

Washington Digest

1948 Long Way Off, but Taft Looms as GOP Hope

By **BAUKHAGE**
News Analyst and Commentator.

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

Along about June of any election year, when a lot of simple souls are thinking about moonlight and roses, electric fans, and where to go for a summer vacation, a lot of longer-range planners are wondering about next winter's coal supply, harvest time, and many other things a lot further away than the fly on your nose. Among these are the politicians.



It's a great time to lean back in a chair in the Senate office building or thereabouts, open another bottle of White Rock, light another seegar, and burble on about what's going to happen come November, and, still more intriguing, to prognosticate on presidential possibilities.

It's fun for the newcomers because it's so easy for them to predict, in the light of what's happening right now, just what will happen then. It's still more fun for the old timers because they know that the voters who may not love you in the autumn often seem very palsy in the spring—and vice versa.

Since there isn't much use in speculating on who the Democratic presidential nominee will be, it's more interesting to talk about Republican possibilities.

Perhaps that is why, along about the middle of May, the heavy backers of Bob Taft began to be heard from. Up until then, most of the talk in the couloirs was how Bricker was the No. 1 boy, and how Stassen mustn't even be mentioned above a whisper. Even Stassen's own men decided it was better for the young man from Minnesota to keep his head down so he wouldn't attract any lightning until he had found out whether his forums were more potent than the against-em's.

Now it's getting to be more serious fun to talk about Taft. Taft wants to be President. He has wanted to be President before. He is pretty much master of the Republican organization, but even if he weren't, Bricker, his present friend and rival, is more "beatable," despite the good impression he made on his speaking tour before the last convention . . . what with the leftist look in so many veterans' eyes.

Bricker has a staunch and solid conservative following. But it is a little too solidly conservative. Taft could hardly be called a radical. In fact, his political garden has never produced even a pale and lonely pink. On the other hand, his supporters prudently can point to many a constructively liberal measure which has had his blessing.

Only the other day, I was talking with an ardent administration official who has been battling for a measure badly battered by conservatives of both political stripes. I asked him if he could expect to retrieve in the senate a certain provision in his legislation, lost in the house.

"Oh, yes," he answered, "Bob Taft will go along on that."

And Taft has a good liberal record on such mass-appeal measures as housing.

The Republicans don't have to deal with the old-line bosses to the extent that the Democrats do and in two of the larger cities where the Republican machine is vital—Philadelphia and Cincinnati—everything would be jake so far as Taft is concerned. He, himself, is kingpin in his home state organization . . . and Mr. Pew, who makes the Republican wheels go round in Pennsylvania, wanted Taft in '46 and '48. It is to be presumed he'll feel the same in '48.

This doesn't eliminate other brilliant possibilities, including Messrs. Stassen and Vandenberg, both of whose political futures may be molded by international developments.

Mr. Vandenberg has done a lot of the molding himself. This could work both ways. On the one hand, the energy and devotion with which Mr. Vandenberg has applied himself to foreign affairs, and the powerful influence he has exerted, have greatly increased his silhouette on

the international horizon. On the other hand, these activities, both in quantity and quality, have taken him far afield from the usual political approach to a Republican presidential nomination.

It may be there is a niche in the making that would need a man of his proportion to fill but one Democrat said to me the other day: "Sometimes it looks as if Van would rather be right than President."

Times change, almost kaleidoscopically, these days. The presidential candidate of tomorrow may turn out to be (if you'll excuse my Irish) a dark horse of an entirely different color.

Columnists Speak Out of (in?) Turn

The carping critics of today and yesterday enjoy decrying the various inroads upon our founding fathers' ideas of government by the people.

We hear much about "government by lobbies"; "government by executive order"; "government by this and by that . . ."

President Roosevelt used to inveigh against what might have been called an attempt at "government by columnists." It always seemed rather unnecessary on his part—since he used to be elected regularly with a press 80 per cent hostile.

Recently President Truman was called upon to comment on the work of the distinguished columnist, Walter Lippmann. Lippmann expounded the somewhat startling theme—with even more startling trimmings—that Britain and Russia were pursuing a foreign policy based on the possibility, if not the probability of war, with each side hoping to enlist eventual German support.

In fact, Mr. Lippmann even discovered an invisible German army in the British zone. (I don't mean that literally, for I understand that he did not visit the British zone in his tour of investigation.)

The President's comment was that hindsight was better than foresight, but as far as a hidden army was concerned, he never heard of it . . . and didn't think it existed.

