

THE GUILD REPORTER

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—Cartoon By Bernard Seaman, NY Guild

McKinnon Folds LA News, 330 Get Xmas Pink Slips

Los Angeles, Calif.—Just a week before Christmas some 330 Los Angeles Guild members were thrown out of work when the Daily News, the city's only liberal newspaper suddenly was suspended by Publisher Clinton D. McKinnon after he had sold the name and selected assets to the reactionary, anti-union Times-Mirror Co. headed by Norman Chandler. The action leaves the fiercely competitive Los Angeles newspaper field to the Chandler and Hearst interests, each with a morning and evening paper.

While the News had been in financial difficulties in recent years, the sale and suspension came with unexpected suddenness, while Guild and other union leaders, attorneys and News employees were seeking means to insure continued publication.

For the Guild, the story leaked out Saturday morning when a member in the display department took a call from the Mirror advertising department inquiring about cuts for an ad slated to run in the News on Monday, and requesting the

cuts be sent over. When the amazed Guild member asked why, he was told:

"Why, we just bought your paper and that ad is going to run in the Mirror on Monday."

"Official announcement of the sale (termed a sell-out by employees, labor and liberal spokesmen), came late Saturday afternoon when a notice was tacked on the paper's door advising employees of the action and asking them to pick up personal belongings Monday or Tuesday morning. The name of the paper and its leading features were assigned to Chandler's Mirror, an afternoon tabloid, which last Monday blossomed out as the Mirror and Daily News.

Meanwhile nationally and locally machinery has been set up to aid the displaced employees in finding jobs, providing aid for acute hardship cases, and trying to untangle a maze of legal and financial complications resulting from McKinnon's manipulations, in order to secure severance pay and other funds due employees.

ANG Executive Vice President Ralph B. Novak has designated International Representative Joseph Campo to co-ordinate on behalf of ANG all Guild activities designed to aid the News members.

Novak also wired 22 larger locals requesting financial aid to help News Guildsmen over the holidays, and has asked the Federal Trade Commission and

the Justice Department anti-trust division to investigate the suspension.

Locally, the Los Angeles Guild has transferred \$1,000 from its defense fund for direct financial aid to hard-hit Guild members, the Press Club has made \$1,500 available for the same purpose, and both groups have set up placement committees to help find jobs.

Guild members were hardest hit by the destruction of the

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Cash Will Help

The Guild Reporter has been asked by the Los Angeles local to appeal for immediate help in meeting hardship cases among Guild members caught in the suspension of the Daily News.

LANG has moved \$1,000 into an emergency fund and the Los Angeles Press Club has put up \$1,500. Present indications are that more will be needed to tide over pressing cases, and contributions will be welcomed from Guild local treasuries and individuals.

Checks should be made out to "Daily News Welfare Fund" and sent to the Guild at 1010 Broadway, Los Angeles.

An Editorial

On the West Coast and the East, newspaper publishers have sent Christmas greetings to their loyal employees. The legend "Merry Christmas" has been erased. Instead the cards say "Your services no longer are required."

On the West Coast, there is not even much hope this Christmas. Clinton D. McKinnon, the "Munsey of the West Coast," killed off the Los Angeles Daily News—and with it the jobs of 330 Guildsmen—just one week before Christmas.

On the East Coast, there is some hope. John Fox, the financier, still must answer to shocked and angry Boston Guildsmen for his callous firing of 58 people at the Post "because they had their feet up on desks and didn't even take them down when I came by." Mr. Fox said he fired 50 of them for economy; at the same time he told the Federal Communications Commission he was down to his last million and half dollars in surplus.

In killing the Daily News, McKinnon deprived Los Angeles of its only politically liberal newspaper.

But this attack on freedom of the press, the freedom of the people to read, will go unwept by the ardent defenders of press freedom in the publishers' associations. This, like the stifling of the Washington Times-Herald, was committed by publishers.

This merger (or murder) should be examined by the Federal Trade Commission and the Justice Department in their study of monopoly trends. For it has reduced the competition for dollars and of ideas in Los Angeles, by leaving the field to two interests—the labor-hating Chandlers of the Times-Mirror company, and the Hearsts, who bait the Guild at the Examiner but live with it at the Herald-Express.

What makes the Daily News' murder particularly loathsome is that McKinnon committed it despite all efforts of the Guild to prolong the paper's life. On three occasions in the past year, the Guild agreed to McKinnon's gimmicks. But at the end he was cynically trying to goad the Guild into a strike which would have coincided with the date he had set for the death of his paper.

