

Walter Mitty With A Baedeker

"I WAS never an OSS agent. I never participated in any secret, behind-the-lines mission for our government."
 "I never captured Otto Hahn or any other German physicist."
 So ended the fragile myth of Rep. Douglas R. Stringfellow's heroism in World War II. He had sold the public the most ornate bill of goods since George DuPre duped Quentin Reynolds, Reznas's Dicker and Random House into believing his yarn about "spine-chilling adventures" as a British spy in occupied France.
 Like DuPre, Congressman Stringfellow started out by telling a small lie. But everyone seemed so interested and that lie grew and grew. Soon he had fallen into a trap "laid by my own glib tongue." Almost before he realized it, he was being introduced to audiences throughout Utah as a cloak-and-dagger operative with hair-raising exploits to tell about.
 After the Army Times questioned his tale, Mr. Stringfellow came clean. He did it—in a burst of belated courage—on television and radio. Last night the Utah State Republican Committee voted to accept his resignation as a candidate for re-election.
 Any fisherman who has ever dipped his hook in the water and pulled it out empty should harbor a certain amount of sympathy for Douglas R. Stringfellow. It's the old, old story of "the one that got away."
 The one that got away from Mr. Stringfellow was, to say the least, a whopper. Here was the harassed, frustrated male

who, like James Thurber's Walter Mitty, conjured up dreams of gallantry and glory.
 But Mitty just dreamed his dreams and sank back into his humdrum life again.
 Mr. Stringfellow parlayed his dreams into national fame and a seat in Congress. The congressman never saw actual combat but he was critically wounded by an exploding land mine. Had he not been injured he might not be alive today. His outfit—C Company of the 14th Armored Division's 62nd Armored Infantry Battalion—had a relatively short but rugged combat history. It was hit hard near Philippbourg, France, on Dec. 31, 1944, and again in the battle of Hatten-Rittershoffen on Jan. 12, 1945. Casualties were heavy. Many of its officers and men did not return.
 But all over the land this week, thousands of ex-GIs will be peering into mirrors and seeing a Stringfellow or a Mitty there. Some of the exploits we have heard about wartime adventures have seemed to get bolder and bolder every year.
 These yarns, of course, are the raw materials of myths and legends. Given enough time, a whole new American folk myth may develop.
 Meanwhile, Mr. Stringfellow will find it somewhat difficult recapturing the confidence of the public.
 Diogenes Laertius tells us, for instance, that Aristotle was once asked what those who tell lies gain by it. Said he: "That when they speak the truth they are not believed."

Employment Down, Bank Robbery Up

BANK ROBBERIES, as we've said before, seem to lie North Carolina, even though they usually get nabbed by the FBI men here. So far this year there have been eight bank robberies in the state (including one unsuccessful attempt). The hold-up men definitely prefer the old North State to South Carolina. During a 19-month period ending last July there were nine bank hold-ups in this state, and only two in South Carolina.
 We don't blame anyone, including bank robbers, for preferring to operate in North rather than South Carolina. But the frequency of hold-ups in this state recently is puzzling. An FBI summary partially explains the situation. Bank robberies are on the rise throughout the nation.
 In fiscal 1951 there were 103, in 1952—128, in 1953—215 and 1954—271. Bank robberies in North Carolina increased correspondingly during this period—I in 1951, 2 in 1952, 4 in 1953 and the 8 so far this calendar year.
 Law enforcement men give a couple of reasons for the increase. First, and this is particularly true in this state, many small-town banks do not have adequate safety devices. Secondly, reports U. S. News & World Report, there is an interesting correlation between bank robberies and unemployment.
 In the booming '20's, hold-ups averaged 150 a year. The depression years of the '30's were the era of John Dillinger, Baby Face Nelson and Eddie Bentz—and hold-ups hit an all-time high of 532. During the war they hit an all-time low. And now, unemployment—and hold-ups—are increasing.
 So, before the next two weeks are over, the robberies will probably be blamed on the Republicans.

