

EDITORIALS

RUSSIANS TO VISIT U. S.

The Eisenhower Administration has decided to admit a group of Russian farmers to the United States for the purpose of visiting our agricultural areas. The Russians, beset with many agricultural problems, have already evidenced a keen desire to enter into an agricultural exchange program.

That program would include a visit to the U.S.S.R. by a number of American farmers. Likewise, a group of Russian farmers will be allowed to enter the United States, beginning their tour of agricultural regions in Iowa. The Russian visit was first suggested by an Iowa newspaper.

This decision has been widely attributed to President Eisenhower himself, who feels that nothing but good can come from a visit of Russian farmers to the United States. We agree with the President. In fact, we disagreed with an Administration decision not too long ago to bar from this country Russian students who wanted to participate in an exchange program.

We believe that the more Russians that come into the United States, the better the impression of our country will be among Russians. Those who learn the truth can at least go back and tell their friends, even if they will not be allowed to write freely about their trip.

No doubt the reason for Russian eagerness to visit the U. S. farm belt at this time is the plight of Russian agriculture. We have no apprehension that the visit to the United States by a group of Russian farmers will reveal any particular U. S. agricultural secrets. In fact, this country has no agricultural secrets—only hard work, progressive farm practices, and individual freedom and initiative. If the Russians would match our system, they would have to include these freedoms and if they ever do that, we will have accomplished something very significant in the field of foreign relations.

SQUIRRELS AND PUTTING GREENS

Although President Dwight D. Eisenhower has denied having ordered deportation proceedings against White House lawn squirrels, the fact that the squirrels have been shipped away has stirred the opposition of a surprising number of Americans.

For some reason, many citizens feel that the squirrels on the White House lawn should be left there. The tempest started when it was revealed that the squirrels were playing hoo with the putting greens used by President Eisenhower. Somebody in the White House got the idea that the squirrels should be removed, and trapping boxes were put out, squirrel families broken up, and many squirrels shipped to the country.

Such a small thing, if it is a small thing, would not arouse the ire of anyone, White House officials thought. However, the reverse soon became apparent. It was recalled that President Truman had appointed a five-year-old boy to become official squirrel-feeder, and it is also remembered that the Roosevelts had encouraged the squirrels.

The issue came up at the White House when Bernard Baruch visited President Eisenhower recently and he asked about the squirrels. The President replied that the first he had heard about the operation to remove the squirrels was when he read it in the papers. Nevertheless, squirrel families were being broken up and squirrels removed—a far cry from the days when President Roosevelt was in office, when vitamins were put out on the White House lawn to improve the squirrels' coats.

It is strange but true that anything affecting animals can often have repercussions which are entirely unexpected.

Furse's Fresh Flashes

A quick look through the bra ads has us about convinced that honesty is not the bust policy.

Local kid says he likes his new stepfather fine. Says the stepfather takes him swimming every day, turns him loose in the middle of the lake and lets him swim back. Only tough part about it, he says, is getting out of the sack.

Flipper Fanny, our dainty little contour twister, leaves nothing to a man's imagination and everything to his self control.

It's easier to get ulcers from what's eating you than from what you eat.

It has taken 100 years of baseball to learn all those names to call an umpire.

A lot of old fools hereabout are feeling young again—which is a sure sign of spring.

This ought to be a good year for Yankee maidens—see where the frost got most of the Georgia peaches.

We are not planning a garden this spring. The only ones to suffer, however, will be our neighbor's chickens.

A small boy here says greatest trouble with parents is that you get them when they are so old it's pretty hard to change their habits.

Whether it be a cat or a dog, or a problem of squirrels, the American people sometimes get their backs up over animal affairs. President Eisenhower is too popular to worry about votes on most issues, but on this issue, he and his White House staff should hasten to make amends with the American people—who have a peculiar affinity for Mr. Bushytail of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue and they want him left alone.