Post Calls Back Four Of 58 "Shotgunned"

Boston, Mass.—The number of firings at the Boston Post dropped to 54 last week as Publisher John Fox got snarled in his own "efficiency."

Fox, who admits spending no more than 30 days at the Post in the last six months, ordered 58 Post employees laid off—50 for "economy" and eight for "inefficiency"—after a personal tour of the plant. The tour disclosed, he said, "that the same news coverage that we are now getting could be obtained with

a fewer number of employees without strain on anyone."

But somewhere the strain developed.

Six employees were offered their jobs back and two others were dismissed. In the meantime, Fox and the Post appeared to be having trouble meeting the \$100,000 severance pay obligation entailed by the dismissals. And remaining Post staffers remembered apprehensively his prediction of last March. At that time Fox declared:

"One of the papers now in Boston will not be here on Christmas Eve, 1954."

Just before Guild Reporter press time, the dismissed employees finally received their severance pay checks after being put off for two days.

There were these additional developments:

- Post management insisted on separate and individual arbitrations of each dismissal while the Guild pressed for two—one covering the "economy" lay-offs and the other covering the "inefficiency" discharges.

- The Post agreed to change the cause for dismissal to "economy" for the eight employees originally fired for "inefficiency," if they agree to waive re-hiring rights.

- The Post Guild unit post-

Waterbury Guild Is Connecticut's 2nd By 31 to 21 Vote

Waterbury, Conn. — The Waterbury Republican-American became the only Guild daily newspaper in Connecticut last Friday when editorial employees beat back a stiff management campaign and voted 31 to 21 for the American Newspaper Guild as their collective bargaining agent.

One ballot was challenged by the company as all 53 of the eligibles voted in the National Labor Relations Board election.

The six-week campaign excited wide interest in the state as other publishers requested the AP bureau in

New Haven to file a story on the outcome.

Connecticut's other Guild local

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The State of The Union ... 'Case Histories' Point Up Methods Of Adding Members

By RALPH E. NOVAK
Executive Vice President



OK, YOU SAY, we are convinced we ought to go out and sign all the non-members in our jurisdiction, but how do we go about it?

Well, the answer is that it all depends on why they're non-members. Every non-member is, though we might have other ideas about him, a person, and every person reacts differently to various approaches.

Here are some case histories that might give you ideas of how to carry out the clean-up operation in your local.

THE CASE OF THE DISAPPEARING MEMBER—One local which has no Guild security in its contracts has been confronted with a dwindling membership recently in the absence of a continuing organizing effort. Old-timers, many of whom had been very active in more hectic times, fell victim to inertia and dropped so far behind in dues payments that they were stricken off ANG records as "deadwood." I wrote to that local some weeks ago, pointing out its plight and asking the officers to do something about it. One of the things they did was to approach some of the old members and show them the figures.

At least one of these old members was shocked into doing something about it.

"I'll be damned," said he, "if I'm going to let this happen to an organization I fought so hard for in the old days. Tell me what I do to get back in good standing. I want to do something about this."

He was asked at the right time—for him.

THE CASE OF THE LONG-TIME HOLD-OUT—Another local which has Guild shop provisions that require new employees to join the Guild was serenely confident it had no free-rider problem—until it got our questionnaire on the extent of Guild jurisdiction.

The questionnaire brought a sudden realization that there were indeed some non-members in Guild jurisdiction—people who had been non-members so long that the Guild had given up hope of signing them. But hope or no hope, the questionnaire spurred the local officers into action.

First approach was to an old-timer who had held out against joining the Guild every time he was asked.

"You've been here 20 years," he was told, "and it's about time you joined the Guild."

"Yeah," he said, "I guess I ought to at that. Give me a card."

Even he had forgotten why he had refused to join the Guild before. But this time he was asked at the right time.

THE CASE OF THE HARD-SELL—This one goes back a few years, to a local which decided to put its organizing drive on an assembly-line basis. In each department, an organizing committee was named to coincide in numbers with the number of non-members, so that each member would talk to one non-member. As a non-member was signed, the committee was kept at the same strength, but reassigned so that there would be two members for some non-members.

In this drive, it worked out to the point that there were 12 committee members left for one non-member, and each day a different member tried a different approach. Until, on the 12th day, the non-member was approached in this vein:

"I'm the 12th guy to talk to you about joining the Guild," said the organizer, "and I'm sure the first 11 told you all about the benefits of the Guild. I'm not going to tell you how much you need the Guild. You know what you're getting from the Guild contract."