Good For Everyone Except Bookkeepers

COMPANY bookkeepers may not like this, but we'd like to put in a word for the payroll participation plan for contributing to the United Appeal.
 The payroll deduction plan is catching on in Charlotte and other federated fund communities for these simple reasons:
 Through the payroll plan employees can give more, without feeling the pinch sharply. A few dimes a week, deducted from the pay check, aren't missed as much as a few dollars given at one time.
 Employers are saved collection expense. Once the plan is set up, it involves no further cost.
 The community services financed through United Appeal profit from the plan. Gifts from groups using the payroll deduction plan are about triple the amount of gifts from comparable groups which don't use it.
 Thus employers and employees make it easier on themselves by using the plan, from which the whole community benefits. Everyone that is, except the harried bookkeepers who, after deducting for taxes, credit union and hospitalization, probably won't mind too much the additional chore.

The Man Who Refused To Concede

I HAVE said before, and I repeat it now," said E. H. Crump during Tennessee's 1948 campaign, "that in the art galleries of Paris there are 27 pictures of Judas Iscariot—none look alike but all resemble Gordon Browning; that neither his head, heart nor hand can be trusted; that he would milk his neighbor's cow through a crack in the fence; that of the 206 bones in his body, there isn't one that is genuine; that his heart has beaten over two billion times without a single sincere beat."
 With these sizzling phrases, the political boss of Memphis characterized the opposition candidate for governor. It was a typical Crumpian blast from a battle-scarred veteran of rough-and-tumble political wars.
 Boss Crump was not a lovable man. But from 1932 to 1948, he dominated Tennessee politics with an iron fist.
 Even after 1948, he kept a tight grip

on Shelby County and had political allies all over the state.
 V. O. Key Jr., author of *Southern Politics*, described him as "a canny old fox . . . (whose) age offered far more hope to the opposition than his loss of a campaign."
 Age and a heart ailment caught up with the grizzled, 68-year-old Tennessee monarch Saturday. They buried him yesterday.
 Boss Crump is dead but the Memphis machine will long remain a model for "organization politics." About the only thing you could say for it is that it probably did not steal from the public till.
 About the only thing you could say for Mr. Crump is that he was the last of the big city political bosses.
 He was best known for his cast-iron right to the end, he refused to concede.

ROLL OUT THE DRUM

DRUMS are where you find them. We wish with equanimity, therefore, the news that discarded empty oil barrels are all the rage as drums in the West Indies.
 It's odd, but odder things have happened, drum-wise. Washboards have been used as drums by some jazz bands for many years. A lady tells us a drum she picked up in a store only the other day for a neighbor's child was made out of pieces of old inner tubes laced together. In the absence of old inner tubes, as any child knows, a picket fence will do, with a stick to rattle along it. Or, a heavy-duty zinc washbasin, if beaten upon heartily

Democrats Gunning For Wisconsin's Big Farm Vote

By JOSEPH ALSOP
 MADISON, Wis. The question both Republican and Democratic leaders are asking themselves in Wisconsin, is whether another Maine is in the making here.
 Probably the Wisconsin Republicans are better off than their Maine brethren, because Gov. Walter Kohler is an extremely popular man whereas Gov. Burton Cross was very much the reverse. But it is still astonishing that Republicans in this state should be dubious and worried, while Democrats are ebullient and cautiously hopeful.
 Only two years ago, in 1952, Gov. Walter Kohler trounced the present opponent, William Proxmire, by the enormous majority of 400,000 in a total vote of about 1,000,000. President Eisenhower carried the state by an only slightly narrower margin. All congressmen did well. Only Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy made a poor showing, with a majority of more than 200,000 votes lower than Kohler's—which almost certainly means that he got back to the Senate on the Kohler-Eisenhower coattails.
 Since McCarthy does not fight in the current state-wide campaign, you would suppose that any decisive upset in Wisconsin would be absolutely impossible. But "impossible" is not a word that is being used hereabouts, either by Republicans or Democrats.
 The biggest shock to the Republicans has come from the just published Wisconsin Agricultural poll, showing heavy Democratic inroads on the Republicans' basic asset, the farm vote, which totals somewhere around 400,000 in this state.
 Two years ago, the farmers went for Kohler and Eisenhower in the staggering proportion of 3 to 1. This year, a substantial majority of those voicing an opinion

