

In Washington: Ships, Dinners, Liquor and Lasker

(By Stephen Poole in Dearborn Independent.)

Mabe you have wondered why a man you despised at home because a Big Gun at Washington. You wondered, because you thought brains and principle and worth ruled there. They don't. The game is not played that way. It is used to be, but not now.

This story tells part of the tale—only a small part. There are reticences which every good citizen wishes to observe. But it is useful to know why, for example, the ships of the United States Shipping Board have not been criticized in the public press, by newspapermen who knew the facts, for their violation of American liquor laws. The explanation is the dinners given to newspapermen by Albert D. Lasker.

Maybe you have wondered why Lasker could get the White House itself to boost Shipping Board affairs into a prominence not granted any other issue—not even those issues important to the welfare of the people. The answer is, Lasker's dinners.

This is only a small part of the story. Some day, if public policy requires, there will be an explosion of truth in Washington, when all the now-suppressed facts will be blazoned before an indignant people and a thorough clean-up inaugurated.

The social lobby in Washington is not a new institution, but it has perfected its methods, and is being used more cleverly than ever before. It is one of the most potent influences in the life of the national capital. The end sought are not always visible to the casual observer. The methods employed are often extremely subtle, and even those persons whose high official and personal standing is being traded on are usually unconscious of the purposes which the schemers are seeking to accomplish.

Whether it is a tax bill before a congressional committee, a big claim before an executive department for adjudication, publicity for a governmental subsidy, regulatory measures of feeling special interests or a Federal appointment that is sought to be influenced, the social lobby is sure to play a big role.

Senator Kenyon, of Iowa, who was recently elevated to the Federal bench, and who had a great deal to do with turning the light on lobby operations at Washington during his service in the Senate, gave it his mature opinion that the social lobby is one of the most active and pernicious of all. It is in full blast at the present time.

Washington's "Information" Men

It was Senator Kenyon who first brought to light the remarkable case of a former newspaper correspondent in Washington, who, by skillfully ingratiating himself via the social lobby route, reached the point where he was drawing approximately \$50,000 per annum as a sine aggregate of retainers paid to him by various interests having iron in the legislative fire at the National Capitol. This young man was one of the first to see the possibilities of the social lobby. Having a wide acquaintance with public men through his former newspaper connections, he took an apartment in the most expensive downtown hotel in Washington. He and his wife entertained lavishly. Members of Congress and other high government officials were among his guests. He soon developed an almost uncanny faculty of getting what he wanted. He was able to advise his clients, who happened to be interested in food lines, well in advance of the actual appointment, and before it was known outside the White House, that Herbert Hoover would be named American Food Administrator. He was persona grata in high government circles and was usually able to tip his principals to any impending action at Washington which it was to their advantage to be posted on before the news gained circulation outside of inner official circles. He obtained much confidential information which made him a valuable political and economic adviser for his clients among the largest business interests of the country. Many big concerns today maintain "information" men at Washington. Not all these are lobbyists in the accepted sense, but by the judicious distribution of hospitality they are able to get much valuable advance information as to policies that are maturing in the official mind.

The importance of social activities has been so magnified in the minds of some of the lesser lights of the official constellation that publicity machinery appropriated for by Congress, and paid for by taxpayers, has been used to get out notices of social events to obtain wide publicity and react to the social prominence of those concerned. "Coming out" parties of de-

tails of other social affairs have been presented in this manner and details of other social affairs have been given to a waiting world through these channels.

An effort is sometimes made by means of the social lobby to mellow the attitude of the daily press toward pending objects. Recently, when the ship subsidy legislation was submitted to Congress, and was subjected to the fire of newspaper criticism, Albert D. Lasker, chairman of the United States Shipping Board, who is the chief sponsor of the measure, gave a dinner at his home for the Washington correspondents. Invitations were telephoned to all the representatives of the more prominent newspapers. Lasker is comparatively a newcomer in Washington and the newspaper men thought it not strange that he should desire to establish closer contact with the press. More than 80 correspondents responded, a majority of them without knowledge of the purpose of the affair. A pleasant evening was had. When the cigars were reached and the chairs pushed back from the dinner table, many of the guests were surprised when their host trotted out his hobby and in a neat speech extolled its good points.

To make the setting complete, the President of the United States, Secretary of the Navy Denby and Assistant Secretary Theodore Roosevelt were among the guests of the evening. The occasion was not a dull one, despite the Eighteenth Amendment.

