

# Washington Digest

## Columnist's Thoughts Turn To Squirrels—and Crabgrass

By BAUKHAGE  
News Analyst and Commentator.

WNU Service, 1616 Eye Street, N.W., Washington, D. C.

Summer was creeping toward the Potomac, the flag over the White House hung limp as a wilted petal, a hot sun, burning through the infrequent gaps in the heavy foliage, made yellow patches on the lawn. The fountain splashed faintly, falling like warm, futile tears.

I moved slowly along the drive, wondering if I could garner even a modicum of answers to meet emptiness left by the thousands of unanswered questions the world is asking.

I looked under the Japanese oaks whose tightly laced leaves, only a little above the ground, smother the young grass, hopefully starting up each spring, withering in the shadows before July. There, bored and half asleep, I could make out the form of the old gray squirrel.

Often this winter, he had come to my rescue when other "dependable sources" and "authoritative quarters" refused to yield up their secrets. But this time, he barely nodded, and looked away, deep in his meditations, probably a nuclear problem of some sort.

A few moments later, I was taking down notes at a not very newsworthy press and radio conference. The President, I feared, did not feel as cheerful as he looked. The handkerchief in his breast pocket was neatly folded in its customary three flat, razor-sharp triangles. (Sometimes his answers were almost as sharp.) The great red carnations on the table behind his desk, which holds the photographs of members of his family, were already drooping. The low hum of the mowing machine came in the open windows that look toward the Potomac.

Of what was said of import to the nation and the world, you will

Even though millions of gardeners agree with your remarks, I still challenge them. At present, I have a spring garden growing without any hoeing on land covered with a thick layer of last year's dead crabgrass.

"Scarcely a weed can grow through it, not even this year's crabgrass."

"You see, I am 'Pop,' the laziest gardener in the world, and I refuse to gather, haul and spread mulch when crabgrass will do it for me, and do a better job of it. I make it mulch the land for me by leaving it strictly alone. I may even encourage it with fertilizer. After I have gathered my early spring vegetables, I let the crabgrass take over. In early fall, when the crabgrass stops growing here, I mow it down. I then have that mulch gardener's delight, a mellow mulchy spot where most anything can grow without using spade or hoe. I use a potato digger to dig planting holes."

But that is not all. "Pop" may be the laziest gardener in the world, but he is a vigorous poet. He enclosed a poem of which (alas) I have room only for one verse and refrain. Here it is:

"Bring me a hoe; pull 'em all up!  
Chick weed, crabgrass, dig and cut!  
Stoop down low! Nothing but trash,  
Goosefoot, pigweed and Johnson grass;  
Just no time to look at the sky,  
Fleecy clouds a-floating by;  
Work 'til you've such a crook in the back  
That gardening pleasure's gone, a-lack!

"Wisdom may have a foolish sound;  
Crabgrass mulch is good for the ground,  
Let the weeds grow! Bring me a chair!  
Crabgrass mulch is everywhere,  
Soft and thick and brown."

### Strategy Misfires In Battle Over OPA

The battle over the OPA in the senate has brought out some of the good old axioms on how to bring pressure on congress . . . and how not to . . . if you want to get your favorite bill passed.

Anti-OPA strategy all along has been to postpone action on OPA as long as possible. Supporters have fought for action. At this moment, though some unforeseen event may change the course, it looks as if the odds favored postponement, but not defeat.

It first appeared that ordinary conventional methods used by the professional lobbyists were going to kill the bill. Then it looked as if spontaneously written letters were going to save it. In both cases, the effort was overdone. There were too many expensive advertisements in the newspapers, sponsored by the various business institutions fighting price control; too much money easily identified as coming from vested interests was being spent.