think a Democratic Congress will help the farmer more than Republican Congress. And only 55 per cent of the farm families questioned voted for Kohler, with 43 per cent for Proxmire and 2 per cent undecided.
POP AGREES
 "The poll agrees with what I've observed myself," says the able demagogue, the Agriculturalist, Walter Voskuil, who travels the state widely and knows his Wisconsin farmers well. "Last time, we checked our results with the county clerks in every farm country, and found we weren't more than a couple of per cent off. I don't think we are now. Furthermore, many more women than men told our poll-takers they were for Kohler, and our experience is that as voting time gets nearer, most of the women move over into the same column as their husbands."
 Unfortunately, President Eisenhower's personal popularity does not seem to rub off on local candidates. The Agriculturalist is plainly suffering from the unpopularity of Secretary of Agriculture Charles Brannan, with which as governor of Wisconsin he had nothing to do. Because this is primarily a dairy state, the farm vote is in considerable degree a local phenomenon. But it is very important nonetheless, when taken in conjunction with the parallel trend in Milwaukee and the other Wisconsin industrial centers.



Wilson Supplied The Spark Eruption In Michigan Politics

By MARQUIS CHILDS
 DETROIT JUBILANT Democrats are confounding the Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson's reference to big dogs and kennel dogs in a discussion of the unemployment situation has given them just the extra gimmick they need to win here in Michigan.
 And the bubble will be repeated in every state in the Union by every Democratic candidate. Some are already comparing it to the "Rum, Romanism and Rebellion" charge of 1884. A Republican, addressing the Republican Presidential candidate, James G. Blaine, so described the Democratic party, led by Grover Cleveland. Blaine did not use the words, but he did not disavow them. The words backed up on the Republicans despite subsequent denials and disclaimers, and Cleveland was



HOMER FERGUSON "Running Scared"
 lacked fire. gubernatorial candidate G. Mennen (Soapy) Williams and Patrick V. McNamara, the Democrat running against Sen. Homer Ferguson, immediately jumped on the Wilson remark. For the Democrats the words serve to bring into popular focus the charge that the Republican Party is the party of big business. Democrats have been saying that the federal government must do more to help the states and local communities, while the Republicans have been stressing peace-time prosperity, economy in government and the need to support President Eisenhower's getting the country back to normal.
WILLIAMS SUPPORT
 McNamara is getting more active support from Gov. Williams, running for an unprecedented fourth term and considered an almost sure winner, than have other Democratic candidates in the past. They have appeared together on many platforms. Not only is Williams a tireless and effective campaigner but his wife,

Nancy, has proved such an appealing vote-getter that the Republicans are sending a whole batch of Republican wives on a bus tour of the state to counter Wilson's charge as a whole with very few individual exceptions) are far more intolerant and abusive of the school district and of their command than the so-much criticized white people.
 Sure, I'll agree with anyone that the whites are not saints either. But by golly, no one is going to tell me that the non-whites are so severe either. They've been discriminated against, abused, pushed around, called "greaser," "dirty Indian" many more times by non-whites than by the whites.
 —JUAN M. RAMOS
Democrats Couldn't Find Enough String
 THE OTHER night on one of the local TV stations I watched and listened to four politicians after being led for words several times, trying to tell us voters about those awful Republicans.
 They complained about the amount of people unemployed, a figure lower than that of 1958. They forgot to mention that there are more people in employment today than at any time during the peak of World War II. And, also, that unemployment is on a steady decrease. They complained about the corporations receiving tax cuts. It sounded to me like they were a strange industry, therefore, strangling the jobs of men and women employed by them due to high taxes.
 I see clearly what the Democrat politicians are trying to do. They want to give President Eisenhower a Democratic Congress, as they did Herbert Hoover, hoping the next two years will be another 1951, or 1952. I'm not being bold this time. It was just a high school boy then. But I got

People's Platform

Letters should be brief. The writer's name and address must be given, but may be withheld from publication in the discretion of the editors. The News reserves the right to condense.

Minorities Are More Intolerant Than Whites

Chicago
 Editors, The News: Do you want the opinion of a member of a racial minority group in this country and non-whites in general? Well, here it goes.
 I am a dark-skinned half-breed who has been to nearly all 48 states and several foreign countries. I have lived among people of all shades and, unlike many experts, can tell you facts based on personal experience. The minority groups as a whole (with very few individual exceptions) are far more intolerant and abusive of the school district and of their command than the so-much criticized white people.
 Sure, I'll agree with anyone that the whites are not saints either. But by golly, no one is going to tell me that the non-whites are so severe either. They've been discriminated against, abused, pushed around, called "greaser," "dirty Indian" many more times by non-whites than by the whites.
 —JUAN M. RAMOS