"But even if you think you don't need the Guild enough to become a member, the Guild needs you. You've been here a long time. You're a highly respected man and a very capable worker. It'd be a big help to the Guild if we could take advantage of that prestige and point out to newcomers that you're a Guild member."

"I never thought of it that way," the non-member said. "If it would have that effect, I'll sign up."

Another case of a person being asked at the right time—in the right way.

THOSE ARE JUST A FEW of the many ways you sign up a non-member. But, as the case histories show, there's one thing that's essential: you have to ask the person to join.

The fact that every non-member is an individual with individual reactions doesn't rule out the mass approach to the problem, so long as you don't expect that approach to produce the same results with everyone.

IN THE LAST ISSUE, I remarked that I was to be in Indianapolis to help the local start a major organizing campaign. It turned out to be a cold, sleety night, but a large number of members turned out and spent more than two and a half hours planning their campaign. It started out to be a strictly "amateur" effort, but at the wind-up one incentive was offered.

A spare bottle of whiskey that might otherwise have gone to waste was made the prize in a raffle. Chances in the drawing will be given for each member signed up and for each old member brought into good standing. Latest report was that excellent progress is being made. One member already has signed five non-members.

LATE BULLETIN: Make that ten non-members, and working on the eleventh. More details next edition.

THIS WON'T GET TO YOU in time to be read on Christmas, but I do extend my sincere hopes that you had a pleasant holiday. And that you have a happy and prosperous New Year.

Lose Election At Charlotte

Charlotte, N. C.—By a count of 21 to 13, editorial employees of the Charlotte Observer have rejected the Charlotte Newspaper Guild as bargaining agent. An election was held under direction of the National Labor Relations Board after a majority of those eligible had signed Guild application cards and paid initiation fees and one month's dues.

Ironically, there were 21 such applicants, the same number as turned up in the "No" column when the votes were counted.

The Guild is under contract with the Observer's competing daily, the News, for its editorial department.

... **Waterbury Chartered**

(Continued from Page 1)

is in Bridgeport, at the Herald, a Sunday paper.

Management took full advantage of a recent NLRB ruling permitting employers to question workers about union activity. All the eligibles were "interviewed" individually during the campaign, many several times, and for sessions lasting as long as an hour. These tactics continued throughout the day of the election. The company also launched an intensive campaign of letters aimed at discrediting the Guild, following the NLRB hearing on December 3.

The new local, which will hold Charter No. 75, held its first general membership meeting at the Hotel Elton in Waterbury, adopted by-laws and elected the following officers: Eugene L. Martin, Republican wire editor, president; George T. Dillon, American wire editor, vice president; Francis J. (Doc) McInerney, Republican assistant sports editor, treasurer; Mary Leonard, assistant society editor, secretary; and William B. (Hank) O'Donnell, Republican sports editor, and Don A. Coviello, Republican photographer, executive committee members.

The newspapers have a combined circulation of approximately 60,000; circulation of the Sunday Republican is about 43,000. American-Republican, Inc., also owns local radio station WBXY and the Eastern Color Printing Co., a major supplier of comic supplements and comic books.

During the 30's a Guild unit was formed at the Republican-American, but it was unable to get a contract. About the same time a local was organized on the old Waterbury Democrat, an evening paper which was bought out by Republican-American Publisher William J. Pape in 1946. The Democrat group won a contract after a week's strike and remained in existence for seven years. The IEB in 1941 voted to cancel its charter, when the local membership had been reduced to a handful. The early charter number, 75, issued in 1934, is now assigned to the re-activated Waterbury group.

In 1940 the Republican-American's expose of multi-million-dollar corruption in the city administration won a Pulitzer prize for meritorious public service.

The successful organizing campaign, which was directed by ANG International Representative Joe Garland, aroused considerable interest in the State CIO, with headquarters here, and among more than 10,000 UAW-CIO members in the city, known as "The Brass Center of the World."

Contract negotiations are expected to begin after the first of the year.

Miss McKee attended Indiana State Teachers College and Columbia University, and taught school for several years before becoming a reporter for the Terre Haute Post. She transferred to the Star when it bought the Post's interests.

She was active in civic enterprises, serving as a director of the Volunteers of America, and holding membership in the Altrusa and the Business and Professional Women's clubs.

