

EDITORIALS

Furse's Fresh Flashes

WINS BATTLE AGAINST CUTS

It is reliably reported from Washington that General Matthew B. Ridgway, Army Chief of Staff, has won his battle against further manpower cuts in the Army. The present strength of the Army is somewhat above 1,173,000 — to which figure manpower will have to be cut by July, 1955.

Originally, when the "new look" defense program was outlined, it was planned that the Army would be reduced further after July, 1955. Ridgway has been strongly protesting these planned cuts for some months now.

As a result, he has been given at least a tentative indication that the Army's strength may not be cut further than the 1,173,000 limit. One of the reasons for this is Ridgway's excellent record of increasing combat divisions, while, at the same time, reducing manpower levels.

For instance, the Army is attempting to maintain twenty-four or twenty-five tactical divisions in this country and abroad, as against seventeen — which was the originally scheduled number. The larger number of divisions is being maintained even though manpower is not being increased — and will be cut down to the 1,173,000 limit by next July.

Of the twenty-four or five divisions, it is expected that two will be stationed in Korea, one or two in Japan, one in Hawaii, one in Alaska, one in Panama and Puerto Rico, thirteen in the United States and five in Germany.

One of the factors which will make this plan possible is the decision to maintain only several divisions to be kept in the United States in a high degree of combat readiness. The others will have a limited combat effectiveness, but they will be divisions capable of rapid perfection.

ANOTHER WAR RECORD HOAX

Representative Douglas R. Stringfellow, Utah Republican, recently resigned his candidacy for reelection to the House of Representatives after admitting he made up a fantastic story of his alleged heroic exploits as an O. S. S. agent. Mr. Stringfellow wowed audiences for some time with stories about how he and some thirty-seven other O. S. S. agents were dropped into Germany to capture a German nuclear scientist.

He reported that he captured Otto Hahn, a famous German physicist, and sent him back to Allied territory. He eliminated corroboration by the other members of the O. S. S. band by reporting that they were captured or killed by the Germans. He, himself, he related, had escaped a concentration camp where the Germans were torturing the Americans.

During the recent campaign for reelection rumors began to circulate in Utah that Stringfellow could not back up his story. The Army Times debunked his story and a wire service reported the Army Times' charge. The question whether the story was true or not reached all the way to the White House, where White House officials would not comment. When confronted with many doubts, Stringfellow had asked President Dwight Eisenhower to unlock secret O. S. S. files, so that his story could be verified.

The case also reflects the desire of the red-blooded Americans to have performed heroic services for their country when its existence was threatened in the war of 1941-45. This desire is very commendable, but much sympathy has been expressed for Representative Stringfellow, who has now confessed his mischief. But a desire to have been a hero should not be allowed to play havoc with the facts, although it frequently does, not only in Utah, but in all the other states.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

Submit, and thou conquerest; serve, and thou'lt command. —Ovid

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It's pretty hard these days to tell whether the person you're walking behind is a man who needs a haircut, or a woman who just got one.

Most right handed women become left-handed as soon as they get a diamond.

A Kansas editor thinks what this country needs is more automobiles for the kids to drive to school and more gymnasiums for them to exercise in.

Most any married man can tell you why weather men use women's names when they refer to those big winds such as hurricanes.

There are two things right now that you can't depend on — the signal given by a woman driver in the car ahead and promises of politicians.

Flipper Fanny, our dainty little contour twister, says she wouldn't care a rap about going pheasant hunting, but she would go for a tramp in the woods.

If all the candidates for office in this country were laid end to end, they would still point in all directions.

A local man under the weather put in an emergency call to his doctor, said his wife had one of those books, "What To Do Until the Doctor Arrives," and he was afraid she was going to do it.

Down Memory Lane

20 YEARS AGO

Vandals overturned all the tombstones in Young cemetery south of town. The cemetery is the last resting place of some of Cass county's pioneer residents. Democratic candidates touring the county included Fred Carsten of Avoca, for state senator; George Nickles of Murray, for representative; Bernard G. Wurl for clerk; Lillian G. White for register; Homer Sylvester for sheriff; J. L. Stamp for treasurer; Harry K. Dwyer for attorney; W. H. Puls for assessor; E. B. Chapman and Fred H. Gorder, commissioners; and R. D. Fitch for surveyor.