The same day, Mr. Truman was asked to comment on the statement of another distinguished correspondent, Harold Callender, Paris correspondent for the New York Times. Mr. Callender had reported a sharp reversal of American foreign policy toward Russia. The President slapped that down, too, saying that he knew of no change . . . and he made the policy.

Some days before, Sumner Welles, former undersecretary of state, now a radio commentator, made observations similar to those of Callender.

Recently Harold Ickes, another former civil servant turned columnist, declared that the careful newspaper reader could get more authoritative information than the secretary of state possessed, because the secretary's information was screened by a reactionary and inefficient aide.

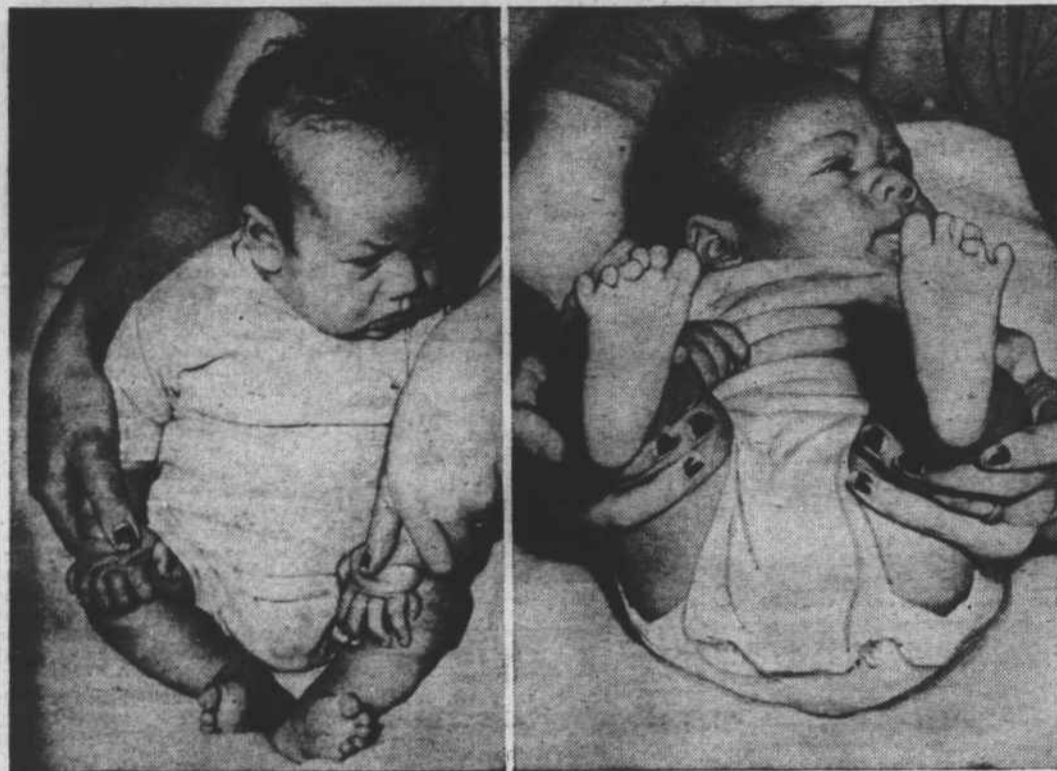
Just how much influence the individual writer or commentator wields is a question. In most cases, it takes an almost unanimous repetition of an idea to produce action. And then its effect on the government is usually indirect. It results from the pressure of public opinion, which in many cases is created by press and radio, when the many men of many minds and political faiths can agree on some one subject. When the majority agree it usually means that they are as nearly right as mortals can be in these confusing days.

In the case of Walter Lippmann, I believe that he is voicing what many of us who have followed recently international gatherings and who have been in Europe since the war, agree upon: namely, that the statesmen of the major European powers have fallen into the old pattern . . . basing their diplomacy on the thesis that war is more or less inevitable, instead of the new pattern where the objective is to prevent war rather than prepare for it.

Another theme of Lippmann's which is not held by him alone, to which this writer certainly agrees, is that the problem of the proper handling of Germany is the most important foreign problem, and the one upon which all the other problems depend.



JAPAN'S WOMEN NOW POLICE TOKYO . . . Not only have the women of Japan been given the right to vote, and many elected to office, under the American army occupation, but they have been placed on the police and other civic departments of government. Photo shows one of the female police force patrolling the streets of Tokyo along the market place in the Konda district of Japan's capitol.