News Thanked For Convention Coverage

Charlotte
 Editors, The News: THE officers and members of Charlotte Lodge No. 1113, Loyal Order of Moose, deeply appreciate the cooperation and coverage extended by your newspaper of the Carolinas Moose Association Convention.
 As general chairman, I personally wish to thank you and your associates for the services rendered.
 The Loyal Order of Moose believes in fraternalism under God and fellowship in the form of a helping hand to their fellowman. Your efforts in our behalf exemplified the very principles of our fraternity. Thank you for a job well done.
 —J. B. ELMINGER,
 Sec'y, Charlotte Lodge No. 1113 Loyal Order of Moose.

Hurricanes Should All Be Renamed

Concord
 EDITOR, THE NEWS: HURRICANE Hazel's behavior was the last straw. The time has come to stop naming those nasty old storms after women. It's an insult to the sex, that's what it is. Gives the whole feminine race a bad name.
 Now why not name them after serpants, gangsters, mythological monsters or insects?
 Think of all the Hazels in the world — sweet, demure young things — who have seen their fair name dragged in the mire.
 Something should be done.
 —HAZEL THIGPEN

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round White Urged Huge Loan To USSR

WASHINGTON
HERE is more on the probe of Henry H. Morgenthau's secret diary, faithfully kept during the long years when he was secretary of the Treasury, and now the object of scrutiny by the Senate Internal Security Committee of Indiana.
 What Jenner's "G-men" are probing for is any subversive links between members of the Roosevelt administration and Harry Dexter White, whom Attorney General Brownell has charged with being a Russian spy. White worked in the Treasury Department under Morgenthau.
 To that end, Jenner has had two men, Jonathan Mitchell, former Washington correspondent of the New Republic, and James Cardillo, regular staff investigator working at the Roosevelt Library in Hyde Park where the many volumes of the Morgenthau diary are kept.
 The operation is supposed to be super-hush-hush. However, the writer has obtained copies of some of the reports.
 So far the diary has never been scrutinized by outsiders. Morgenthau, how-

ever, has given permission to Jenner to let his agents examine every scrap of paper collected when the Secretary of the Treasury held that office longer than any other man in history.
 One thing the Jenner probes have found is that Harry Dexter White urged a 10 billion dollar loan to Russia toward the end of the war and that Morgenthau pushed this loan idea in talks with President Roosevelt.
 Senate probes have not considered this pay dirt, however, because it was well known by the time that White urged a loan to Russia. He was quite open and emphatic in urging that the United States work closely with Russia for post-war reconstruction.
 Mr. Mitchell, when questioned about his work for the Jenner committee, acted like a witness before the McCarthy committee. He refused to say anything except to admit his name and the fact that he was working on the Morgenthau diary. However, here is the full text of word for word of one of his reports to the Jenner committee.
Yalta Talks
 "The diaries examined last week show that White, through Morgenthau, made strenuous efforts to have Roosevelt open the Yalta conference with an offer of a 10 billion dollar postwar loan to Stalin. White was insistent that the offer be without conditions. Only by doing so, White argued, would Stalin be convinced of America's good faith."
 "Book 803, P. 103, Jan. 9, 1945—Telephone conversation between Morgenthau and Grace Tully in which Morgenthau reiterates what he proposes to tell Roosevelt about the proposed loan to the USSR."
 "Book 808, P. 300, Jan. 10, 1945—Memo by Morgenthau to the consultant with Stettinius back at White House while they were both waiting to see Roosevelt. Morgenthau says loan must be offered without conditions and on the opening day of Yalta."
 "Book 810, P. 149, Jan. 17, 1945—

Meeting of Morgenthau and White with Stettinius and other State Department officials on loans to USSR and also on discussion of the Yalta conference. Morgenthau argues that Germany must be rendered helpless to convince the USSR that American policy was not shielding secret designs on using Germany later.
Views On Fulton Lewis
 "Last week I got through only 14 volumes of field back by documents of British and French legation. Since White was in charge of these negotiations, I hoped to find material of interest to the committee. But in fact, although I read the documents with great care, I found very little."
 "Morgenthau—So I am informed by Kahn—is back to the country. Telephone Kahn last week apparently to pick up whatever Kahn knew. My impression is that Jim and I go away, the better Morgenthau and Kahn will like it."