10 YEARS AGO

Mrs. R. A. Bates, owner and publisher of the Plattsmouth Journal since 1934 when her husband died, sold the newspaper to Lester A. Walker. Walker is publisher of the Fremont Guide and Tribune. "Lindy" Wolever shook loose down the sidelines for 31 yards and a touchdown to lead the Plattsters to a 32-6 win over Wahoo. Other TDs were on a pass from Joe Gradoville to Livingston; Gradoville on the ground; Gradoville on the ground; Gradoville in the air on a pass to Bud Eaton. Miss Katherine Rosine Meisinger and John Hobscheid were married in St. John's Catholic church.

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

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DREW PEARSON SAYS: TEXAS REPUBLICANS FLIRT WITH HATCH ACT; FEDERAL JOB-HOLDERS TOLD HOW MUCH TO GIVE; CONGRESSMAN BLATNICK CAN CLAIM SOME CREDIT FOR TRIESTE SETTLEMENT.

WASHINGTON — Jack Porter, the charming and energetic Texan who first lusted for Eisenhower, has sent out an amazing letter demanding money from federal job-holders in his state. The letter comes close to the border line drawn by the Hatch Act against "maeing" — fording contributions from officeholders.

Porter is a wealthy Houston oil man and Republican National Committeeman who went to see Eisenhower in Paris in the spring of 1952 and brought back word that Ike would be against the Supreme Court on Tideland's Oil. Despite the fact that the Supreme Court had ruled against Texas, Louisiana and California, General Eisenhower wrote Jack Porter a letter taking the opposite stand. This was one reason why Texas went overwhelmingly for Ike two years ago and why so much Texas money has poured into the GOP campaign chest.

Today Porter is writing letters to every federal officeholder in the Lone Star state demanding more money — on the excuse that it is costly to "process" a federal job. Just what Porter means by "processing" a job is not explained, but some officeholders have construed it to mean that if they don't contribute Porter will "process" them out of their jobs.

Furthermore, he names the exact amount he wants them to donate. One postmistress who makes only \$150 a month was told she would have to contribute \$175. U. S. attorneys, collectors of internal revenue and other top officials are being told to kick in for as much as \$500.

Getting Around Hatch Act
Lawyers who have examined Porter's unusual demand say that it definitely violates the spirit of the Hatch Act, if not the



"Lipstick!"

Capitol News

By Melvin Paul
Statehouse Correspondent
The Nebraska Press Association

Porter got around the letter of the law by using the U. S. Mails, not soliciting on the premises. The wording of his letter, however, as published below, seems to come awfully close to the Hatch Act. Written on stationery of the "Republican Party of Texas" and dated Sept. 29, 1954, the letter follows:

"As you are probably aware, our state headquarters, which processes all of the appointments to federal positions in Texas, must be supported by contributions. In addition to that, we have to raise funds for our Congressional and Legislative candidates. It is vital that we give President Eisenhower a Republican controlled Congress, and we have an excellent chance to elect some Congressmen in Texas.

"The actual cost of processing an appointment in Texas is substantial and must be paid for out of party funds. Our only source of revenue is contributions, and we do not feel that we are asking too much in suggesting a contribution from you in the amount of.....

"Contrary to widespread misinterpretation, there is no restriction in the so-called Hatch Act of any other Federal regulation against making contributions to a political party in a federal officeholder's name. There is, however, a restriction against soliciting such contributions at a Federal place of employment. Officeholders are also prohibited from soliciting such contributions themselves.

"I will appreciate it if you will give us a prompt reply, as only a few weeks are left before election day. Please make checks payable to: Harris T. Gregg, treasurer, 4019 Montrose Boulevard, Houston 6, Texas.

"Thanking you, and with best wishes, I am

"Sincerely,
/s/

"H. J. Porter"

News Through "Straws"
There's been a lot of prompting among the staff of the Atomic Energy Commission as to how they should pronounce the name of their chairman, Adm. Lewis Strauss. The Kuhn Loeb banking partner who now runs the AEC in such a highhanded manner, does not like to have his name mispronounced. He demands that the pronunciation be as in "Straws."