Writing was her avocation, too. She contributed to a series of church periodicals, and had three published books, the first of which, "The Heart of a Rose," was published by Fleming H. Revell in 1913 and totaled sales of more than 125,000 copies.

Two brothers and a sister survive.

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S. Meenes, New President Pat Stafford, Sec'y, LANG

Los Angeles, Calif.—Sidney Meenes has been elected president of the Los Angeles Newspaper Guild, and Pat Stafford has been named secretary, as the result of unopposed nominations for their offices.

Contests for the others gave vice presidencies to T. J. Kree and Jack Abramson, the treasurer to Arthur Chance, the post of administrative officer to George Hutchinson, and the position of sergeant-at-arms to Harry Heller.

Four of eleven nominees were chosen to the executive board, Jess Brown, George Meenes, Frank Erickson and Jack Lockwood.

Brown and Lewis Allison were elected to the California-Nevada District Council, and fourteen were named as delegates to the CIO Council. They were Frank Wigham, Thomas Morgan, Henry Santistevan, L. Rudy Stowell, Pat Stafford, Lennie Schulman, Richard Gitlin, Olie Pratt, Art Atwell, Brown, Joan Gibbs, Allison, Jack Rarick, Chance and Jack Ellwanger.

Rarick and Frank A. Buffington were also contestants for the two vice presidencies. Henry Lee was a nominee for the post of treasurer, and Horace J. Blanco and John McLean were candidates for the position of administrative officer. James Rogokoe was in the contest for sergeant-at-arms.

There was a scattering of write-in votes for all the offices, it was reported by the elections committee, of which Thyrta Ryan was chairman.

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Apprentice Dads Sign Up For Baby-Care Classes

Pueblo, Cal.—There's a New Fathers' Club in the Pueblo Newspaper Guild, with four members of the Star-Journal and Chieftain reporting staff on its charter roll.

Its formation followed the arrival a month ago of Kathleen Jo in the family of Kenneth Hudson, local Guild vice president. The Hudsons have a son, born two and a half years ago, so that Hudson is a sire of no mean capabilities and experience.

Three other Guildmen, however, recently became fathers for the first time. Local President Howard Kaplan has a 12-week-old daughter, Martha Elaine, whose mother, Doris Blackburn, was a Guild member until the child arrived. Nathan Nielson has a five-month-old daughter, Belinda; while Dale Maren is the father of Stanley Dana, born November 7.

To these three the care and feeding of infants was something totally foreign, and Hudson volunteered to initiate them into its mysteries, from the high

plane of his seasoned knowledge.

The club sessions were thorough as to curriculum. Kathleen Jo served as the live, and interested, model throughout the demonstration period. Lessons included deft diapering, the fine art of powdering, the precision of formula preparation and the bottling and temperature thereof, and approved methods of administering the diet to the ultimate consumer.

There was practice in the business of burping the baby, accompanied by a lecture on the chemistry involved. Followed further laboratory work in blanket arrangement and the best techniques for inducing sleep.

Final instructions were at the laundry machine, where detergent and their virtues were exhaustively covered.

There is talk of issuing formal certificates attesting completion of the training course, the graduates to receive the degree of P.P.P.P. That stands, of course, for Proud and Proficient Pueblo Parents.



PUEBLO POPS—Four Colorado Guildmen from a New Fathers' Club at the home of Kenneth Hudson, who here demonstrates powdering technique with his month-old daughter as a delighted model. Left to right are Howard Kaplan, Dale Maren and Nathan Nielson. All became parents within the past five months. Kaplan and Hudson are, respectively, president and vice president of the Pueblo Guild local.

SFONG Aids Charity Fund From Film Benefit Cash

San Francisco, Calif. — A check for \$1,000 has been turned over by the San Francisco-Oakland Newspaper Guild to the community's United Crusade, in aid of health and welfare programs of Crusade-supported agencies.

The gift is one of several which the Guild local plans to make of the proceeds realized from Guild sponsorship of the world premiere of the 20th Century-Fox film, "Desiree." Some \$4,000 was netted from the Guild venture.

The \$1,000 contribution was made by Edward O'Connor and Douglas Lovelace, president and past president of the Guild, to John C. Neukom, Crusade campaign chairman. Lovelace is a director of the city's Federated Fund which conducts the annual Crusade.