TWELVE BABY FINGERS AND TWELVE BABY TOES . . . When Mrs. Jeanne Diaz, 26, plays "this little piggy" with her three-months-old son, Michael, she has to figure on a few extra porkers. Michael, born March 10, is shown here in two poses in which his mother displays his six fingers on each hand, and six toes on each foot. Physicians in Chicago, where the child lives, are unable to recall similar babies in their experiences. The baby is reported normal in every other way.



PRESIDENT NOW A PHOTOGRAPHER . . . Members of the White House News Photographers association, composed of ace cameramen who cover the White House, gave the chief executive a desk set as a present and made him an honorary member of this organization.



ROXAS VISITS THE UNITED STATES . . . Philippines president-elect, Manuel Roxas, left, is shown at breakfast (left to right) Col. A. C. Strickland, commanding officer of McChord Field, Seattle; Paul McNutt, U. S. high commissioner to the Philippines, and his military air aide, Col. M. A. Libby. Roxas and McNutt later visited President Truman and other government officials.



THE NAVY'S BUREAUS
WASHINGTON.—If Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal wants to head off the army-navy merger, he might do some merging in his own department. As it is, some of his reserve officers are about ready to believe the army is right.

Perhaps because the navy is suffering from admiralitis (too many admirals), Forrestal has set up a special duplicating public relations co-ordinator. This bureau does exactly what another bureau also does. Chief difference between them is that one is on the first floor (deck in the navy), the other on the third floor) one is commanded by a vice admiral, the other by a rear admiral; finally, the rear admiral takes a few hours to do a job while the vice admiral sometimes takes a few days.

Hitherto, navy public relations have been handled by efficient young Rear Adm. "Min" Miller, one of the up-and-coming youngsters in the navy. If you need a speaker for a naval rally, want to stage an air show, or have a ship visit your city, Miller usually has been able to arrange it in a few hours.

But now, Vice Adm. Arthur S. Carpender, newly appointed co-ordinator of public relations, sits in naval splendor with a staff of five senior officers, a large force of junior officers, and a small army of WAVES and enlisted men.

THE BALKY SWISS

Insiders say that Switzerland, the little nation which posed as the benign and friendly neutral, is now displaying the same tactics as the Capone gang in hanging on to Nazi loot.

The secret negotiations now going on in Washington to recover Nazi gold from Switzerland have been carefully guarded, but it has leaked out that Switzerland's policy is to keep all the gold which the Germans stole from France, Denmark, Belgium and other occupied countries and sent to Switzerland for safe-keeping.

Like the Capone gang, the Swiss won't return this looted gold to France, Denmark, Belgium and other countries from which it was stolen.

Despite all this, some treasury officials urge a lenient policy toward the Swiss. It happens that they have \$1,500,000,000 of assets now frozen in this country including \$500,000,000 in gold, and the French are preparing to clap a lien on these assets. Some treasury officials, however, are opposed.

Not so, however, sage Secretary of the Treasury Fred Vinson, who remembers all the Swiss collaboration with the Nazis during the war.

"Down in my state," drawled the Kentuckian, "when you bet on the wrong horse, you pay off. The Swiss bet on the wrong horse."

VETERANS COME SECOND

Young GOP Rep. James G. Fulton of Pennsylvania, a Pacific war vet., did some vigorous protesting about the way veterans are being "stood up" on surplus war goods when he called at the White House.

"Veterans are just not getting an even break in the present setup," he told the President.

The Pennsylvania congressman also gave Truman some inside slants on RFC purchases of abandoned property which would warrant congressional scrutiny. He reported that no effort is being made to sell army and navy equipment piled helter-skelter in and around a Pennsylvania glue factory purchased by the RFC in May, 1945, for use as a surplus property depot.

RED ARMY WITHDRAWS

The inscrutable Russians have a way of refusing to do something when asked, and then going ahead and doing it when not asked. For instance, Secretary of State James Byrnes has been hammering at the Russians to reduce their troops in the Balkans, Austria and Hungary.

Among other things he has warned that the United States won't send food into these countries while tremendous Russian armies are living off the land, in effect taking away the food we send in.

Foreign Commissar Vyacheslav Molotov, however, has turned a deaf ear to Byrnes' plea. He has been just as stubborn on this as about most things.

But here is the payoff. U. S. representatives in Vienna have wired the state department that the Red army has started a large scale withdrawal from Austria. There is no explanation, and state department officials are mystified as to the reason.

