

The Great Economy Act . . .

Amid President Truman's charges that the present Congress is the worst Congress the nation has ever had and Congress' charges that President Truman is the worst president the nation has ever had an interesting article appears in The American Scholar which deserves comment. The article, entitled "The Great Economy Act," deals with the record of the 80th Congress in its efforts to reduce government expenditures.

The author, Simon O. Lesser, has worked as a government official and has done extensive writing. His analysis of the Republican Congress' attempt to reduce expenditures without harmfully affecting any essential government agency should cause us all to pause and think. President Truman submitted to Congress a budget calling for the expenditure of an estimated \$37.5 billion for the year 1948. Further considerations by the President, the Budget Board and other government agencies reduced this amount to \$30.9 billion.

Congress then took an ax to this budget and promised great reductions, estimated by Representative John Tabor at \$12 billion. After much consideration and debate the lawmakers finally settled on a much smaller cut of \$2.7 billion.

The author of the article then pointed out that to arrive at this figure the Republicans found it necessary to use some questionable bookkeeping tactics, such as appropriating a certain amount for an agency and then authorizing none, or at best just a small portion of the appropriation. When such matters as these are considered the great economy drive actually involved a cut of only \$1.7 billion.

However, Lesser pointed out, even this cut made it necessary for many government agencies to curtail their activities. In the long run this will prove to cost the taxpayers more money than the amount saved by the cut.

Illustrating this Lesser cited the \$20 million cut in the funds for the Treasury Department. That cut had to be borne almost entirely by the Enforcement Division whose job is to investigate income tax returns. Past experience has proven that every dollar invested in this division repays \$20 in recoverable funds which re-

sult from false statements on income tax forms. Simple arithmetic shows that to save \$20 million Congress sacrificed \$400 million.

That is just one example. Others are cut-backs on reclamation projects, hydroelectric plant construction, and innumerable other projects where a delay or stoppage results in a loss of money.

The author emphasized that there were many government agencies that needed large cuts in their funds, but in the long run, the \$1.7 billion dollar cut in the 1948 budget will not save the taxpayers money, but will cost them additional millions of dollars.

This economy drive which was pronounced to be such a great thing may end up to be nothing but a miserable failure. It could have been much worse, but, on the other hand, the record could also have been much better.

Lesser's article dealt only with the financial struggles of the 80th Congress. There were many other pieces of legislation which were needed and provided. But in the future, Congress would do well to look ahead before grabbing the economy axe and striding down the road of popularity, swinging its two edge blade right and left in a frenzied effort to clear the road for its constituents. Its short sighted swinging of the axe in the past seems to have connected with more constituents than it has their enemy—high taxes.

The New York Times commented on the negligible results of the economy drive and its disappointment was evident. Lapsing into circus metaphor, it declared: "Those who remember their circus-going days will recall the death-defying act, which was the highlight of the day. They will remember that just before the roll of drums that preceded the climactic moment, the top-hatted master of ceremonies would step forward and make a brief announcement. It was an admonition to the audience, and we think it is one that may be appropriately repeated for the benefit of those who are inclined to wax too enthusiastic at this stage over the Republican's economy act. What the master of ceremonies said on such occasions: 'Kindly withhold your applause until the act is over.'"

We Again Welcome . . .

The Republican National Convention, which gets under way in Philadelphia Monday, will be the kick-off for the 1948 presidential campaign.

In an effort to provide our readers with a complete and comprehensive picture of the important proceedings which this campaign will feature, The Battalion has gone to great expense and no little labor to obtain for its readers an eminent journalist and famous foreign correspondent who will cover the 1948 election campaign for this paper.

This journalist's many important contacts with all the leading figures of the world rank him as a man who will be able to present to our readers, through his column, a comprehensive behind the scenes review of the major events of this election year.

Beginning today, The Battalion will once again proudly present to its readers the eminent observer of all things political, Ivan Yantis.

Mr. Yantis' column will be featured in The Battalion when news events important enough to warrant his valuable attention occur.

(From the Detroit Free Press)
One of the most interesting events for the ladies will take place on Wednesday . . . when there will be a petting and approach contest on the golf course.

Rubberized Swim Caps; flesh-colored caps that tie under the chin.—Adv. in the San Francisco News.
Sounds treacherous in deep water.

Now that spring weather is in the air those pesky wasps that have been hiding in the attic of your house appear. Here are a few suggestions to use to rid yourself of them.