Other contributions will include

Noted Judges Will Serve For Heywood Broun Award



BRUCE CATTON—**EDWIN A. LAHEY**—**JOHN W. VANDERCOOK**
Judges of this year's American Newspaper Guild Heywood Broun Award competition will continue the tradition of journalistic excellence that has been a hallmark of the memorial since its inception.

As formal announcement went out this week to all locals and the press generally that the coveted Broun Award of \$500 in cash and a Guild citation will be presented in February for the fourteenth consecutive year, three nationally known journalism-radio-literary personages were named judges.

They are Bruce Catton, Edwin A. Lahey and John W. Vandercrook.

Bruce Catton's newest venture in the publication field is editorship of the magazine "The American Heritage," a presentation in fine format of historical material, launched last month by the American Heritage Foundation.

Catton won the 1954 National Book Award for Non-Fiction, and is the author of "The War Lords of Washington," 1948, and a Civil War trilogy, "Mr. Lincoln's Army," "Glory Road," and "A Stillness at Appomattox" (1951-53).

The last named brought him a Pulitzer Award.

He was born in 1899 in Michigan, attended Oberlin College until interrupted by a Navy enlistment, and quit before his senior year to enter newspaper work. He reported for the Cleveland News, the Boston Plain Dealer, joining The Cleveland Newspaper Guild in its early years and serving actively in its behalf.

He spent 15 years with NEA service in a variety of work, ending up as a Washington correspondent. He was in government information service in 1941 for the War Production Board, and later directed the information service of the Department of Commerce under Henry Wallace and Averell Harriman, now New York's Governor-elect.

Since leaving government work, Catton has devoted full time to independent writing. Boyhood recollections of meeting Civil War veterans at Fourth of July celebrations led to his interest in the Civil War period, and his historical writing has won high acclaim for its research value, accuracy and style.

Edwin A. Lahey is a native of Chicago, where he was educated and started his news career, as a newsman for the Associated Press bureau. Since 1929 he has been employed by the Chicago Daily News, and since 1929 he has been a member of that newspaper's Washington bureau.

With the exception of a leave-of-absence year when he was labor advisor to Assistant Navy Secretary Ralph A. Bard,

Lahey has close and extensive friendship with Washington news sources, and these contacts have paid off in numerous exclusive stories. He has covered three national political campaigns with their preliminary conventions. One of his stories is credited with leading to the working agreement between the late Senator Robert A. Taft and Eisenhower.

John W. Vandercrook brings to his current job of radio news commentator for the CIO's daily quarter-hour broadcast a wide experience in many fields. Among his specialties he lists authorship of books, exploring a turn as a Broadway actor, work as a roving-assignment newspaper man, and as feature editor of the old New York Graphic, and the hobbies of photography and collection of primitive wood carvings.

Born in England of American parents, he started traveling when three weeks old, and in his fifty-two years he has clocked more than 80 countries in his journeyings.

He quit Yale University to go on the stage, where "two microscopically small" roles led him to switch careers. He started newspaper work in Columbus, Ohio, on the Citizen, following with editorial jobs in Washington, Baltimore and New York, the last being the feature spot on the now defunct Graphic.

For the next twelve years he

and another year during which he was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University. Lahey's news experience has been both constant and varied.

He did police beat coverage, court work, feature writing and other routines, until in 1937 he began specializing in the labor news field. An editorial column followed, but for the past five years he has been on general assignment centering chiefly in Washington. Foreign jobs took him to four continents.

Late in World War II he went by air to the China-India-Burma theater, and thence to North Africa and Italy. He has covered Great Britain, Scandinavia and France, and last year made an extensive tour through South Africa, reporting on native unrest in that area.

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Simultaneously, the new Broun Award chairman issued a reminder that the deadline for the receipt of entries at ANG headquarters is February 1, 1955. The panel of judges will examine exhibits in New York on Saturday, February 12, and submit their report to the IEB the following day.

Subsequent to announcement of the winner, there will be a formal presentation of the cash award and citation, either in the recipient's home city or some other mutually convenient location.

Donohoe, named last June by the IEB to succeed Wade Franklin of the Chicago Sun-Times, Broun Award chairman for many years, made this observation regarding this year's competition:

"The intent of the annual Broun Award for outstanding journalistic achievement does not need elaboration. It has been made clear over the years. In simple terms, it means journalistic achievement in the spirit of Heywood Broun, the founder of the American Newspaper Guild."