A famous Chicago attorney, who recently argued a case of national interest before the United States Supreme Court, entertained several press representatives at his hotel, where the Volstead Act was no deterrent to the Bacchanalian tendencies. It is to be presumed that the spirit engendered by this hospitality did not react unfavorably in the press notice of the case in which this attorney was appearing. This method of currying favor has long been a practice with this lawyer, who has amassed millions and bears all the hallmarks of success.

The influence of White House dinners in keeping members of Congress from straying off the administration reservation has long been recognized. President Roosevelt once said: "A man who can be bought with a dinner is not worth much." Nevertheless, it is well known in Washington that many Senators and Representatives under the present and past administrations have been deterred from insurgency by the pleas of wives and daughters that it might result in their being cut off the invitation list for White House receptions and dinners.

Washington society is dominated by the official element. Once a Senator or Representative is defeated for public office, with rare exceptions, his family loses the coveted privilege of attending teas, luncheons, dinners and receptions in the official set. This is indeed a sad circumstance in the lives of many and it has influenced more than one public man to try a political "come back." Not even St. Elba could be so lonely to some of those who love the social atmosphere of Washington as to be reduced to the society of "mere friends."

The "House of Mystery"

An apartment hotel, in the exclusive northwest section is the domicile of several highly placed government officials, including at least one cabinet officer. This hotel is a favorite with the men who come to Washington on missions which require something more than routine presentation at the departments or before congressional committees. Here they are afforded the opportunity for intimate social contact with the heads or assistant chiefs of departments and others of influence in government circles. This hotel is the scene of many festivities. Many gay parties enliven the evenings there. There, where "dull care" is a stranger and where members of the official set are always on hand for a dance or a dinner, many a big government deal has been made.

Another place where the social note predominates is a famous "house of mystery" owned by a Washingtonian of more than local prominence and of independent fortune. It is located in the business section of the city and has more than one secret entrance, where those who for official or personal reasons do not wish to have their social activities advertised may attend its functions without detection. During the past winter, dinners rivaling the Sherry dinners of New York, were held in the house with dancers from visiting shows supplying the entertainment on at least one occasion.

How the social lobby may be converted into a valuable asset to aid in the development of a lucrative business is well illustrated by a case

FIELD MARSHAL ASSASSIN'S VICTIM



The whole world was shocked when cables flashed news of the murder of Field Marshal Sir Henry Wilson in London. Chief of the British General Staff, Gen. Wilson aide, Marshal Foch in directing the occupation of German cities by Allied troops. He was commander of the British forces in Ulster.

RAILROAD CROSSINGS ARE VERY DANGEROUS

There are few things or places more dangerous in America today than the railroad crossings, and most generally it is more dangerous and destructive to the other fellow than to the railroad companies. There is seldom a day and never a week that there is not an account of a smash-up. It is hard to say where all the fault lies, perhaps more at the door of the auto driver than any other place. It is generally pure neglect and carelessness, but in some instances it is the fault of the railroad companies in their neglecting to make good crossings.

A majority of the crossings in Martin county are very bad, the rails standing up almost high enough to cut auto tires to pieces. There are some crossings built up on a ridge, some so high that a horse has trouble in carrying a load over them. Certainly this is the case of two or more crossings in Williamston township, but perhaps the worse one in the county is near Ball Gray farm near Jamesville. Frequently cars passing such bad crossings are choked down in attempting to get over. It is a frequent occurrence for a car load of human beings to have to remain on a track crossing before a moving train to be slaughtered because the track was so bad that they could not cross without having to crank up.

which has caused much gossip in the inner circle at Washington. The principal is a man whom we will style "an Ohio attorney," although he was not exactly a shining light in his profession at home and his business was not entirely restricted to the arguing of cases in court. He had been connected in a small way with a cabinet member who is reputed to be a close political adviser to President Harding. The Ohio attorney spent several weeks as a hanger-on at headquarters at Marion during the front porch campaign and had identified himself with the administration in the eyes of many persons who wanted favors here. He took quarters in a Washington hotel and "opened up for business" soon after the last presidential inauguration. The word was passed around by his runners that those who needed help might find it forthwith by applying to this individual. He was a smooth talker and business came fast. Soon larger quarters were required. A pretentious residence on K street, near those of several Senators, was rented. Here big entertainments and dinners were staged, with all the pleasant accessories of music and dancing by professional entertainers. These were invitation affairs.