The other day, Mary Smyth, wife of the famed scientist, Henry D. Smyth, who has just resigned from the AEC because he could not take Admiral Strauss's domination, was sitting at dinner beside New York Times correspondent Arthur Krock, chief apologist for Admiral Strauss.

"How do you feel?" She asked Krock.

"I feel fine," was the reply.

"Are you sure?" pressed Mrs. Smyth.

"Yes, why do you ask?"

"Because I heard you were ill."

"What made you think that?"

"I heard you had been taking all your nourishment through 'Straws'."

Congressman Diplomat
Though it didn't get into the headlines, one of the unofficial diplomats who helped to smooth out the important Trieste problem was Democratic Congressman John Blatnick of Minnesota, an American of Yugoslav descent.

Three times during the war, Major Blatnick was parachuted behind German lines into Yugoslavia where he worked with the Yugoslav underground against the Nazis.

Last year Congressman Blatnick happened to be in Yugoslavia at the time the United States and England pulled their tragic boner demanding — without advance notification — that Tito evacuate Trieste. Following that ultimatum, Tito mobilized troops around Yugoslavia, and Yugoslav public opinion reached a fever pitch.

Blatnick who was on the scene, immediately called on Tito, persuaded him to enter into direct negotiations with Italy. Then he flew by military plane to NATO headquarters in Paris to report to Gen. Alfred Gruenther. His conferences helped to get Yugoslavia back into the groove as far as diplomatic talks were concerned.

that Gov. Robert Crosby has been the scapegoat for all this. With him defeated in the U. S. Senate primary, the angry voters have subsided and aren't looking for any more scalps.

This is said to be true in several legislative races also where the incumbents, with a few exceptions, seem to be weathering the storm.

Constitutional Amendments
Not much attention has been paid to the constitutional amendment proposals on the November ballot. But some are the most important in years, especially those which will clear away roadblocks to any real tax reform.

Here's briefly is a rundown of the proposals as they will appear on the ballot:

Proposal 1: Would change the provision that salaries of executive state officers can't be changed often — than every eight years. Reason: Because in these times of inflation salaries haven't been realistic for top officials and some good ones have been lost.

Proposal 2: Would change the makeup of the State Board of Education Lands and Funds to an appointive board. Reason: Would put men on the board who would make it their main duty. Present board consists of governor and other busy elected officials. Note: Various school organizations have fought this, fearing what an appointive board would do to school lands.

Proposal 3: Would change the provision that members of executive boards must live in Lincoln. Reason: This has blocked setting up highway commission and other boards because it would mean they would all have to live in Lincoln.

Proposal 4: Would relax present rigid requirements for assessment of real estate. Reason: This is called the "heart" of the tax reform proposals. If homeowners are to get any kind of relief, the "straitjacket" in the constitution must be changed.

Proposal 5: Would allow the appointment of county assessors. Reason: To get better tax assessing at local level, many states have found it is better to appoint assessors rather than elect them as Nebraska now does. The Nebraska State Association of Assessors has endorsed this move.

Proposal 6: Would allow exemption of household goods from taxation. Reason: It takes about 90 per cent of the assessor's time to count pots and pans, dishes and mops, yet they bring only 3 per cent of tax revenue. The idea is to allow assessors to spend more time on the real revenue producers.

Proposal 7: Would place a restriction in the constitution that if the Legislature passes a sales or income tax, the revenue must replace the property tax that supports state government (about 10 per cent for the average tax bill). This is the most controversial of the amendments. Reason: For this would make sure that any new kinds of taxes would be replacements and not "just another tax." Reason against: Would place another straitjacket in constitution when a major cause of the tax troubles has been that there were too many already.

Proposal 8: Would allow setting up a state tax commission of appointive officials. Reason: Experts say one of the reasons Nebraska has had so much property tax trouble has been lack of attention by successive state board of equalization, composed of elected officials such as the governors. This would tighten administration at the top.

University Budget

The University of Nebraska is asking a 25 per cent increase in the part of its budget which comes from the state general fund — supported by state property tax money. It wants an \$18,830,299 general fund budget, or \$3.8 million above the \$15 million it got for the current two year period.

