

'Security' Firings Are 'Amateurish Political Fakery'

By STEWART & JOSEPH ALSOP

WASHINGTON
SINCE he returned from France to record the Presidency, Dwight D. Eisenhower has been sold a good many lemons in the name of "an act of politics." But about the worst lemon he has been sold yet is the strategy, worked out by certain of the Administration's amateur Machiavellis, for dealing with the "Communist issue."

As an example of this strategy in action, take the Administration's repeated boasts about the 1,456 - now 2,200 - people who have been fired from the government as "security risks." The privately admitted purpose of these "security firings" has been to "grab the Commie issue away from Joe McCarthy."

The idea has been to under-cut McCarthy by broadcasting the notion that the new administration found the government crawling with subversives; promptly fired the lot; and thus left McCarthy with nothing further to do but twiddle his thumbs. The story of the State Department's security firings demonstrates how this was to be accomplished.

A grand total of 208 State Department security firings have been announced. According to reliable sources, this impressive - even frightening - total was arrived at in the following manner. In the first place, the word was passed down through Assistant Secretary Scott McLeod's Security and Personnel Office that what was wanted was the largest possible total of such firings.

Two techniques - both palpatingly dishonest - were therefore used to swell the total. The first of these State Department employes who were in the process of resigning - always a considerable number, since there is a constant turnover - were carefully scrutinized. In the raw files of any government worker who is not a soubriety, there is pretty sure to be some morsel of gossip which can be labeled "derogatory information." Wherever the raw files provided the slightest excuse for so doing, the names of those who were resigning anyway were added - without their knowledge - to the grand total of State Department security firings.

About half the State Department total was arrived at in this way. If the same proportion holds throughout the government, there must be more than a thousand government workers who have

resigned with a clear conscience and what they thought to be a clear record, and who were nevertheless listed officially as having been fired as security risks.

ANOTHER TWIST
The second technique was just as dishonest. Large numbers of people were being transferred from the administrative control of the State Department to Harold Stassen's Foreign Aid outfit and to the newly independent Information Agency. Many of these people were transferred "with the warning flag up" and then listed as State Department security firings - although the great majority were cleared on further investigation, and never fired at all.

In the vast majority of these cases there was no question whatsoever of disloyalty or pro-Communism. In about nineteen out of twenty cases, the reason, if any, for the firing was heavy drinking, temperamental unsuitability, or the like. Where there was some pro-Communist charge, it was often on the order of the charge against one female government worker, who was accused of "sympathetic association" with her husband. This woman appealed the charge, and on further investigation her husband turned out to be a rather money fellow, who had never taken an interest in politics.

In short, there was not a single case of actual subversion in all the State Department's security firings - and it is doubtful if there was one such case throughout the government. Yet this number of Communists effectively was a pro-Communist government - and the government.

SCHEME EXPOSED
Under the circumstances, it is surprising that any self-respecting person at all would be so credulous as to believe that anyone should have thought that this amateurish political fakery should not be exposed for what it is. Apparently it never occurred to the geniuses who thought up the scheme that it would be exposed for a breakdown of the security firings.

Thus when reporters asked C. V. Sullivan, Communist Party National Chairman, and Philip Young for such a breakdown he could only reply fatuously

Seawell Backers Are On Solid Ground

HERBERT F. Seawell Jr. of Carthage has long been one of this state's most prominent and capable Republicans. He is also a capable lawyer.

As Republican candidate for governor in 1952, he conducted a high-level, rigorous campaign.

He is, by training and ability as well as by political considerations which enter into selection of U. S. attorneys, well-qualified for the job of U. S. attorney for North Carolina's Middle District, a position which he has openly sought, with the endorsement of a distinguished array of leading North Carolina Republicans and Democrats, members of the bench and bar.

No other candidate for the position is as well-qualified. None other has received any appreciable amount of support.