Only provided the scenery. The dimmers at the K street residence are said to have been well-appointed affairs which would have done credit to a cabinet member. Those who received his invitations felt themselves honored. Many of the guests now realize that they were only a part of the interior decorations. They only provided the scenery which made the attorney's entertainments go well. The host's fame grew apace and he thrived wonderfully. He made many new connections. Sometimes he took his "cases" on a contingent fee in advance as an evidence of good faith, with more to come when success crowned his efforts. Prominent persons in the administration were inveigled to dinners, and there the "suckers" were given an ocular demonstration of the standing of the Ohio attorney with the official set. This man prospered at an amazing rate as the early months of the Harding administration flew by. Finally, his oper-

PEOPLES BANK CLOSED ITS DOORS YESTERDAY

The Peoples Bank closed yesterday after heavy withdrawals.

In 1921 when it was discovered that Charlie Godwin, then cashier of The Peoples Bank had misappropriated many thousands of the peoples money in the bank, the directors determined to carry it on. They put up the necessary funds and things moved on in good shape. But the stringent times coupled with an underground current of propaganda apparently seeking to destroy, made it very hard for the bank to operate. Yesterday a draw of about \$63,000 closed it.

The closing of any institution hurts the general business, and it is a sad thing to see a community die for the lack of a spirit of cooperation.

The State bank examiner will arrive in a few days, and he will make known what steps will be taken in handling the affairs of the bank.

METHODIST SERVICES

Sunday School 9:45 a. m., J. E. Pope, Supt.

All the members of the Wesley Class are especially urged to be present Sunday. Any visitors in the city are invited to come and be with us at Sunday School or Church services.

Morning services 11:00 o'clock. Subject—"Using an Opportunity."

Afternoon service—Vernon Church at 3:30 o'clock.

Evening worship at 8:00 o'clock. Subject—"Christ Teaching Regarding Sin."

The doors of the church will be opened at evening service for any new members who desire to join with us.

NEW OIL COMPANY

The Harrison Oil Company, composed of G. H. Harrison, C. A. Harrison and R. E. Roberson, have taken the agency for the Texas Oil Co. They will install a 32,000 gallon tank at the river and will get their supply of oil from tank steamers.

They expect to be ready for business by the first of August. They will have two tank motors to serve the trade. This will afford real competition and the prices of oil will evidently be lower.

ONLY ONE BREAK IN LEVEE

Only one crevasse has occurred in the Colorado River, which has been in flood for three or four weeks, having reached about 27 1/2 feet at Yuma the 10th of June. The break in the levee was at Blythe, in Riverside county, Calif., where the river overflowed several thousand acres. It is expected by the Weather Bureau of the United States Department of Agriculture that the river will fall from the 11th of June until the last snow melts and then rise slowly a little later on account of the melting of the snow at the highest elevations of the upper drainage area.

WHY MEN ARE WEAK

The gates of the mysterious here after opened the other day and received the former Emperor, Charles, of Austria, exiled on the island of Madeira.

Charles before his downfall was one of the rulers of the earth. Yet a few germs, so small that millions of them could dance on a dime, crept into his his system and had him at their mercy.

King or slave, rich man or beggar, all look alike to the devil and the germ. They are no respecter of persons.

Watchmen get their havoc, we realize that men are mighty only among themselves, in their own estimation in their own vanity.

ations became a scandal and the news of his activities is understood to have reached the White House. He was asked to pitch his tent elsewhere. He took the hint and his departure was expedited by an order from the executive to heads of departments to disregard his claims of special influence with the administration. When he shook the dust of Pennsylvania avenue from his well-groomed feet it is reported that he was richer by several hundred thousands for his sojourn in Washington. This man was a clever manipulator. He had the knack of dropping little intimations as to his alleged close personal relations with administration officials without appearing to do so. He had been a "fixer" in Ohio and professed to be able to arrange matters for those who had the price and wanted favors here. Whether he was able to deliver anything more tangible than promises is not ascertainable.

These are only a few instances of the modus operandi of the "social bloc" at Washington. Its tentacles reach out and form a network around government operations in the national capital.

AND BOTH ARE WAITING FOR A BITE



President Harding is here seen fishing with his friend, R. B. Creager, as the boat flops up and down in the water, is wondering if he will be named as American Ambassador to Mexico upon the recognition of the Obregon government.

N. C. RURAL CARRIERS WILL MEET IN SHELBY

Shelby, June 29.—Many social feasts have been planned for the convention of the North Carolina Rural Letter Carriers Association which meets here July 3rd and 4th. Shelby is expecting and planning for the entertainment of the largest crowd that has ever attended a convention of the carriers in North Carolina.