The wasps can be destroyed by the use of a poison bait. The bait is made by stirring a teaspoon of paris green, or of common white arsenic in a cupful of syrup or honey. The syrup should be moderately thick. After the poison is thoroughly mixed throughout the syrup the bait should be dabbed or mopped at places on the windowsill because the wasps usually frequent the windows. Be sure to keep your children away from this poison. This may not kill them at once but gradually they will all die.—Dutchess County Farm Bureau News.

We've just been told of a busy housewife who mailed a couple of checks to her bank for deposit and absent-mindedly signed her note of transmittal "Love, Janice." Back came a duplicate of her deposit slip, signed, with a debonair flourish, "Love, Bankers Trust Company."
—The New Yorker

A California court has approved a new contract for M-G-M's Margaret O'Brien, whereby the nine-year-old will receive \$2,500 weekly. The three-year contract will bring her \$300,000—so Margaret needn't worry where her next ice cream cone is coming from.

WANTED—Easier geometry tests!
—Kent School News.
Easier geometry tests and harder spelling tests.

The Battalion

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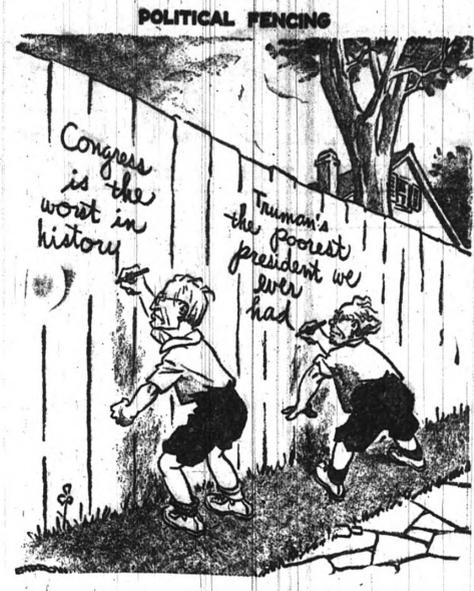
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Yantis Heeds Call of Politics; Begins Journey to Philadelphia

By IVAN YANTIS
ENROUTE TO THE REPUBLICAN CONVENTION—I am on the road again.

Just three nights ago I looked at my scrap book and thought of last year's trip. As I began to relive those wonderful days in Paris, I heard a knock on my door.

Suddenly the door swung open and a figure clad in white entered. I thought of the Klu Klux Klan and ran to the nearest window, prepared to make a speedy departure.

I answered the cries of "Gig em Aggies" and "You tell em Pinky" by saying a few words to the crowd. Since I had hoped to inspire them with the fire that glows in the heart of every Texan, I spoke to them of bringing the battleship Missouri home to rest. For some unknown reason they did not appreciate my suggestion.

Visiting the local office of the Young Republicans, I was informed that to enter the north country I must first get rid of Ambrosia. With sadness in my heart I removed my pack and carried the hide of that magnificent Brazos County tractor. Then I led her through the streets of the city to the zoo where my efforts to trade her for an elephant were not successful.

Despite the sadness at severing my last tie with home, I sold the mule that had been my friend and constant companion on the long journey. Attaching a Texas license plate to my new, second hand motor scooter I rode off into the east where the sun was rising over the Mississippi River which is really a dry gully compared to the broad blue waters of the Brazos.

I plan no stops until I get to Louisville where I shall speak for a few minutes to the cream of Kentucky journalists. LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY (By carrier pigeon)—As the sun moved down the horizon in the west, my faithful scooter slowly made its way into the land of the Kentucky Colonel and the home of the mint julep.

I had colonels shining my shoes, pressing my trousers and making my bed. Little time was wasted in getting around to campaign conversation and I found most of the people in favor of a presidential election.

I ordered steak at one of the most famous eating places in the state. It is known as "My Old Kentucky Home." (Editor's note—Are you still with us?) The steak was as big as my hand and thinking back to Texarkana I mourned for the home folks and those good KC steaks from Brazos County.

After accepting an invitation to speak at the county fair in Louisville next year, I said goodbye to my friends and set out for the smoky city of Pittsburgh.

PITTSBURGH, PA. (By US Mule)—People here are not civilized. I went into a restaurant and ordered blackeyed peas ala Dime Box, corn pone and sorghum syrup. They said they had never heard of it.

Right then and there I lost my temper. I told them that they were talking to a friend of the next president of the United States. I further warned them that when he was elected Pennsylvania would be kicked out of the union. They wanted to know who I was supporting for president. In keeping with my original plan, I seized upon this opportunity to tell the world that I was supporting Roosevelt and Dewey.

