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The Man Almost Everybody Likes Leaves Washington

By STEWART ALSOP

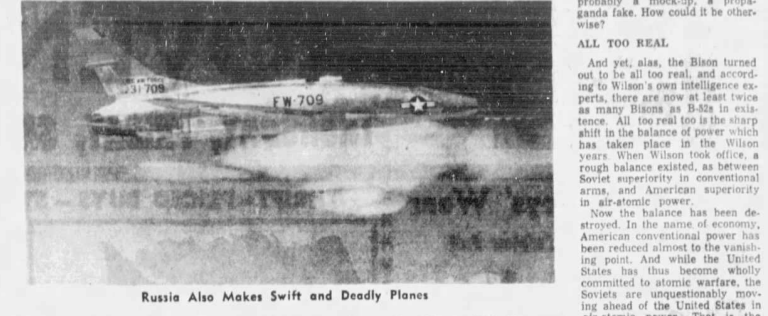
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE Charles E. Wilson will leave Washington, if not exactly trailing a cloud of glory, at least not un-fully aware that almost everybody likes him. It is impossible to read the other day when some have tried very hard.

For a thoroughly honest, essentially simple man is a hard man to dislike, and that is what Wilson is. Jesse Ann Wilson, the secretary's indomitable spouse, was quite right the other day when she revealed that "Mr. Wilson came as a great shock" because "he spoke the simple truth in a place where politics is the native tongue." Secretary Wilson has spoken the truth — and as he saw the truth — and no one can doubt that he is not only an honest man, but a man who has honestly tried to do his best.

And yet, how good has that best been?

Some Facts In all fairness, certain facts must be considered in trying to answer that question. The first fact to bear in mind is that Wilson joined an administration absolutely committed to a balanced budget and reduced taxes. The administration could not conceivably honor its commitment without sharp reductions in defense expenditures.

The second fact to bear in mind is that Wilson became secretary of Defense at almost the precise moment when the Soviets, who had concentrated on building defensive air strength during the period when the United States had a near-monopoly of offensive air-atomic power, switched priorities. From about 1952 onwards, the Soviets gave absolute priority,



Russia Also Makes Swift and Deadly Planes

first to breaking the American air-atomic monopoly, and then to gaining superiority in that field.

Wilson cannot be blamed, after all, because the Soviets exploded their first hydrogen bomb in August, 1953, a few short months after he had taken office. It was not his fault that they tested their first intercontinental jet bomber less than two years after he had become secretary of defense. It was not his fault that they began testing their first intermediate missiles in 1953, or that they tested their first prototype version of an intercontinental missile this year. It was not Wilson's fault, if you will, that he was caught in a trap, almost from the day he became secretary of Defense. He was trapped between the administration's commitment to reduce taxes and balance the budget, on the one hand, and the mounting evidence

that the Soviets were achieving a decisive air-atomic superiority on the other.

Another man might have reacted to this situation by insisting that American superiority in air-atomic power must be maintained at whatever cost. But Wilson's background did not prepare him to react in such a way.

BRILLIANT CLIMB

In his long, hard, brilliantly successful climb from an Ohio farm boyhood to the pinnacle of the business world he had not had time to think very much about such abstruse matters as the balance of power. Testifying before a Senate committee last year, he cast a revealing light on his remarkably simple way of interpreting great historic events. It was, he said, "Too bad that the Rus-

sians did away with the Czars completely." If they only had a few Czars around, he continued seriously, "then the Russians would hate them," and "they would not be hating us so much."

Along with this remarkably uncomplicated view of Soviet motives, Wilson has had an absolute conviction of American industrial and technical superiority, natural to a man of his background. The Russians are just imitators, he believes, and their weapons "really came out of the Western world."

He has instinctively rejected any evidence to the contrary. Thus, in 1954, the Soviets tested their first B-52 heavy jet bomber, having built it on radically new design principles in half the time it took the United States to build the B-52. The plane, Wilson said, was

probably a mock-up, a propaganda fake. How could it be other-

ALL TOO REAL

And yet, alas, the B-52 turned out to be all too real, and according to Wilson's own intelligence experts, there are now at least twice as many B-52s in existence. All too real too is the sharp shift in the balance of power which has taken place in the Wilson years. When Wilson took office, a rough balance existed, as between Soviet superiority in conventional arms, and American superiority in air-atomic power.