UNDER THE DOME

Democratic National Committee Chairman Bob Hannegan tried to submit his resignation to President Truman last week-end, but was turned down cold. Hannegan's wife and doctor are both urging him to resign. However, the President told Hannegan he could not be spared, at least until after the November elections. . . . President Truman has asked Secretary of the Interior Cap Krug to set up an interdepartmental committee to handle oil problems.

Child Will Be Happy Over a Lawn Chair

A PINT size lawn chair is great fun for children. It adds interest to any group of outdoor furniture and you will find that it is often used by grown-ups instead of an ottoman or for a place to put books and magazines.



The small chair shown here matches the adult-size chair and is made with a pattern that gives a complete bill of materials, large diagrams for cutting each piece and illustrated construction steps. The seat of the chair is about ten inches high and thirteen inches deep.

This lawn chair is made with pattern 252, and the adult-size lawn chair is pattern 253. Patterns are 15c each or both patterns to one address for 25c. Send order with name and address to:

MRS. RUTH WYETH SPEARS
Bedford Hills, N. Y. Drawer 19
Enclose 15 cents for one pattern, or 25 cents for both.
Name _____
Address _____

CLASSIFIED DEPARTMENT

BUSINESS & INVEST. OPPOR.

Opportunity knocks—Establish a business of your own with our new and exquisite portrait plaques. Why wait for reconversion? We offer not a job, but a position today. Write for information. A. Goodman, 245 West 51st St., New York, N. Y.

FARMS AND RANCHES

EASTERN SHORE, MD.—85 dark loam acres, 8-room modern home. Hot and cold running water in all buildings. Two-car garage, tool house, corn crib, two-story barn, wagon shed, cow barn, chicken coop, milk house, daylight cellar. Electric. Fruit. School and work bus by door. R.P.D. Bath and flush toilet. Taxes \$45.00. Building almost new. On highway. \$2,500. **GOLDSBORO, MD.**—6 ac. 12, Reste 1.

FOR SALE—66-acre Farm, 8-room house, barn, hog pen, chicken house, sheds, etc. Electric, running water, telephone, along State Rd. Price \$6,000. Apply Harry Almshey, Gettysburg, Pa. R. D. 1.

HELP WANTED—MEN

SALESMEN, AGENTS WANTED—Salesmen—Calling on stores sell fast selling 2/15c cigars. Commission 40c per box. Write National Supply Co., Elmira, N. Y.

INSTRUCTION

MAKE BEAUTIFUL COSTUME JEWELRY at home for large profits, 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 prices—10" x 7" and 2-8x10 or a beautiful hand-colored 8x10 in folder. Add 50c if negative is not supplied. **HELIO PHOTO SERVICE**, Dept. WN, P. O. Box 851, Church Street Sta., New York 8, 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

FEATHERS WANTED
Goose and duck feathers, new and old. Make samples for prices. **F. B. MITCHELL CO.**, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Planning for the Future? Buy U. S. Savings Bonds!

WNU-4 22-46

WHEN NERVOUS HEADACHES PESTER ME I FIND THAT MILES NERVINE HELPS NERVOUS TENSION TO RELAX AND LEAVES ME CALM, SERENE



WHEN Functional Nervous Disturbances such as Sleeplessness, Crankiness, Excitability, Restlessness or Nervous Headache interfere with your work or spoil your good times, take

Miles Nervine

(Liquid or Effervescent Tablets) Nervous Tension can make you Wakeful, Jittery, Irritable. Nervous Tension can cause Nervous Headache and Nervous Indigestion. In times like these, we are more likely than usual to become overwrought and nervous and to wish for a good sedative—mild but effective. If you do not use Miles Nervine you can't know what it will do for you. It comes in Liquid and Effervescent Tablet form, both equally soothing to tense and over-wrought nerves. WHY DON'T YOU TRY IT?

Get it at your drug store. Effervescent tablets 35c and 75c, Liquid 25c and \$1.00. CAUTION—Use only as directed.

BARBS . . . by Baukhage

The average age of the American population has been increasing since colonial times, says the Metropolitan Information Service. Just what is your average age, today?

Army regulations have made men hat-conscious, says *Business Week* magazine. The prices they have to pay for the civilian variety will make some of them unconscious.

The coal strike was like a steady stream of sand filtering into the complicated machinery of our economy . . . grinding down the gears, burning out the bearings, changing the chorus of conversion to a cacophony of shrieking brakes.

Food-greedy Americans should remember that breadlines are worse than ryllines.