Down Memory Lane

20 YEARS AGO

Miss Mary Alice Ault of Platts-mouth won the county written spelling contest but Charles Stutz of Avoca defeated her to become county oral champion. Lloyd Ranney, an instructor in Weeping Water school system, resigned and moved to a farm near Alvo. Platts-mouth's library would celebrate its 50 anniversary on Nov. 1, 1936, a series of articles in the Journal noted. Miss Florence West of Eagle was elected to Phi Beta Kappa at the University of Nebraska. "The Maxwell House," an airplane being built by three enterprising Elmwood young men was nearing completion with tryouts near. Tom Kriskey was chosen football captain for 1935 and Jack Forbes basketball captain by members of the Platt Platts-mouth teams.

30 YEARS AGO

First consignment of steel for a new wagon and auto bridge across the Platte river north of Platts-mouth, arrived on the scene. A lady hobo arrived by railroad car rods at Platts-mouth and sought a free meal and gathered a small amount of alms. The machine shop was set to clash with the blacksmith shop in baseball at BREX at Platts-mouth as the freight car department also geared for action. Friends surprised Fond and Kenneth Trively on their 14th birthday. Badges of merit were presented Edward Patterson, Joe Buttery, George Perry and Lloyd Frady for their excellent work in Scouting, during a Boy Scout investiture at Platts-mouth. The name of Judge James T. Begley of the second judicial district, was one of those on the list from which Governor McMullen would appoint a supreme court justice.

The WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

DREW PEARSON SAYS: NAVY TURNS DOWN GIFT OF FDR'S OLD SAILING SLOOP; ECONOMY-MINDED IKETTES SAY SLOOP WOULD COST \$600 TO REPAIR; LABOR DEPARTMENT INVOKES TOP SECRET ON WAGE-LAW VIOLATIONS.

Washington—When Armand Hammer, the collector of Black Angus and King Farouk's Egyptian trophies, acquired Campobello, old homestead of Franklin D. Roosevelt, he also acquired some of the late President's prized possessions.

Campobello is the summer home in Nova Scotia where FDR's mother took her family for years and where the late President was stricken with polio after he dived into cold Canadian water following an exhausting set of tennis.

One of the late President's most prized possessions at Campobello was a sloop which he sailed through Nova Scotia waters as a young man. This was how he first acquired the nautical experience

Unbeatable Combination



which he later used as assistant Secretary of the Navy. Roosevelt cherished the sloop and kept it long after his illness, plus the press of presidential duties, made it impossible for him to sail it.

When Hammer bought the Campobello estate from Elliott Roosevelt (who incidentally sold it over the heads of other members of the family) Hammer gave the sloop to FDR's eldest son, Congressman James Roosevelt.

And Congressman Roosevelt offered the sloop to the Secretary of the Navy, Charles Thomas, as a gift to the U. S. Naval Academy at Annapolis.

"It occurs to me that the sloop might be of value to the midshipmen," Jimmy said. "Not only in their training, but perhaps sentimentally as having once been used by a former assistant Secretary of the Navy."

But the Navy, which FDR loved and which he helped to build up to be the most powerful in the world, turned the gift down. Secretary of the Navy Thomas didn't even bother to reply personally. He sent word through his aide that the sloop would cost \$600 to repair and the economy-minded Eisenhower Administration couldn't afford the money.

—MERRY-GO-ROUND—
Colleagues are twitting the Senate's oldest bachelor, 87-year-old Theodore Francis Green of Rhode Island, about his "newest love." Mrs. Carter Glass, widow of the late Senator from Virginia. Senator Green, who looks as if he would surpass all-time records for age in the Senate, still walks three miles to work every morning, but complains the doctors want him to quit wrestling—once his favorite exercise. Another great walker is Justice William O. Douglas, who walks about 15 to 20 miles every Sunday. Last week he started at 34th street in Georgetown, walked up the C and O canal, 17 miles in exactly five hours and 40 minutes. In wartime, if the infantry makes 20 miles a day, it's really traveling. Senator and Mrs. Fubright of Arkansas are one couple who look as if they really enjoy dancing together.

I See By The Papers . . .

By Bill Murdock

"Rarely in the realm of small city journalism is there a time when an abstract idea is the purpose of an entire edition," says the Bellevue Press. The idea behind the Press' April 1 edition was the ninth birthday of the Strategic Air Command just across the way.