Now the balance has been destroyed. In the name of economy, American conventional power has been reduced almost to the vanishing point. And while the United States has thus become wholly converted to atomic warfare, the Soviets are unquestionably moving ahead of the United States in air-atomic power. That is the



CHARLES E. WILSON The Charles E. Wilson Who Fakes Fly

legacy which Fakes Fly, Wilson, a likeable and honorable man, leaves to his unlucky successor, Neil McElroy.

GOP Hunts Ever-Hatching Political Eggs

IF ANY civil rights bill is likely to advance Negro suffrage in areas where it is now denied, it is the measure approved by the Senate.

The Senate compromise is endorsed almost unanimously by those who have charged southern barricades for years in futile attempts to fetch home to concentrations of minority voters some sort of civil rights legislation. They think it is a significant victory for their cause. It is. They believe also that it is meaningful legislation. It could be. Certainly anything stronger will be resisted endlessly in the folkways where it is meant to apply.

Yet powerful Republican conservatives making their maiden bow in the civil rights arena are increasingly scornful of the compromise. They insist on striking the Senate jury trial amendment which, they assert, makes the bill impotent. GOP House leader Joseph Martin is visiting the President, talks of a special session of Congress if the amendment is not removed. There also is talk of a veto.

The situation really is not so confusing as it seems. It is merely an attempt by the Eisenhower administration to make the political eggs in its civil rights basket hatch at each successive election. The strategy is to picture the administration as the unchallengeable champion of the racial minorities, whether or not any legislation is finally approved at this session. The fact that it is not a new technique makes it no less cynical.

The administration position offers real comfort right to the minorities who want civil rights legislation nor to the southern states which oppose it. To the minorities it says this first civil rights legislation passed since Reconstruction days mustn't be accepted because it isn't strong enough. To the South it says rejection of the current measure can be regarded only as a prelude to something more unpalatable.

The framers of the jury trial amendment couldn't disagree more with the administration argument that the amendment mutilates the bill.

One of them, Dean Chesson, gives this example of how the amendment would work:

Recently the press has carried stories of a registrar of voters who



"Heads I Win, Tails They Lose, Heads I Win . . ."

was preventing the registration of Negro voters by opening his office only for short periods when voters could not readily attend and by dilatory proceedings. In such a case, the United States attorney could, under the amendment, bring suit and the court could issue its decree ordering proper and effective registration. If his order should not be obeyed, the judge could put those defying him in jail or under continuing fines, until they should obey. If necessary he could order that no list of voters not made in accordance with his decree be certified or used. No jury would be required for these enforcement proceedings. Now let us assume that the registrar has attempted to deceive the judge, believing that he had complied, when he had not. Here is a situation where the law is enforced for—not coercion to enforce compliance, but retribution for a wrong. Before this punishment can be inflicted, the defendant must be found guilty by a jury. To say that this requirement nullifies the law is nonsense.

Surely the Senate measure has enough teeth to satisfy even the most fiery advocate of civil rights legislation—if that advocate is sincere.

If President Eisenhower is still studying the issue, surely he will arrive at the same conclusion.

The Condition Will Not Cure Itself

DESPITE fresh outbreaks of juvenile crime in New York and other U. S. cities, professional apologists still maintain that the whole juvenile delinquency problem is a teapot tempest.

Ralph W. Whelan, executive director of the New York City Youth Board, this week blamed newspaper publicity given "three isolated incidents of crime among youth" for what he called "an almost hysterical situation."

Mr. Whelan pointed out that youth crime had risen only 4.5 per cent in the first six months of this year, compared to a 22.3 per cent increase in 1956 over 1955.

The fact is that juvenile crime is on the rise.

It is also a fact that some of the recent examples of youthful criminality have been so revolting that they have sickened a whole nation. What is most frightening is the apparent senseless nature of many of the crimes. Some reason can be found, however reprehensible, for the Johnny Dicks of our society. "But what is to be said," asked the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* this week, "about the behavior of the 14-year-old member of the adolescent gang that called itself the 'Egyptian Kings' who, so far from taking refuge behind the Fifth Amendment, freely told the police about the orgiastic joy he felt in driving a butcher knife into the body of young Mickey Farmer until he could feel the blade striking against the vertebrae and ribs of the victim, and about how abjectly he (the murderer) had thanked his gang leader for his kindness in permitting him to be the executioner?"

