes

Apricots
Apricots are now on the market. The name apricot comes from a Latin word, meaning "early ripe," and each year it is one of the first of the deciduous fruits to reach the market.
The apricot is believed to have its origin in China, and to have been carried from there to the Mediterranean countries before the time of Christ. Its development in that region dates back to the days of the ancient Persians.

The Spaniards apparently took the apricot to the New World, when they settled in Mexico. Apricots were later plants at the old Spanish Missions in California. The English also helped to establish apricots in American by bringing them to the early colonies along the Atlantic coast.

Today apricots are grown in most of the states, but not commercially. About 90% of the nation's crop is produced in California. Washington and Utah rank next as apricot producing states.

Americans seem to prefer their apricots dried, canned or frozen, rather than fresh. They also consume some as juice. Only about 20% of the commercial crop reaches the fresh fruit market, the rest being processed in some way.

Fresh apricots are highly perishable. They ripen rapidly after being picked; however, if picked too early they will not mature. Apricots bruise easily and will not stand customer handling in the market. They are stored best in a cool, dry place, out of the sunlight. In a place where there is rapid air circulation, apricots are likely to dry and wrinkle.

The color of the flesh of the apricot is due to its high carotene content, which gives the apricots a much higher Vitamin A content than most other fruits. Three fresh apricots can supply as much as 50% of the recommended daily allowance of Vitamin A; a half-cup of cooked dried apricots can supply a much as 70%.

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