Also reports the Press, which found room for some other news, District Judge John Dierks called a grand jury in Sarpy county on a petition bearing 86 names asking for it. Purpose—not clearly specified yet.

Grass fires were bothering the Humboldt fire department which made three runs last week on grass and trash flames, says the Standard.

Michael Schmal, a member of the Fairbury police force for nine years, resigned and took a job with the board of public works at a lower salary, says the Journal.

Eight sows and 30 to 40 pigs burned to death at the Paul Dainton farm two miles northwest of Broken Bow, says the Custer County Chief. Suffering total damage of about \$3,000, Dainton surmised that a hog jumped into the feedway and became entangled in the wiring, knocking heat lamps into the bedding, catching the hoghouse on fire.

Blair business men visiting their school got a shock when Supt. Glenn A. Lundstrom announced that Blair school buildings will again be overcrowded though a new school building has just been built and additions made to two others, says the Pilot-Tribune.

Curtis has \$5,034.38 collected in their drive for a swimming

Department press spokesman, said that the dates were public information. After all, no wait secrets were involved. Proceedings against a builder, he indicated, are like a court prosecution or an immigration hearing.

Mr. Leslie, however, was naive. He was applying common sense, not politics, to his job. Very quickly his superior reversed him. Stuart Rothman, Labor solicitor, and one of the top men under Secretary Mitchell, emphatically said "No!"

"I don't consider these dates public information," he said in reply to a request from this column. "Why?"

"It would be unfair to the parties involved."

"How would that be? We already have the names of the contractors and the dates when they were blacklisted. You published that yourself. All we want is the date when the wage violation occurred."

"That is not public information."

"In just what way would it be unfair?"

"I have nothing more to say. The information is not public."

Note—Amazing part of this head-in-sand policy is that Rothman didn't seem to know that Labor-Union executives who lodged the protests with the Labor Department have kept the dates when the wage violations occurred. They were all pre-Eisenhower.

Capitol News

By Melvin Paul
Statehouse Correspondent
The Nebraska Press Association

LINCOLN—Battle lines were forming this week in the Nebraska Legislature for the great debate that comes about every session—whether to broaden the tax base.

The only difference this time is that there is a slim chance the Legislature may adopt either a sales tax or a combination sales and income tax.

The first big step came when the Revenue Committee sent to the floor of the Legislature a combination sales and income tax bill LB 510.

Debate is not expected to start until after the senators return from a four day Easter recess. But already there was a "now or never" tension on the part of both the advocates and the opponents of broadening the tax base.

The way the Revenue Committee took action meant that the Legislature may get two shots at the question. That is because the committee held in reserve LB 400, a measure calling for a 2 per cent sales tax alone.

So if LB 510 runs into trouble on the floor LB 400 can be pulled out of the slip pocket.

Bill's Contents
If ever a bill was tailor made to appeal to as many different interests as possible, LB 510 is it.

Only an adamant foe of any effort to broaden the tax base could fail to find something he liked in it. The only catch may be that features that appeal to one group may alienate others. That was the chance sponsors took in writing the combination measures.

What does the measure contain?
LB 510 in its original form was a graduated state income tax based on the Iowa law. It would tax the citizen at the rate of about 5 per cent of what he earns in federal income taxes. He may take this flat 5 per cent rate or he may file out a long form which will bring him essentially to the same figure.

Reason for the long form option is that the bill would have been unconstitutional if it depended on a federal law alone. Next a 2 per cent retail sales tax on all items costing more than 21 cents was added to the bill. This was simply combining the contents of LB 400 into LB 510. Exempted in this version are beer, liquor, cigars, and seed and fertilizer used in farm production.

Looking at WASHINGTON



By Stanley James, Journal Washington Reporter
WASHINGTON, April 7.—The days tick by and reports in Washington continue to indicate a Chinese Communist attack on the Matsu Islands in the near future. The reports could be wrong, but the Chinese have "come through" in the past occasions when such reports, and their own announcements, heralded action.

As this is written, the great debate in Washington continues on U. S. Policy in the Formosa area. Canada clarified her position in the last few days by announcing she would not get involved in military operations over the offshore islands. Canada's position was that they belonged to the mainland Chinese government.