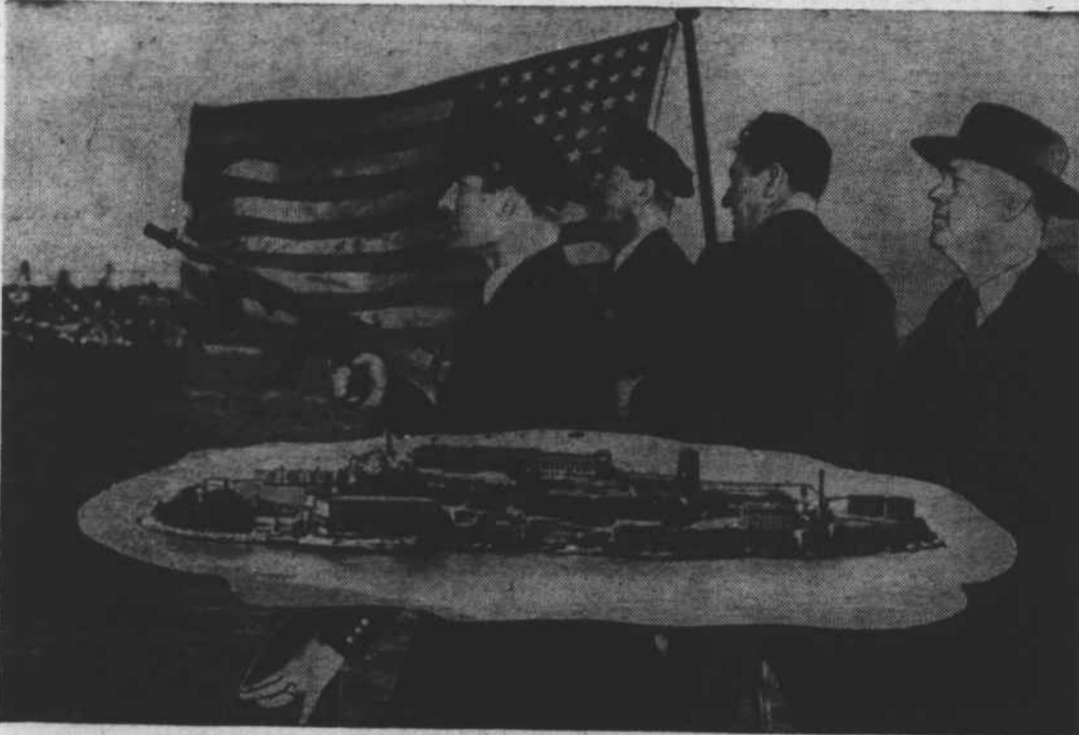
Then it was that John Q. Citizen sat himself down, took up his pen, or often his pencil, and wrote an undictated letter because he (mostly she) was really stirred up. Congress began to take heed of those letters. They were obviously spontaneous, they were written by men and women who had made up their own minds. They were voters with convictions, and it was very likely those convictions would be registered at the polls.

But once more, Pelion was heaped on Ossa. There was a nation-wide organization by the labor people, the veterans, the women's clubs. The mail and telegrams piled up, but the senators weren't too interested. The letters were sincere enough. But the majority revealed that they were inspired, not by an inner urge, a look into the pocketbook or pantry, but by the persuasive voice over the phone or at the front door. Do what you will, the kind of communication produced by these methods is very likely to have a second-hand appearance which the experienced congressman can recognize.

That is why, despite the number of letters and telegrams, the regimented telephone calls, senators were content to discuss the British loan, and even ponder such complicated matters as atomic energy, before hastening to line up for OPA.



TRUMANS ENTERTAIN PAGE BOYS . . . Ninety page boys of the senate and house were guests of President and Mrs. Truman. The boys were brought to the east wing of the White House where they met the President and First Lady of the Land, then they were escorted through the White House by their host and hostess. Here are the Trumans with the future senators and representatives during their recent visit to the White House. They represented every state in the Union.



REVOLT ON THE "ROCK" QUELLED . . . Upper photograph shows members of the San Francisco police department, who together with marine corps and coast guard aided guards at federal prison, Alcatraz, the "rock" in San Francisco bay, when prisoners revolted. Before the revolt had been brought under control three prisoners and two guards were killed and scores wounded. Insert, view of the "rock."



REBEL AGAINST GIRL DUNGAREES . . . Turn about is fair play. Annoyed by the practice of girl students appearing for class clad in dungarees, these three students of the Robert E. Lee school, Richmond, Va., decided to turn the tables and arrived at school wearing dresses. Photo shows the daring trio.



BIKE SAVES ELECTRICITY . . . Joe Benak, right, Chicago filling station operator, solved the electricity shortage by rigging up a one-bike power motor to his gas pump, with Dick Frederick doing the leg work, while the consumer, happy to get gas, looks on from his car window. Coal shortage brought about by the strike resulted in many Chicago industries being curtailed or completely shut down.