Yet the position is being denied him. It is being denied him by the Attorney General Brownell, who recently said he did not have time to discuss the matter with North Carolina Republicans. They reason that the attorney general may be un-

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Science Marches Backward

By ROBERT BENDNER
(In The Reporter)

IF you're one of those nervous scientists who wonders whether science hasn't got a little too big for its breeches, you will be pleased to know that scientists are beginning to wonder about the same thing.

At a recent session of the Institute of Traffic Engineers, the men who plan the motorized, or major, part of our lives were plainly worried - and in good cause. For years, they said, they had been busy riding our great thoroughways of sharp curves, intersections, traffic signals, and pedestrian crossings. And now that they have just about perfected the dream highway, what do we expect humans use it for? To dream. With all the natural hazards removed and mile after mile of beautiful road stretched before him, a man can, and often does, have his toe on the gas and his head in the clouds. And if he suddenly hears a horn close to his ear, as likely as not it's Gabriel's.

So, said the traffic engineers, there's only one thing to do - start moving backward. And they fell to work devising nuisances and discomforts to substitute for those they had so painstakingly removed. Anything, they said, to "jostle the motorist out of his reveries."

One suggested serrated concrete patterns to keep the driver awake with non-rhythmic sounds. Another suggested special-band radio broadcasts, and presumably New Year's Eve sound effects. But it was left for Charles J. Murphy, director of traffic engineering for the Automobile Club

The 'New Eisenhower' Faces Series Of Critical Tests

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON
IN THE weeks just ahead, President Eisenhower faces a series of tests as critical as any in his long career. The strands of fate are curiously interwoven in such a way that failure could put in great peril all that Eisenhower has done for the first months of the Presidency. It is hardly necessary to add that his own reputation, his wide popularity, are also in the balance.

In view of what lies just ahead it is important to examine the "New Eisenhower" in whom the President's associates and friends put renewed confidence and trust. They see the new Eisenhower as master of a situation which in the first months of the Presidency was inevitably strange and alien.

To begin with, Eisenhower and his team have gone a long way toward mastering the most difficult job in the world. It took time, as it would for any man, even an experienced politician, to get on top of the formidable assemblage of powers centered in the White House. Particularly with a party out of power for 20 years, a period of trial and testing was certain.

BASIC LESSON
But the learning process, if one accepts the hopeful view of the "New Eisenhower," is more than merely getting to know the levers of control and how to operate them. The President has learned that you cannot just by having a group of men talking around a table reconcile different and seemingly irreconcilable views. It is not enough to have a group of men talking around a table reconcile different and seemingly irreconcilable views. It is not enough to have a group of men talking around a table reconcile different and seemingly irreconcilable views.

Reminder Of A Fundamental Freedom

MONDAY the Supreme Court soundly spanked the censors. It did so by unanimously reversing state bans against two movies, one dealing with murder and gangsterism, the other with love life in old Vienna.

The Court did not send down an opinion with its reversal. Instead the Court merely referred to its decision in THE MIRACLE case two years ago. At that time the justices upset a ban on the film, which was said to be "sacrilegious" and declared that "expression by means of motion pictures is included within the free speech and free press guaranty of the First and Fourteenth Amendments."

The Court's action should not be construed as an invitation to the showing of

Hawaii May Upset Balance in Senate

Gov. Stainback says it is worse since 1950. He is referring to the Communist Party membership in Hawaii. This conviction will have a significant effect on the strength of communism in Hawaii.

The Justice Department says it has gotten better. So they say, "blurred Sen. Russ Long, Louisiana Democrat, who recently sided with the Republicans in favor of statehood for Hawaii but not for Alaska."

The anti-subversive committee of the Territory of Hawaii says that it is worse, and they filed a report in March 1953, which the attorney general's letter is following.