"The spirit of Heywood Broun was distinguished by an unswerving devotion to the public interest and an abiding concern for the underdog, whose vigorous champion he was. It was

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McKinnon Folds In Deal With Chandlers To Skip Severance Debt

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News. The Guild contract covered all non-mechanical departments, and its jurisdiction comprised the bulk of the 450 employees of the paper. While mechanical crafts have found work for all their displaced members in other shops around the city, for Guild members, especially editorial and circulation, the job outlook is dim. They also face the loss of much if not all of their accumulated severance pay credits.

McKinnon's transaction left what lawyers termed "an incredible mess" of financial and legal involvements.

A former Democratic congressman, and publisher of the now defunct San Diego Journal, McKinnon purchased the Daily News a year ago. The paper at that time was known to be in financial difficulties.

In the Guild in particular, and Los Angeles organized labor generally, McKinnon's



JOSEPH L. CAMPO
Represents ANG in LA

"sell-out" to the Chandler organization was particularly reprehensible because they had made all possible efforts during the year of his operations to help make the paper a going concern.

The Guild during that period had agreed to defer payment of wage increases, had agreed to radical changes in the circulation department intended to reduce costs, and had attempted to help find methods of avoiding immediate severance pay liabilities through changes in the corporate setup to permit expansion and the securing of new capital. Together with other segments of organized labor the Guild had co-operated in circulation and promotion drives for the paper.

The result of these labor activities was that within the year the paper showed a 20 percent increase in circulation, an increase of more than 25 percent in advertising income, and a cutting in half of the annual operating deficit McKinnon inherited. (The figures were cited by McKinnon in his formal statement on the sale, in which he took full credit for the gains.)

According to Guild sources, in November the paper actually broke even for the first time in several years.

But all this was not enough. Having gone in on a shoestring proposition, and having piled crisis on crisis with repeated cries of "Wolf" during the year, McKinnon ran up against an accumulation of troubles in re-

cent months, and apparently decided to get out at all costs.

In October the situation eased temporarily when Robert K. Straus, New York magazine publisher, secured an option on the paper. Last Friday Straus announced that he was relinquishing the option because certain Californians who originally had agreed to join his syndicate for refinancing the paper had withdrawn, and he felt that he could not undertake the task without local backing.

The actual final crisis began some weeks ago when the crafts settled wage negotiations with other Los Angeles papers and forced the News to go along, following a strike threat.

On Dec. 10 the Guild reminded McKinnon of an agreement—part of last year's contract concessions—to pay up a week's salary which the unit had agreed to defer until the week of Dec. 12 of this year.

After acknowledging that position, on Dec. 14 McKinnon posted a notice to all employees announcing that he was unable to pay off the deferred salary. The News unit met the same day, and voted to call a special meeting for Dec. 20, for the purpose of taking a strike vote.

The Chandler purchase price was reported to be somewhat less than \$300,000. None of the physical assets or liabilities were included in the transaction. The building, land, and equipment were heavily mortgaged, and their sale was expected to yield little more than the amount of indebtedness which totals \$340,000.

Meanwhile Guild members were left holding the bag to the tune of more than \$800,000. Included in the total are pay for the last week's pay deferred a year ago to aid McKinnon in getting started, notice pay, accrued vacation pay, and severance pay provided by the contract.

Additionally, McKinnon had held back a substantial amount of employee payroll deduction for the credit union, making it impossible for employees either to borrow money from that source or secure return of their own investments. He also had held back some \$12,000 in checked-off dues, \$196,000 in withholding taxes, money due for Blue Cross and other welfare plan premiums, and about \$4,500 due the crafts in retroactive pay increases.

A few days ago McKinnon deposited with the state labor commissioner \$32,500 to cover the two weeks' pay due, \$12,000 due the credit union, and money due for the insurance premiums. He also deposited with the government \$196,000 to cover the withholding tax liability.

The government, meanwhile, filed a tax lien against McKinnon's bank account—reportedly depleted—to cover both the withholding tax liability and an unpaid excess profits tax liability of \$265,000 which McKinnon assumed when he bought the Daily News.

The Guild and the steering committee have retained the law firm of Loeb & Loeb to work with local counsel Robert Rissman on disentangling the financial skeins and trying to salvage as much severance pay as possible for the Guild members.

On Dec. 17 Straus announced



EMERGENCY SESSION—Los Angeles Daily News employees crowded the Embassy Auditorium to discuss immediate measures after Publisher McKinnon sold their daily into oblivion. Hardship cases came in for first consideration.