From tuition, fees, federal funds, and its share of the building fund levies, the University would have well over \$37 million to spend.

The University's new chancellor,

Ten-Word INTELLIGRAM

Check the correct word:

- Russia (is) (is not) building a spare railroad which parallels the famed Trans-Siberia line.
- The Philadelphia A's (will) (will not) move to Kansas City.
- Need for improved roads is greatest in (city) (inter-city) areas, according to the A.A.A.
- The most recent hurricane was nicknamed (Hazel) (Gloria).
- Hail is (usually) (seldom) accompanied by thunder and lightning.
- Louisiana is the (Pelican) (Magnolia) state.
- If it's noon in New York, it's (5 p. m.) (5 a. m.) in London.
- Sir Winston Churchill will be (75) (80) in November.
- There (are) (are not) railroads in Alaska.
- Business heart of Pittsburgh is the (Golden) (Keystone) triangle.

Check your answers, scoring yourself 10 points for each correct choice. A score of 0-20 is poor; 20-60, average; 70-80, superior, and 90-100, very superior.

Decoded Intelligram

1-2 - Will not. 3 - Cities. 4 - Hazel. 5 - Usually. 6 - Pelican. 7-12 - 2 p. m. 8 - 5 a. m. 9 - 80. 10 - Golden.

Legislative SIDELIGHTS

by
BERNIE CAMP
Information Director
Nebraska Farm Bureau
Federation

Roads to Quality

Nebraska poultrymen are faced with the choice of upgrading the quality of their egg production or losing in competition with poultry producers in other areas who do produce quality eggs.

There are two routes poultrymen may take to upgrade quality. One route is through organization in which a substantial majority of the egg producers agree to cooperate, even to the extent of cooperative marketing. Such an organization would set up standards of acceptability and find quality outlets for cooperators.

Second, the poultry industry can ask the Legislature to pass an egg quality law, providing the establishment of certain minimum grades below which there will be no legal egg market. Such action is justifiable on the basis of being in the public interest.

The cooperative industry route would be preferable, but many poultry industry leaders feel that the quality of Nebraska eggs has reached a position which requires drastic and immediate action.

The legislative route is the quick way to egg quality improvement. It is not a new type of legislation because similar legislation has been developed for the grade A dairy program. Nebraska poultry industry representatives — farm flock owners, commercial poultrymen,

Clifford Hardin, explained these reasons for the requested increase:

- The necessity to pay higher salaries to top flight faculty members to keep the core of a high type University staff.
- Plans for a "short course" in agriculture for boys who don't plan to go to college.
- Placing more emphasis on the freshman English program.
- Money for developing the College of Agriculture and the University College of Medicine at Omaha.
- A half-million dollars alone is slated for maintenance of new buildings.

hatchery operators, poultry processors and others interested — should develop a presentation to the 1955 session of the Legislature an egg quality law fair to producer, processor and consumer — all groups having an interest in improvement.

Such a law should provide that the minimum standard will gradually increase over a period of two or three years. Producers thus will have warning that egg quality must improve and can make adjustments to the law without great hardship. The law should provide a representative group from the poultry industry to oversee fair and indiscriminate administration.

Unless the segments of the poultry industry are willing to work together, cooperatively or with a minimum standard law, it can be expected eventually that consumers will demand a law to protect quality. A consumer inspired law might not be the same sort of law poultrymen themselves would want.

A good egg quality law is in the general welfare and to the best interest of the poultry industry.

LETTER BOX

Dear Sirs:

I wish to thank you for the prize which I received from your paper.

The essay of "What My Local Newspaper Means To My Community," was easy to write about such a fine paper.

Thank you also for the invitation to visit the Journal office.

Sincerely,
Connie Land

Dear Sirs:

I wish to thank you and the staff and also the judges for picking my entry as second place. My entry took three hours to write and organize but I was completely surprised when I received the check.

Writing one of the things that I love to do but most of my interests lie in music.

I want to tell you and the staff that I greatly appreciate the reading of the Plattsmouth Journal and have enjoyed it ever since I could read. Thank you very much for the invitation to visit the Journal office.

Thank you again very much for the honor and the check.

Very Sincerely Yours,
Merilyn Koor
c/o Allen Koor
Louisville, -Neb.