Monday afternoon at 6 o'clock the business men will take the visitors for a spin over our good roads and at 8 p. m. drive over to Cleveland Springs Park Hotel, a \$250,000 resort, where the Board of Trade will entertain with a fine banquet. Hon. W. D. Brown, editor of the R. F. D. News, Washington, D. C. and possibly Hon. H. H. Billany, Fourth Assistant Postmaster General, who has charge of the R. F. D. service will speak to the carriers. Three musical organizations of Shelby are on the program, the Cecelia Music Club, the Men's Chorus and Bobby Rudasill's string and jug club.

The convention will be presided over by State President, C. H. Howard who is also Vice President of the National Rural Carriers Association. Jas. S. Keever of Stony Point, N. C., is Secretary.

The carriers of Cleveland are very happy over the fine spirit being shown by the Shelby people for assisting in entertaining the carriers. There are nearly 1,500 rural carriers in different parts of the state who cover over 35,000 miles daily and handle over four million pieces of mail every week day in the year.

HOT BREAD ALL RIGHT

Hot bread is often thought to cause indigestion, but the United States Department of Agriculture says that when it does so it is because it lacks some of the characteristics of good bread, not because it is hot. Large or thick biscuits, whether raised with yeast, baking powder, or soda, are likely, if cooked only a short time to be soggy on the inside, and this, when it happens, is the objection to them, rather than the fact that they are served hot.

WORK ON WASHINGTON ROAD IS PROGRESSING NICELY

The Southern Willite Company is laying concrete at a rapid rate now, the usual output being about six hundred feet per day. This means that if they can put all their machinery in operation they can put down a mile of road in about eight days. If this pace can be held we should be able to drive the full distance to Washington long before Christmas.

HOW THINGS ARE DONE

Surgeons have operated successfully in a case of acute appendicitis on a man taken from the death house, Sing Sing Prison.

They believe he will have fully recovered by the time he is to be electrocuted.

Of course it would not do to let the man die of natural causes. That would be a reflection on our humanity.

We must take care for him nicely, or then kill him legally on a day fixed by a judge in a court of law.

Messrs. A. Hassell, Louis Bennett, Bill Carstaphen, L. B. Wynne, Jr., B. R. Barnhill, Richard Smith, and H. M. Stubbs attended the base-ball game at Tarboro yesterday.

Mr. Wilson Lamb of Wilson is in town today attending to business.

Europe is beginning to wonder if the rattle of the printing-press isn't about as sinister as the rattle of machine-guns.—Lansing News.

FORMER HERTFORD BANKER ON TRIAL

Hertford, June 29.—After recessing from 11:15 o'clock yesterday morning until 9:30 o'clock this morning because of illness of Judge W. M. Bond, presiding, much progress was made in the trial of H. C. Sullivan, former of the Farmers Bank & Trust Co., charged with embezzlement of \$60,000. The defendant is indicted on three counts but is only being tried on one of them for the present; namely, for selling bonds and misappropriating the money derived therefrom which had been placed with the bank as collateral on a loan.

First Witness

The first witness for the prosecution was J. S. McNider, owner of the bonds who testified that he had secured several loans from the bank and that he had placed the sum of \$14,850 in coupon bonds and \$1,965 in registered bonds as collateral security. He wished to liquidate the loan on January first last and called to pay the loan and have his bonds returned. The accused put him off from time to time stating that the bonds had been sent away to borrow money for the bank, the witness said. Finally, when the witness found that the bonds and note were not forthcoming as he thought they should, he became suspicious and informed H. C. Stokes, president of the bank, as to the delay in the matter, stating that he would wire the state bank examiner if something was not done immediately.

Director Testifies

The next witness on the stand was J. T. Brian, a director of the bank, who testified that he heard the conversation between McNider and Stokes and that he later went down to the bank to see about a note of his own. While there Sullivan was confronted by Stokes about the bonds and the accused man admitted that he had sold them besides misappropriating thirty thousand dollars of the bank's money, Mr. Brian said. The witness stated further that Sullivan said he had been doing these things all his life and did not deserve any sympathy. Later the directors had a meeting at the Smith Drug Co., where Sullivan again admitted his guilt and stated the money had gone in to the Eastern Peanut Company, of which he was president. On cross examination, the witness denied that the directors had taken notes and collateral security for the shortage and agreed that it would be all right.