Both British and French leaders are increasing the pressure on President Eisenhower to announce a definite policy on the possibility of a defense of the islands by the United States. So far, U. S. policy is unclear, we might or we might not fight back if the Reds attack them. Secretary of State Dulles has said we would fight back if they are attacked as part of an assault against Formosa. But he has also said we were not committed to defend them.

As the days run out, and the attack on them impends, Senate Democrats are expressing dissatisfaction with the uncertainty of our foreign policy. And the national party is expressing dissatisfaction that we don't get tough over the islands. This G. O. P. group is eager to fight over the islands which the British, French and Canadians think should go to Red China.

President Eisenhower finds himself squarely on the spot as the sands run lower and lower in the glass. By the time you read this, he might have spoken out in frank language. Meanwhile, the question of a Big Four conference has come rapidly to the fore.

Mr. Eisenhower thinks such a meeting might be a way to curb the increasing international tension building up in the Formosa Strait. But he doesn't have in mind including Red China in such a meeting. The Russians skid, although Marshall Bulganin skirted that issue when he recently announced that Russia took a positive approach to Mr. Eisenhower's hints in favor of a Big Four meet.

Whether the brighter prospect of a Big Four meeting and its arrangement, will come in time to affect the developing crisis off China's coast is a good question. Ratification of the Paris Agreements by the French Senate helped prospects for such a meeting immeasurably and Washington is now fast preparing to rush equipment and aid to a sovereign West Germany.

But the United States is standing almost alone in its position on the offshore islands. The Communists have long been striving to separate this country from its major allies and on this issue they have done it. If we fight over the Matsu Islands, we will fight alone. Advocates of such a course point out that we did most of the fighting in Korea, even though we were supposed to have allies.

An they say we should not hesitate to use tactical atomic weapons on China, should a clash occur. Usually Democrats advocate a more cautious policy in a situation which might end up with us fighting the Chinese for some time to come. And there is no assurance that

ATOMIC TEST
The largest atomic device tested in the 1955 nuclear series exploded recently with a predawn brilliance that was seen by observers in five nearby Western states. More than 100 planes—Air Force, Navy, and Marines— took part in the test, with 66 of them coordinating in a simulated attack mission on the attack area.

CAMPERS CARELESS
The Interior Department has reported that campers caused more fires in national park areas in 1954 than in any previous year except 1952. Of the 304 fires in the park areas, 212 were man-caused and ninety-two fires were caused by lightning.

WEEKLY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Western Songster:
HORIZONTAL 56 Small condit
14 Dejected
9 Encountered
12 Age
13 Thin dress
14 Night before
15 Hysterly
16 Moving
17 Extinct bird
18 Prickly plant
20 Dark and gloomy
22 Laughter
23 Whirlwind
24 Middy
26 Scope
29 For example (ab.)
30 Former
31 Soother ruler
34 Symbol for samarium
35 Half (prefix)
36 Scottish sheepfolds
38 Half-on
39 Mystic syllable
40 He is a
44 He sings
45 Unusual
49 Title of courtesy
51 Note in Guido's scale
52 Garden implement
53 Emphy
54 Edge
55 Aged

Here's the Answer
14 Dejected
15 Hysterly
16 Moving
17 Extinct bird
18 Prickly plant
20 Dark and gloomy
22 Laughter
23 Whirlwind
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40 He is a
44 He sings
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49 Title of courtesy
51 Note in Guido's scale
52 Garden implement
53 Emphy
54 Edge
55 Aged

57 Distress signal
58 VERTICAL
1 Chock
2 Sea eagle
3 Yellow (com.) material form
4 Grandparental
5 Misplace
6 Ignited
7 Ancient Greek city
8 Roman emperor
9 Associated individuals
10 Bacchanals
11 Rip
19 Light brown
21 Castle ditch
24 Fromonty
25 Holding
27 Faculty
28 Weapons
29 Reaffixed
33 Circle
36 Tier
37 Glowing coals
40 London district
41 Heathen deity
42 Eject
43 Vishnu
44 Confine
45 Sheaf
46 Hedgepodge
47 Sweet potatoes
50 Flounder

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