UNDERGROUND HERO . . . General Tadeusz Bor-Komorowski, Polish underground leader, who commanded the uprising in Warsaw in 1944, shown as he spoke at the 155th anniversary of Polish constitution, held at Chicago. General Bor, as he is usually called, addressed the colorful ceremonies at statue of General Kosciuszko, Revolutionary war hero in Humboldt park.



PARIS GETS NEW PHONE BOOKS . . . Paris hasn't had any new telephone directory since before the war; so the issuance of one was an event. A pretty girl sits on stack of phone books here.



JOHN L. LEWIS STRATEGY  
WASHINGTON. — John L. Lewis confided his strike strategy to friend the other day as follows:

"Before you can get action, you've got to have a crisis. And in any crisis, someone's nerve has got to crack. I always bet that I can hold out longer than the government or the operators. My nerve won't crack first."

### GOP CONGRESSMAN REWARDED

Few congressmen have enjoyed a higher rating at the White House in the last two decades than hard-hitting Richard J. Welch of California, a Republican congressman for 21 years.

Always subordinating party interest to the national welfare, Welch's rugged integrity won him the esteem of both Presidents Hoover and Roosevelt, with Harry Truman equally fond of him.

It is an axiom in congress that when Dick Welch wants something at the White House, he gets it. His last visit, to request Presidential support of another bridge connecting San Francisco and Oakland, was no exception.

Despite opposition from the navy, which contends that expanded aircraft and water-transport facilities in the bay area make a new bridge inadvisable, Welch told Truman that the bridge was imperative. Traffic on the present Oakland bridge, he said, was moving "bumper-to-bumper."

"All we are asking is a public hearing to state our case, Mr. President," said Welch, "but the navy is even opposed to that."

"This is an election year," commented Welch with a grin, "but there are no political considerations in the bridge project as far as I am concerned."

Truman may have been thinking of Welch's unflinching battle to support OPA as he replied:

"In your case, Dick, it wouldn't make any difference to me whether there were any political considerations in it or not."

### CONGRESS RETREATS

It isn't often that the public rises up in protest so quickly and effectively as over the recent cutting of price control in the house of representatives. However, the "Save OPA" mail drive on congress now appears to have scored a bull's eye. Senate opposition to crippling house amendments is mounting and anti-price control senators one by one are beginning to yell "uncle!"

Despite this, OPA Boss Paul Porter and Economic Stabilizer Chester Bowles are awaiting the senate showdown with crossed fingers. What they fear is a compromise senate bill — a watered-down, but still dangerous, version of the house "repeal" measure.

Porter warned of this in a recent secret conference with Bowles and other top officials when the question was raised as to whether the outspoken Bowles should continue his cannonading for air-tight OPA legislation. Bowles himself felt that it might be smart for him to pull punches temporarily.

Porter, however, vigorously advised the contrary.

"This is no time to trim our sails or for you to let down, Chester," he told Bowles.

### MISSOURI POUND CAKE

President Truman's first cousins, Nellie and Ethel Noland of Independence, Mo., are writing quite a few letters these days about the famous "pound cake" which long has been a favorite delicacy of the Truman and Noland families.

Last Christmas, while Truman was in Independence for the holidays, one of the Noland sisters' cakes was featured on the menu. A writer for the Associated Press, apparently inexperienced in the kitchen, obtained the recipe and published it. Later housewives throughout the country tried their hand at preparing the cake. But something was wrong. Scores of letters began pouring into the Noland mailbox at 216 North Delaware street. Housewives were having kitchen difficulties.

A check revealed the Associated Press reporter had failed to include in the recipe one pound of butter — necessary for good results in baking the cake.

Perhaps the AP reporter was patriotic and didn't think butter should be used in cake in view of the edible fats shortage. Anyway, President Truman's cousins have been writing letters ever since.

### MERRY-GO-ROUND

Eighty-five professors at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton school of finance and commerce were polled regarding the continuation of OPA. Eighty-one signed a petition urging continuation of price controls. . . . Telegrams were sent to clothing manufacturers recently by the civilian production administration asking a report on the men's suit shortage. Reply was that the government's goal of 28 million men's suits will be almost met. . . . If that helps any.