"The facts known to me concerning communism in Hawaii do not indicate any reason to believe that communism is a greater menace in Hawaii at the present time than it was in 1950. As Stainback's committee has pointed out, the known members of the Communist Party in Hawaii appear to be fewer in number than they were in 1950. Undoubtedly the recent conviction of the leaders of the communist conspiracy in Ha-

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON
THE press was shut out the other day while the Senate Insular Affairs Committee held closed doors. However, this column can report that the stately, near-entirely balding room was a political thunder and lightning - a preview of the stormy debate to come on the Senate floor.

The Democrats angrily accused the GOP of playing politics by turning Sen. McCarthy loose to investigate corruption in Democratic Alaska, but at the same time refusing to investigate communism in Republican Hawaii.

The session hadn't been going five minutes before Sen. George Smathers, Florida Democrat, got down to the nub of the matter. "I think," he declared, "all of us are practical to the extent that we recognize that if we get Hawaii in, we probably will get two Republican senators, and if we get Alaska in, we will get two Democratic senators."

"There is no catch to that, I can assure you," disagreed Chairman Hugh Butler, Nebraska Republican.

"That's the rumor that is going around," snorted Smathers. "Isn't it all in the mind that is whipped up in Sen. Arthur Watkins, Utah Republican."

"It begins to look as though it

For A Big Job, An Able Man

MORE, perhaps, than any other type of business, a bank is an impersonal thing which tends to submerge the personalities of the men who run it into the blended personality of the institution. And, of necessity, this must be so, for men come and go while a bank's reputation and character grow from decade to decade.

Even so, the success of a bank is determined by the collective acumen and judgment of human beings, and a strong executive will always leave an imprint upon a bank's past, present, and future.

So it was, for many years, that the late Word H. Wood came to symbolize the American Trust Co. And then came Torrence E. Hemby, who joined Mr. Wood when the bank was less than five years old and who served as president for the past eleven years. And now a

Congressmen Restrict Their Competition

AT LAST count, there had been seven rounds of general wage increases since 1946. One class of workers, however, has not benefited by a single one of them. Congressmen still get the \$12,500 a year, plus \$2,500 for expenses, they received in 1946. And the expense money, previously tax-free, was made taxable beginning last year.

Why do congressmen refuse to boost their pay, when it is admittedly insufficient to maintain two homes, travel to, from and within their constituencies and entertain folks from back home?

Many legislators say they don't believe their constituents would stand for it, and that congressmen ought to set an example of economy.

There is another reason that they don't mention, and which is compelling enough to tip the scales in favor of a pay raise. It is that the salary, because it can't cover expenses, discourages competition in congressional races, rules out capable

VALUES IN A NAME

IN New York the other day Mr. Truman told a taxicab driver who sought his autograph that the only signature of real value in this country is that of Button Gwinnett, a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

Mr. Gwinnett was a merchant, and a pretty canny one, too, for he seems to have conducted his business without often putting his fist to a paper. He was born in England about 1732, signed for the state of Georgia, and died within a year of signing, though those two events would seem to have no relation despite his reluctance to spell out his name.

There are not very many "Button Gwinnetts" about these days, so Mr. Truman is quite correct in his statement that the Georgian wasn't much of a letter-writer. The signatures of other famous people are worth money, too. An "A. Lincoln" and a "G. Washington" -

Brownell's Opinion

"I do not mean to suggest, however, that the seriousness of the communist menace in Hawaii can be measured by these facts alone," the Brownell letter added. "It is a matter of fact that there has been a relation to the convictions of communist leaders in other parts of the United States."

The fact that it has been necessary to prosecute the leaders of the communist conspiracy in Hawaii is, in my opinion, no more an indication of the strength of the party in that area than the convictions of the communist leaders in New York, Pittsburgh, Seattle and Los Angeles are indications of party control and dominance in those areas.

"In other words," commented Sen. Smathers, "Brownell just gives us his opinion."

That is right, as did Gov. Stainback's message. Sen. Guy Cordry, Oregon Republican.

More GOP Senators
The Democrats also charged that the Republicans favored