In New York that he was dropping his option. That same day, amid reports that McKinnon's bank had stopped credit and the paper was in imminent danger of collapse, a plantwide meeting of employees explored means of supplying financing to keep the paper going, and elected a steering committee, headed by Guildsmen Sam Lewis.

This committee, augmented by union officials and attorneys, then met with McKinnon to determine exactly what the situation was. At that meeting McKinnon said the outlook was dim, but refused to commit himself definitely as to whether the News would or would not publish the following Monday.

He admitted that he had several prospective purchasers but could not tell how serious they were, refused to promise the employees advance notice in case suspension was the final answer, and brushed off as "too late" various employee suggestions for helping to meet the emergency.

The possibility that McKinnon might sell out to Chandler did not come up for discussion at the meeting. The publisher's statement to the employees that "What happens to me is secondary, the continued publication of the paper is first in all our thoughts," appeared to preclude such an eventuality.

News of the actual sale to Chandler did not come up for discussion at the meeting. The publisher's statement to the employees that "What happens to me is secondary, the continued publication of the paper is first in all our thoughts," appeared to preclude such an eventuality.

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A year ago, the paper was operating at an annual deficit of a million dollars, and had been through a prolonged period of heavy circulation and advertising income losses.

At that point the syndicate, headed by Robert L. Smith, which had purchased control of the paper in August of 1952, looked for a buyer. McKinnon took over last Christmas Eve with the statement that he was entering "more than a business venture—a crusade for a free and honest press."

Smith added that many opportunities had arisen to sell to other than a Democratically-inclined buyer, but had been turned down largely because of his conviction that a city as large as Los Angeles should not suffer the blight of a "one-party press."

While the paper picked up remarkably both in circulation and advertising, the pressure of past debts apparently was too much. McKinnon reportedly scoured the country for backers who could supply a half-million dollars needed to make the paper a going concern.

When Straus secured his option in October, it looked briefly as though he had succeeded. But prospective California participants backed out, and Straus announced that he could not take on the project alone.

"I am still convinced that given proper financing there is a great opportunity for a lively and independent newspaper in the Los Angeles area," Straus' statement said. "However, I was never prepared to undertake this task without greater local support than I have found available."

During the year of McKinnon's operations, labor enthusiasm for him gradually waned. Guild as well as craft members became increasingly restive as McKinnon stalled negotiations, permitted petty harassments by his executives, held back credit union funds deducted from employees' pay, and reneged on various promises.

For the Guild the final straw was the refusal to abide by the deferred pay agreement, after McKinnon had agreed to meet craft increases and retroactivity in the city.

At the same time there is a strong suspicion that McKinnon actually was trying to provoke the Guild into striking to mask his intended sale and place himself in a position of blaming the Guild for the destruction of the paper.

Lending weight to this view is the fact that, while McKinnon's sell-out to Chandler came as a complete surprise, it is evident from Chandler's statement published in the combined Mirror and the Daily News that McKinnon had been working on just such a deal for some time longer than the 14-hour interval between his Friday night meeting with employees and the Sunday morning transaction.

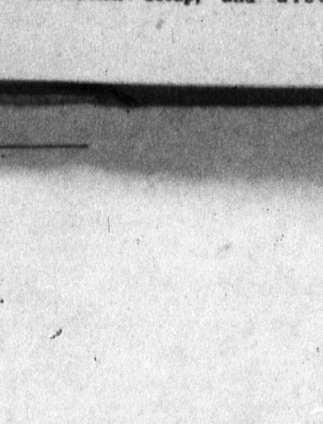
In addition the Guild agreed to a complete revamping of the circulation setup, and also

agreed to altering existing advertising commission systems.

Forty-four of the employees laid off are Guild members, including the local treasurer, two executive committee members, and a former local president.

About a dozen of the Christmas week lay-offs involved employees with more than 20 years service with the papers. Four of the six photographers fired had total service of nearly 100 years.

The haste and abandon with which the dismissal was effected became apparent when the Post discovered that six of



SAM LEWIS
Heads Steering Committee

concluded. The Guild agreed to reopen negotiations with McKinnon, and worked out a formula under which the retroactive increase due was paid in lieu of one regular week's salary, with that week's pay to be paid by the week of Dec. 12 of this year.

The history of the News in recent years was a rocky one, with repeated crises and periodic reports of sale and/or suspension.

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Boston Post Guild Tangles With Fox In Blunderbuss Firings

(Continued from Page 1)

One advertising department clerk was reinstated when it dawned on management that they hadn't known what he was doing, and what he was doing was necessary.