It is this sort of thing that disturbs us—this atavistic impulse that is far more terrifying than civilized avice.

We are faced with a condition, not a theory. That condition is bad. It is getting worse. It calls for much thought—and action.

It matters not whether the problem is only a little worse than it was this time last year. The point is that it is bad here and now. That current preventive measures are not sufficient and that we had better get busy on an improved approach.

We do not pretend to know the cause of the condition or how best to combat it. The cause may be found, as some have suggested, in some deep and universal spiritual malaise to which the impressionable young are particularly susceptible. We do know that the problem needs attention, that it should be discussed, that it should not be pooh-poohed or hidden.

The condition certainly will not cure itself. Neither will it be cured by government fiat. It will require the best brains and experience available, facing the facts openly and honestly.

Don't Remind Us

IN reminding Mecklenburg yesterday that next month's county tax bills will be 32 per cent bigger, County Tax Supervisor Rufus A. Grier said he was trying to "soften the blow."

Thanks just the same. As the man explained while hitting himself over the head with a hammer, it will feel so good when he stops.

From The Greensboro Daily News

THE LAST OF LINDY'S

MISS North Carolina's trip to New York to get fitted out in Burlington Industries' gift wardrobe unexpectedly included a historic pilgrimage.

Miss Elaine Herndon of Durham, in the company of Mr. and Mrs. Emmet Atkins, dined at 1526 Broadway on one of the last days of Lindy's Restaurant. Less than a week later the guys and dolls paid their checks and Lindy's went dark—after 36 years of mirroring life on Broadway.

If Lindy's hadn't been famous anyway for its cheese cake and blintzes it would automatically insured immortality by the stories of Damon Runyon. As Meyer Berger explained in the New York Times Magazine, when Runyon began a story, "One evening about 7 o'clock, I am sitting in Mindy's, the whole country knew that when he wrote 'Mindy's he had changed only the initial.

The prototype of Nicely Nicely Johnson was a Lindy's patron, as were Sorowful Jones, Harry the Horse, Black Eye Willy and Sleep-out Louie. Some of Lindy's customers achieved almost a fic-

tional status so well did their "stage personalities" become known. Jack Benny, George Burns and Grace Allen, Al Jolson, Sophie Tucker and Fred Allen, to name a few.

Lindy's "little" restaurant spanned the era of bootleg and speakeasies, the demise of vaudeville and the rise of radio, "talking pictures" and TV. "It was," said Leo Lindemann, "like a first-born had died."

A housewife says the frequent commercials had their place. If it weren't for them, she never would get her housework done. — BARTOW COUNTY (GA.) HERALD.

A rookie pitcher strutted out on the mound for his first big league game and let fly his first pitch. The batter cracked it out of the park. The rookie glared at his opponent as he made his leisurely tour of the bases. "You lucky fool," he shouted. "You've insured up my no-hitter." —LAMAR (Mo.) DEMOCRAT.

'The Drifting Of The Boat Caused The Anchor To Rise' No Jokes

Like And George

By DORIS FLEESON



HERBLOCK 1957 THE WASHINGTON POST Co.

People's Platform

Reverse Filter Tips In Cigarette Packs

Editors, The News: NOT TOO long ago, two teenagers saw me open a pack of cigarettes from the bottom, and giggled at me as if they thought that I was something that no longer had a brain.

The truth of the matter is, I was trying to safeguard my own health, in a way. Filter tip cigarettes are the filthiest things in stores today with the exception of money, which carries more germs than the common fly.

The filter that goes into your mouth has to be yanked out of the pack with your filthy fingers

which, no doubt, just handed money, let an isolated ward of a contagious disease, or some other germ laden job.

Why not have the manufacturer turn the filter tip down and have the consumers burn the end that, from all laws of health, must carry germs.

—JAMES S. CONYERS

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WHEN you're in the Army, Navy, or Air Force and receive orders from your commanding officer to attend a social function, you obey. If you also get an order to contribute toward a present for the commander's wife, you also obey. For orders are orders in the armed forces.

However, mandatory social activity and compulsory generosity is not helping morale in the armed forces.

