

WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

When Gift Taking Sparked Firing

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON, June 28.—Recent revelations regarding Sherman Adams, his gifts, and his influencing of government agencies, make me regret a column I wrote on Feb. 14, 1952. It pertained to another case of gift receiving inside the government.

I reported that Clovis Walker, head of the Agriculture Department's cotton branch, had received some gifts from an Egyptian cotton broker named Loutfy Mansour, in the form of Egyptian glassware and silver. I also reported that Walker had given Mansour, in return, some electrically illuminated pictures which he makes.

The column also called attention to the fact that the Egyptian cotton broker had cornered 17,500 bales of cotton just before the Agriculture Department suddenly decided to buy Egyptian cotton and had cleaned up. But the column did not accuse Walker of giving any inside information to his friend, Mansour.

Following publication of the column, Walker was promptly removed by scrupulous Charlie Brannan, then Secretary of Agriculture for Truman. Walker had a good record as a civil servant and career official, but in those days more people were removed from office than in the present administration. He was also tried in U. S. District

Court for a conflict of interest—which has not happened to any of the conflict-of-interest officials in the Eisenhower administration.

IN THE END, and after a lengthy trial, Walker was acquitted. The trial cost him most of his savings and he is now living in retirement in Florida on a meager income.

There are some interesting parallels between Mr. Walker and Mr. Sherman Adams. Adams has received gifts in excess of \$5,000; Clovis Walker received gifts of about \$100. Adams had admitted intervening in Federal agencies on behalf of his benefactor, Mr. Goldfine.

There was no evidence that Mr. Walker intervened for Mr. Mansour. Walker was fired and tried before a Federal court. Mr. Adams has been retained. In one administration the charge was "corruption." In another administration the charge was "imprudence." Under the circumstances, I

owe an apology to Mr. Walker, which I hereby tender.

"No Gifts"—Sherman

The White House used to be much more careful about receiving gifts—at least, certain kinds of gifts. When professor Alexander Mac Beath of Dublin University wrote a treatise on "Plea for Heretics" it was printed in pamphlet form by John G. Moore of Pasadena, Calif., and sent to leaders of American public opinion, and among others to President Eisenhower.

The pamphlet was returned by the White House, together with a note which read: "The White House, regretfully, returns this as we can accept no gifts." Signed "Sherman Adams."

Under the Dome

Sen. Tom Hennings of Missouri, former president of the St. Louis chapter of Big Brothers and chosen "Big Brother of the Year, 1955," has reported a bill unanimously out of the Senate Judiciary Committee granting a Federal charter to the "Big Brothers of America." The organization gives advice and counsel to fatherless boys or boys in trouble.

Mystery Voice

The super-duper-secret Central Intelligence Agency is baffled. It's supposed to have more eyes and ears around the world than the Kremlin itself, but it can't identify a mysterious heckler who has been badgering the cloak-and-dagger boys.

For months the mystery voice has been placing long-distance phone calls to CIA chief Allen Dulles, from different parts of the USA. The calls are usually switched to the security forces. No matter who takes the calls,



CLOVIS WALKER
\$100 cost him his job.

the same voice always asks the same question.

"Hello, Allen!" he booms cheerfully. "I just wanted to ask whether everything is all right!"

Then the mysterious caller hangs up. CIA sleuths are still not able to solve the mystery.

Merry-Go-Round

Congress is so bogged down with legislation it will not be able to adjourn until mid-August—despite the itch to get out and campaign for the coming elections . . . Secretary of State Dulles, once worried about de Gaulle, is now feeling better. He thinks de Gaulle may in the end stabilize France . . . Plans are still under way to make Edward Sparks, the U.S. Ambassador to Venezuela, the goat for the Venezuelan riots against Nixon, despite Sparks' fine record in Bolivia and Guatemala. (By The Bell Syndicate, Inc.)