The crowd snorted and jeered. They wanted to know what I meant, supporting a Republican and a Democrat. I lost my temper again and told those illiterates a thing or two. I reminded them of Roosevelt and his Rough-Riders at San Juan Hill. I told them of Admiral Dewey's courageous work at the battle of Manila Bay. Somehow they didn't seem to remember.

If there is anything I hate it is ingratitude. I am sick of Pittsburgh. As I take my leave of their soot covered streets I make a mental note to speak to my candidate about the situation here.

My next report will come to you directly from the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel in Philadelphia.

Trampling Out the Vintage . . . Elbow-Benders Take Heed; New Disease Contagious

By CHUCK MAISEL
It seems as though there is no type of writer who is immune to the wrath of the proofreader. A skywriter smoking out the glories of Pepsi Cola in the blue dome above Dallas yesterday drew his "S" backward. Noticing the mistake, he hastily backtracked to the offending letter, drew a huge "X" through it and substituted the correct letter above.

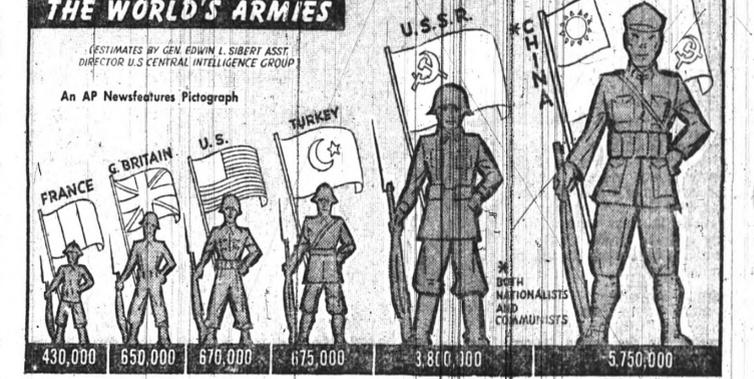
Elbow-benders in the American forces in Japan are suffering from an occupational disease. Those who frequent Japanese saloons have found their elbows are breaking out in a rash caused by the lacquer painted on the bars. Most of the better Japanese bars are coated with a lacquer containing the chemical urushiol. This compound affects 80 percent of the Americans who lean against it, but Jap elbows seem to be immune. Local clean-up campaigners take note—it simply can't happen here.

The old tune of "Blame it on the Weather" has undergone revisions and is now called "Blame it on Petrillo." The chief singers of this new ditty are the Juke-Box-Owners Quartet. These purveyors of popular music are complaining that

since the Petrillo ban on new recordings, they have nothing left for the public except soulful songs of gay ninety vintage. Oh, well, "Put on Your Old Grey Bonnet" is nice to dance to.

West, Carrollton, Ohio's fire captain, William Aufushish was very proud of his company's brand spanking new \$10,000 pumper. He felt an inner glow when he at last got a chance to use the machine on the biggest fire the little city has seen in years, a \$10,000 warehouse blaze, but to his consternation, the contraption broke down right in the middle of the fire-fighting. So enraged was the good captain by heckling from bystanders that he tossed his fire hat to the ground, stamped on it, and resigned from the force. Another tragedy of the industrial age.

The New Jersey delegates to the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia this summer complain that they have been called a nasty name. It seems as though the host city got its welcome mats mixed and sent the disciples of Jefferson letters congratulating them on their being selected delegates to the Republican National Convention. If it had been certain southern delegates, the mistake may have gone unnoticed.



He's Swinging GOP . . .

Dr. Nance Sees Big Things For Republicans This Year

By CHUCK MAISEL
In no other single group on the campus is there so much difference of opinion concerning the forthcoming presidential election as in the history department. Perhaps this is a good barometer of just what odds the nation is going to be at when November rolls around.

At this point, the Battalion has interviewed Drs. S. R. Gammon and P. G. Woods of that department. Those interviews presented two entirely different viewpoints, and today Dr. J. M. Nance gives the Batt a third outlook on the affair.

While Dr. Nance believes that any president must possess certain qualifications—of which he names ability, tact, diligence, honesty, courageousness, and the making of decisions promptly, intelligently, and in a clear-cut fashion—there are other characteristics he must have or acquire by convention time. He must be a successful politician, have a good radio-voice; a pleasing, unoffending personality; be a "party regular;" must not have committed himself on too many controversial issues, and thereby offended numerous small groups; and from the nature of our federal system be a key, doubtful vote, with a large electoral vote. If he is not from the doubtful state himself, he must be able to control the vote of such state or states. As Nance puts it, history indicates that the next president will likely be from "east of the Mississippi and north of the Ohio."