An Illustration

Here's an illustration of what happened at Lake Charles Air Force Base, La., when Col. Robert I. Barrowclough, retired as commander of the 68th Bombardment Squadron, received a letter from the deputy commander, Col. A. J. Bratton Jr. It read:

"The 68th Bombardment Wing will sponsor a farewell party for Col. and Mrs. Robert I. Barrowclough on the night of Friday, 19 July, 1957. Each officer of the wing will be charged the following amounts for the party by rank:

The Tab 1. Colonels \$25; 2. Lt. Colonels \$15; 3. Majors \$10; 4. Captains \$8.50; 5. Lieutenants \$7; Warrant Officers \$7. "Each squadron commander is respon-

Air Brass Resents Forced Party-Going

nable for collecting this amount from each officer in his squadron. This money must be turned in to the wing adjutant listed by name not later than 1700 hours, 3 July 57."

It was also explained that the above would include banquet, gifts for Mrs. Barrowclough.

The officers went. They contributed. Many of them were strong for the commander and his wife. But they felt a little less so after being required by mandatory order to ante up for their farewell party.

German Property

Every year as Congress is about to adjourn, there's a big push to return German wartime property to Germany. This is because it's sometimes easier to put a bill across during the closing rush of Congress when senators are anxious to go home and will sometimes pass almost anything to get lobbyists and legislation out of their hair.

Right now the pressure boys and "observers" are fluttering around Washington German property. Two figures are interesting. They are: German assets, former managing director of the Deutsche Bank under the Nazi regime of Adolph Hitler, today a director of the Seudeutsche Bank in

Germany. He also heads the "Society to Promote Protection of Foreign Investments" and has been ensconced in a suite at the Carlton Hotel in Washington, carefully eyeing the congressional scene.

Gen. Julius Klein, affable, persistent Illinois National Guard officer and one-time commander of the Jewish War Veterans, Klein is working for Abs.

Deny Lobbying

Both Klein and Abs deny that they are lobbying for the return of German property. Klein is especially vocal in denying that his organization, the Jewish War Veterans, has gone on record against the return of alien property seized in this country during the war. Some of its members are now critics of him. He has also protested vigorously against this column's assertion that his German client, Abs, is masterminding the drive to return German property.

Instead of Klein and Abs claim they are working for the "general principle" of non-expropriation of property.

\$40,000 Plus Gen. Klein is paid \$40,000 plus expenses to work for this "general principle." At first, Gen. Klein did not register with the Justice Department as a

role in the blood-soaked struggle to save the Union and his martyrdom as success was assured.

A JESTER

Lincoln, too, was a warm and human character and a story teller. No one can recall a joke told by Washington to this nation of joke-lovers.

Of Washington prior to the Revolution the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* says: "Washington then gave his associates no reason to consider him a man of uncommon endowments." But of Washington as President it states:

"He occupied a position in American public life and in the American political system which no man could possibly hold again, and may be said to have become a political element quite apart from the Union, or the states, or the people of either. The knowledge that Washington favored anything superseded, with very many men, both argument and the necessity of information. He had a quasi-paternal attitude toward government in general. . . It is even possible he might have had a crown had he been willing to accept it."

CUT TO FIT That Mr. Eisenhower had hoped he might be nominated by both parties is the testimony of his close associates. Washington, as of course, extended acclamation, the present party system being a later growth. Indeed, the office of President was cut to fit him and no one thought of anyone else.

That Mr. Eisenhower would prefer to remain above party is clear, though the present extremist party system which makes him the Republican political leader does not permit it. Clear, too, is his preference for high and generalized ground over administrative and legislative detail. Like the British crown, he often seems to want to "reign but not govern."

Presidents, like the rest of us, are entitled to their favorite Pres. eminent. Harry Truman's was Andrew Jackson, and it told much about Mr. Truman exactly as the Eisenhower choice reveals Mr. Eisenhower.

The Justice Department, however, took a contrary view. Its representative telephoned Gen. Klein with the friendly suggestion that he register. When Klein appeared reluctant, the Justice Department became firm. As a result, Gen. Klein registered as a foreign agent. There are now no ifs, ands, or buts about it.

Election Angle

Herrmann Abs also denies vigorously that he is lobbying for the return of German property. He does argue, however, that unless German assets are returned to Germany, Adenauer may lose the election on Sept. 15 and that a new Socialist government in Germany would come into power which would pull out of NATO.

This has now become the official view of the State Department. Secretary Hall once acted as the attorney for American bankers when they poured millions of dollars into Germany just before the war, he reversed his previous position.