

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

Farmers Wonder About Hubert

By Drew Pearson

Out in the big dairying state of Minnesota, farmers are wondering just how much influence their boy Hubert has with the man in the White House.

Hubert Humphrey, now Vice President of the United States and a very persuasive gentleman, has long been the idol of the Farmer-Labor Party, was also touted as the farmer's friend in the entire Midwest.

But since his No. 1 friend, Lyndon, substituted oleomargarine for butter in the armed forces, every dairy farmer is skeptical.

On top of this, the White House has let it be known that more dairy products will be imported from New Zealand and Denmark in order to reduce prices further.

Death on the Highway

Inside reason why Rep. T. Ashton Thompson of Louisiana was smashed to death while parked alongside a North Carolina highway was given by Jimmy Hoffa, head of the Teamsters, when testifying before the Senate Commerce Committee on Auto Safety.

"His death was caused by a 'gypsy' operator who had been on the highway 21 consecutive



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hours in violation of ICC maximum-hour standards and who suffered from glaucoma in both eyes as well as diabetes," said Hoffa.

"The accident reports show that the driver testified that he did not see the late Congressman Thompson's car parked by the side of the road at the time the crash occurred."

Jimmy Hoffa, who maintains strict standards for his union members, emphasized to Senators that most trucking accidents are caused by "gypsy" truckers, not affiliated with the union, therefore not checked by the union.

Enforcing safety standards on these gypsy truckers, he said, would require thousands of Federal inspectors.

"As an alternative to a large corps of Federal inspectors," he said, "I recommend that the Secretary of Commerce be directed to impose regulation responsibility on the shipper and/or on the trucker."

Senate-Go-Round

If you wonder why Newsweek's recent defense of Sen. Tom Dodd differed materially from accounts in this column, ask Sam Shaffer, author of the Newsweek story. He admits he spent 24 hours on the story. Jack Anderson spent four weeks . . . Shaffer pumped a nine-line column reference regarding a Persian rug given Dodd by Gen. Julius Klein as a major issue. He never took the trouble to look

inside the Dodd home. It's full of Persian rugs . . . Shaffer claimed Dodd never delivered the speeches Gen. Klein wrote for him. But Sam didn't read the Congressional Record. Take for instance the Senator's private letter to Klein Sept. 18, 1961: "I am sorry I couldn't reach you late Friday, as I made my statement on the floor of the Senate as I assume you know."

Here is a marked copy of the Congressional Record . . .

The Senator from Connecticut not only delivered speeches in the Senate written for him by the PR man from Chicago, but outside the Senate. One Klein ghostwritten speech delivered in Chicago by Dodd lauded the Italians. Julius's chief clients were West Germans, but he was then reported trying to get an Italian PR account. It always helps to be able to show a client that you have a U.S. Senator in your hip pocket.

War and Politics

Here's how the war in Vietnam is influencing Midwest politics. Iowa candidate for the Senate against Sen. Jack Miller, Republican, is another Republican, named Herbert F. Hoover, of Oskaloosa. Hoover is campaigning on the charge that Lyndon Johnson failed to live up to his campaign promises on the Vietnam war and that Sen. Miller, Republican, has supported him.

He quotes Mr. Johnson on Aug. 12, 1964: "Some others

are eager to enlarge the conflict. They call upon us to supply American boys . . . They ask us to take reckless action which might risk the lives of millions. Such action would offer no solution at all to the real problems on Vietnam."

Republican candidate Hoover adds, "a special responsibility lies upon Republicans to prevent Jack Miller, colonel in the Air Force Reserve, from delivering the Republican party to war profiteers."

The Lady From Maine

LBJ doesn't know it, but his Justice Department has under consideration for U.S. Attorney in Maine a member of the old McCarthy gang that conspired to defeat Sen. Margaret Chase Smith in 1954.

During McCarthy's heyday, Sen. Smith had the courage to initiate the "declaration of conscience" against his unfair persecution of witnesses, and McCarthy tried to defeat her. He encouraged a group in Biddeford, Maine — Bob Jones, Charles Koutalides, Smokey Stover Jr., lobbyist for the American Trucking Association, and Lloyd Lafontaine, to work against Mrs. Smith's reelection. They failed.

However, the FBI is now in Maine checking on the background of Lafontaine for an appointment as U.S. Attorney.

NOTE: In the Senate, LBJ and Mrs. Smith were good personal friends.

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