Dr. Nance proceeded to make a survey of the various party "aspirants" for the party nomination on the party tickets for the presidency. While Arthur Vandenberg is supposedly the leading internationalist in the Senate, before the war he was an avowed isolationist and only publicly renounced that policy in January, 1945. Nance believes that, as all other men of intelligence and statesmanlike qualities had long before divorced isolationism, the gentleman from Michigan might strongly be suspected of hopping on a bandwagon. However, this belated conversion to internationalism is not the important factor in Nance's opinion. Michigan's 19 electoral votes and the fact that he has been virtually a blank on domestic matters will be Vandenberg's nemesis, he says.

Joe Martin of Massachusetts has the advantage of being a party regular, but his policies are not clear-cut enough to get Nance's vote. Although he has been in Congress 22 years, his name is not attached to a single important bill. Nance is doubtful if he would make a much better president than Truman.

As for "the boy wonder," Stassen, Nance gives him credit for being a tireless and friendly campaigner, but he feels that the midwesterner might be like William Jennings Bryan, who "talked too much." Stassen appears to be "all things to all men," and since 1946 has done nothing but talk. He might obtain the vice-presidential nomination of the Republican Party to catch the midwest and independent vote. He is a pre-Pearl Harbor internationalist, while most of the Republic "big-wigs" were more recently converted to the U. S.

assuming a leadership in world affairs. Besides, he is friendly to labor, and the labor vote will be considered at the Philadelphia Convention, but it will not be sufficiently important to get him the highest office.

Taft is too dogmatic—he says what he means and means what he says—but this quality, while it may be admired and commended, is not always wise on the part of a "hopeful" politician. It often offends. The historian says "he is lacking in tact; and although men should be forthright, it does not always pay dividends in politics." He thinks that Bob is intellectually honest and energetic, but feels that his dry, cold, and uninspiring manner alienates many votes. He has probably taken a stand on more issues than any man in Congress, and is an able supporter of the rights of the individual and hostile to "big government." According to Nance, the rank and file of labor support the Taft-Hartley Act, but the labor leaders want no part of the act or its authors, although he was the first to oppose Truman's draft labor bill. Taft might get a good many labor votes. "His domestic policy is forthright and sound, but his attitude on foreign affairs may not make him the best president that the nation could have."

Nance dismisses Earl Warren of California with the statement that he is a "fence-straddler" from a western state which has 25 electoral votes, which are not likely to be in demand this year by the Republican party. "Although a good organizer, sound planner, and honest," he says a lot and does very little. He is by no means a party "regular," having appointed both Democrats and Republicans to office. While party lines may eventually be revamped in this country, we need not expect a realignment of parties this year. Wallace is a "dreamer" and the "cob-webs" too often get in the way of his thinking. There is no serious third party movement in the nation today. Eisenhower and MacArthur would be of greater service in their jobs as military men, than as President. The former could probably get the nomination and become president on anybody's ticket but Wallace's, but professional soldiers who have been presidents in the past were never very happy in their new job. No one seems to know what Eisenhower stands for, and since he says he is not running, Nance supposes that is all right.

The professor believes that Governor Thomas E. Dewey is the most likely candidate to receive the Republican nomination, having both the qualifications for the job and the requirements necessary to securing the nomination and winning the election. He terms the New York governor, "an experienced leader who has followed an intelligent course between left and right." Like Warren, Stassen, and Taft he is a college educated man (Vandenberg has one year of college, training and Martin none). He supports many of the "new deal" social reforms; advocates "limited" support of farm prices; lower taxes; a balanced budget; strong national defense; Taft-Hartley Act; and on the international side: reciprocal trade agree-

GERMAN UNIVERSITIES GET U. S. STUDENTS

BERLIN —(P)—American students are again enrolling in German universities for summer courses. More than 120 American students are enrolled for study at the universities of Marburg, Munich and Heidelberg in the U. S. zone of Germany. In addition, 600 applications have been received by the education division of the American Military government from students in Sweden, Holland, Belgium, France, Switzerland and England. The courses open July 24. They are intended to foster international understanding among university students. Organized around a central theme such as "Man in Today's World," they are conducted in political science, economics, sociology, history and comparative religion.