## CLASSIFIED DEPARTMENT

INSTRUCTION  
MAKE BEAUTIFUL COSTUME JEWELRY at home for large profit, hobby or therapy. Free illustrated wholesale catalogue of sea shell, metal and plastic parts. Contains detailed instructions. FLORIDA SUPPLY HOUSE, BRADENTON, FLORIDA

MISCELLANEOUS  
DELUXE ENLARGEMENTS of highest quality selection for \$2.00; 8-5x7 or 4-5x7 and 2-2x10 or a beautiful hand colored 8x10 in folder. Add \$1.00 negative is not supplied. HELIO PHOTO SERVICE, Dept. WN, P. O. Box 821, Church Street Sta., New York 5, N. Y.

POULTRY, CHICKS & EQUIP.  
KAYTEE PIGEON FEEDS  
10 Types Choice, clean mixtures and iodized Pigeon Health Grit—the best that can be produced. In writing for free samples state whether for squabs, fancy or racing pigeons. KNAUF & TESCH CO., T Street, Chilton, Wisconsin.

WANTED TO BUY  
WANTED: 1/2, 3/4, 1, 1 1/2; HP Motors 115 volt, single phase. NORTOX COMPANY 2821 Main Street - Dallas, Texas.

Buy U. S. Savings Bonds!

Get O'Sullivan Soles as well as Heels next time your shoes are repaired.

AMERICA'S No. 1 HEEL . . . and sole

WALL PAPER FOR A LOVELIER HOME  
SAMPLES ON REQUEST  
Box 1421 Baltimore 3, Md.

### STRAINS, SORENESS CUTS, BURNS

A favorite household antiseptic dressing and liniment for 98 years—Hanford's BALSAM OF MYRRH! It contains soothing gums to relieve the soreness and ache of over-used and strained muscles. Takes the sting and itch out of burns, scalds, insect bites, oak and ivy poisoning, wind and sun burn, chafing and chapped skin. Its antiseptic action lessens the danger of infection whenever the skin is cut or broken.

Keep a bottle handy for the minor casualties of kitchen and nursery. As your drug-store—trial size bottle 35¢; Household size 65¢; economy size \$1.25. G. C. HANFORD MFG. CO., Syracuse, N. Y. Sole makers of

Balsam of Myrrh

TO-NIGHT  
DEPENDABLE  
ALL-VEGETABLE  
LAXATIVE  
NATURE'S REMEDY

### Black Leaf 40 FOR GARDEN PROTECTANT

Spray with Black Leaf 40. One ounce in 6 gallons of water makes an effective spray. Black Leaf 40 also controls leaf hoppers, leaf miners, mealy bugs, mealy worms, young sucking bugs and similar insects.

TOBACCO BY-PRODUCTS & CHEMICAL CORP., INCORPORATED  
Louisville 2 Kentucky

WNU-4 21-40

### Kidneys Must Work Well-

For You To Feel Well  
24 hours every day, 7 days every week, never stopping, the kidneys filter waste matter from the blood.

If more people were aware of how the kidneys must constantly remove surplus fluid, excess acids and other waste matter that cannot stay in the blood without injury to health, there would be better understanding of why the whole system is upset when kidneys fail to function properly.

Burning, scanty or too frequent urination sometimes warns that something is wrong. You may suffer nagging headache, dizziness, weakness, rheumatic pains, getting up at night, swelling.

Why not try Doan's Pills? You will be using a medicine recommended the country over. Doan's stimulates the function of the kidneys and helps them to flush out poisonous waste from the blood. They contain nothing harmful. Get Doan's today. Use with confidence. At all drug stores.

## DOAN'S PILLS

### BARBS . . . by Baukhage

Musician Charles Guisikoff took 60 shirts with him when the Philadelphia orchestra went on tour. The tour lasts 42 days. I suppose they're stopped in Pittsburgh.

Inflation note from a reader who sends me some of his 1940 bills. Seems he paid \$2.75 for CM flooring in 1940, and \$12.80 last month for same.

Seems there's a special Josef Stalin tulip named after the generalissimo. Wonder if it's red.

The coal industry is sick all right . . . and some of its nurses are getting pretty superannuated.

This spring weather would be fine if it weren't for an occasional flu in the ointment.