Judge Bond Ill

The case received an unexpected setback Wednesday at two o'clock the hour for the convening of the afternoon session of court, when it was announced by Solicitor Ehringhaus that, due to the illness of Judge Bond court was to be adjourned to 9:30 o'clock this morning. Hundreds of disappointed spectators who had thronged the courtroom in anticipation of a highly interesting court session, many of whom were ladies, filed out of the old court house, and went their several ways.

Judge Bond had complained in the morning that something he had eaten hadn't agreed with him, and that he wasn't feeling well. With his characteristic determination, however, he went to the courtroom Wednesday morning and presided over proceedings until the jury had been selected a few minutes after eleven o'clock. He then immediately returned to the Hertford Hotel and retired.

The defendant reached the court house Wednesday shortly before the opening of court. As usual, he did not appear particularly perturbed, and sat without visible display of emotion through the morning session, close beside the attorneys representing him. He was accompanied by his wife, an attractive woman who looked to be in her early twenties, and who was also perfectly calm. Sullivan's two brothers, and his two fathers-in-law, Postmaster J. P. Jessup and Justice of the Peace J. W. Darden, occupied chairs close beside him.

The only person in the little group that comprised the defendant and his closest relatives upon whose face were limned the traces of mental anguish was Sullivan's aged mother, Mrs. Samuel Sullivan, who had come from her home at Culppeper, Virginia, on Saturday night to be with her son in the hour of his need. The father did not come for the reason, it is stated, that he is seriously ill.

The Sullivans are natives of Kentucky. Some years ago, H. C. Sullivan, the defendant in the case now in process of trial, moved to Suffolk, Va., and accepted employment there. Some six years ago he was elected cashier of the then newly-organized Farmers Bank and Trust Company, and shortly afterward the Sullivan family moved to Culppeper, Va., where they now are living.

MEXICAN BANDITS RELEASE CAPTIVES

Washington, June 29.—Mexican rebels who seized the Aguda camp of the Cortez Oil Company in the Tampico region Sunday holding the property and forty American employes for 15,000 pesos ransom, withdrew on Monday without damage or injury to the employes, but with threats to return, Consul Shaw, at Tampico, today advised the State Department. A later message said the same rebels yesterday seized a camp of the La Corona Oil Company, a Dutch-British concern, in the same vicinity and were holding 85 employes, including about six Americans.

Dispatch Indefinite

The dispatch did not indicate whether ransom had been paid in the case of the Aguda camp, which is an American owned concern. On the strength of the second message sent last night the State Department directed the embassy in Mexico City to make new demands on the Mexican government for protection of the Americans employed by the Dutch-British company.

Consul's Message

Consul Shaw, telegraphing yesterday from Tampico, said that the rebel leader, Corozave, and his men, left the Aguda camp of the Cortez Company at 10 o'clock Monday morning. This was 24 hours before the time limit set by Corozave for payment of the ransom demanded had expired and the message did not say whether payment had been made. The consul reported further that Corozave had threatened on leaving the American camp to come back and seize the property of La Corona, which is among the Dutch Shell interests, and also property of the Mexican Gulf Company in the vicinity. The rebel leader said he would demand payment of ransom on these properties by July 2.

Consul Shaw also reported that two detachments of Mexican Federal troops had been dispatched to the Tampico region by boat from Vera Cruz.

Second Message

The second message from Consul Shaw was sent last night, reaching the State Department early today. It said that Corozave had taken the Pebrero camp of the La Corona Company during the day and was holding the 85 men employed there among whom the Consul estimated there were about six Americans. Corozave had demanded, the message said, 9,000 pesos before July 2.

The second message from Tampico was immediately transmitted by the State Department to Charge Summerlin in Mexico City with directions that Mexican authorities be informed of the situation and asked to take appropriate steps for the protection of Americans involved in the new bandit raid.

A message from Mr. Summerlin last night reported that A. Bruce Bielaski, former American government official captured by bandits near Pionavaca and held for ransom, had obtained his release, but gave no details.

RECENT RAINS HELPED CROPS

The recent rains helped the crops throughout the county. Some of the young tobacco that looked to be entirely worthless last week may come out again and make a little something. The general opinion is that the crop will be about 40 per cent short on account of the rains of two weeks ago. Some say it will be 50 percent off, but we think from our observations that it will be nearer 40 percent.

Some of the other crops are damaged, but they have time to come out and make a fair yield. The fellows that are giving the crop good attention are not going to be so very bad off except where the tobacco was drowned entirely.