

White House Breakfasts Bids For Leaders Favor

President Who Sat Like Sphinx Over Deliberations of Senate Now Trying to Impress Party Colleagues That He Is Human and Friendly

By DAVID LAWRENCE

Washington, Dec. 2.—"Breakfast at 8 at the White House" may some day make the reporters wake up early with a suspicion that such unaccustomed beginnings of a Congressional day are really significant of something impending but thus far the only meaning the conferences between President Coolidge and the Republican members of the United States Senate is social, get-together, personal and a gesture of the anxiety of the Executive to get on terms of fellowship with his party colleagues.

Mr. Coolidge sat for nearly three years on the rostrum of the Senate and gazed silently into the faces of the Senators but said nothing himself. Beyond the natural comments that go with a social visit, the White House breakfasts have developed no talkativeness on legislative matters by the President.

In other days not so long ago a Roosevelt might have punctuated the conversation with staccato comments on everything going on in the official and unofficial world. A Wilson would have dispersed his dignified phrases a restless attitude toward party leadership of fallative. A Harding would have told the latest story he had heard or enjoyed the telling of the news ones by his visitors.

But Mr. Coolidge is different. First of all he has his conference at breakfast at the breakfastable hour of 8 o'clock. But if the truth be known it's the most convenient hour of the whole day for members of Congress and for the President. Ninety per cent of the members of Congress eat breakfast between 7:30 and 8 o'clock. If the President were to invite them to lunch it would conflict with the meeting hour of Congress which is noon and the two hours thereafter are usually the most important in the Congressional day. If the invitation were to be for dinner, the President would be himself embarrassed by the number of declinations on the plea of other engagements. Senators and members of the House either have speaking dates or dinner engagements made ahead of time. Mr. Coolidge likes to get up these breakfasts on short notice and he can be sure of 100 per cent attendance if he selects the early morning hour. Then, too, time is saved. Whole evenings would be spent after dinner in futile debate on public questions. Mr. Coolidge is not trying to tell Congress his views except in official messages. There may come a time when he will need to follow up his recommendations for legislation with personal persuasion but that is best accomplished as a rule by meeting members of Congress individually or in groups of two or three.

Who Is She?



Do you know her? She is Chicago's "mystery girl." She was found wandering around in the Union Station there. The girl is in the Cook County Hospital now and doesn't know who she is. She has forgotten everything about her past, but her answers to questions indicate she might be a college student, and the name "Charlotte" seems to arouse a response from her.

ward them so that if he essays leadership on major questions he shall not be accused of coercion and bossism.

Mr. Wilson rarely used meal

hours for conference with any one on official business and almost never invited members of Congress to eat with him at the White House. He was criticized for it though his plea was that it was the only time he found to give to the members of his family and that it helped him to relax. Presidents Taft, Roosevelt and Harding found, on the other hand, that it was a splendid opportunity to develop friendly relations with members of Congress.

The Democratic members of the House and Senate are looking on wondering what it's all about. One of them remarked today on how the times had changed, how if a Democratic President had repeatedly summoned only members of his party to conference he would have been called President of the Democratic party and how the emphasis on partisan administration by the party in power has come back again. Mr. Coolidge, however, is inviting even the members of the Senate who tech-

nically are known as Republicans but who have not been warm in their support of his proposals. Senator Norris of Nebraska thinks along the same line as Senator LaFollette on most public questions but he was not excluded. Senator Borah is as a rule on the opposite side of the administration but he too was summoned. Mr. Coolidge is trying hard to bring his own party into harmonious relation with the White House but it does look as if Senators LaFollette, Frazier, Ladd and Brookhart will have to patronize the Congressional cafeterias for the President cannot ignore the members of the Senate in reading the four rebels out of the party.

The breakfasts are for Republicans only, those who have been good and show promise of being good.

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