Three artists were offered their jobs back after three others refused inter-departmental transfers to fill the gaps created by the discharges. Only one accepted, however, the other two preferring to take their severance pay.

One display advertising solicitor and one classified outside solicitor were reinstated and two inside classified solicitors were let go.

Following the reinstatement offers, the departmental breakdown on the dismissals was: Editorial 23, Advertising 13, Building Service 10, Circulation 7 and Purchasing 1.

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Fox—What Manner Of Man?

John Fox likes to have money in his pocket.

He picked up most of his pocket money—about \$25,000,000—between 1942 and 1952. How much of it he still has left nobody, with the possible exception of Mr. Fox, seems to know.

A two-part study of John Fox titled "Money man from South Boston" appeared in Fortune, June and July, 1952. Fortune described him as a "chunky, scribbled young man with an Irish temper, a hard, flat voice, and an incisive, arithmetical mind—a rough-and-tumble fighter and not at all a polite antagonist, who operated, figuratively, in shirt sleeves."

He picked up his pocket money in the stocks and bonds business, by buying cheap and selling dear. Fortune quotes him: "I rolled the dice right often enough and the numbers just got bigger and bigger. I was always right."

For example, he bought into Western Union when its stock was selling at about \$20 a share and became its chief stockholder with 200,000 shares (about 16%). He sold about half of this interest when he bought the Boston Post. The stock was then selling at about \$50 a share.

During a ten year period he also picked up pocket money in U. S. Leather Co., which was liquidated, and its wholly owned subsidiary, Keta Gas & Oil Co.; Nor Penn Gas; 61 Broadway Corp., which sold its building at that address to Renaissance Polytechnic Institute for \$10 million and was later liquidated by Fox; New England Gas & Electric Association, and other gas, oil and real estate enterprises.

Fox didn't always have pocket money. He was born, on December 9, 1906, into a South Boston Irish family. His father held two jobs to keep the family going.

He helped send himself through Harvard as a jazz pianist and commuted to classes by trolley.

Now he explains his urge to

accord with the wording of the statute, Guild counsel advises, and the Boston local has pledged to test the question in the courts, if necessary.

Fox's prediction that there would be one less newspaper in Boston by Christmas hung over the negotiations for renewal of the Guild's contract with the Post. But when the Guild asked if it could expect the new contract to run for a year, management representatives cited Fox's pledge that he would keep the Post as long as he lived.

Management also pointed out that it was going ahead with plans for its new 20-story building and had already ordered new presses for the plant. Fox—who incidentally is an old labor man himself; he once held a card in the Musicians' Union while piano-playing his way through Harvard—admitted that the "one less newspaper" prediction, but said the granting of his application for a TV channel would have "no bearing" and anyhow would not materialize "in sufficient time for the issue to be solved."

A report on the condition of the Post's finances, however, termed them "improved," and Fox told the Wall Street Journal that the Post "has signed a contract for the sale of certain of its assets which will increase its cash by approximately \$10,000,000."

He left newspaper work to join the staff of the War Relocation Authority where he served until the work of that agency was completed. He was appointed an international representative of the Guild in July 1946. He represented the Guild

Unlike Charles E. Wilson of Detroit, John Fox of South Boston is not a bird dog man. Mr. Fox is a St. Bernard dog man.

When he purchased the Boston Post, Fortune magazine reported that Mr. Fox kept, presumably in kennels, six "elephantine St. Bernard dogs, which consume a daily average of eighteen pounds of meat."

make money by remembering: "I was once poor."

What does he do with his pocket money, now that he has it?

"Among his worldly possessions," said Fortune, "are a forty-seven acre estate in Connecticut and a house with a dining room imported from the eighteenth-century London house of David Garrick, an estate in Maine with 6,500 acres of farms and woodland, 270 of Hassam paintings, and six elephantine St. Bernard dogs, which consume a daily average of eighteen pounds of meat."

"With money in his pocket," Fortune continued, "he can amble among the antique treasures of Manhattan's French & Co., casually turning over \$10,000 price-tags the way other people shop at Macy's, turning over tags marked \$9.98. He can stand on the terrace of his mansion in Fairfield, Connecticut, and survey the swimming pool, the tennis court, and the forty-seven acres.

"He can have French & Co.

do the decorating. (For weeks French & Co. workmen lovingly fitted, nailed, rubbed, painted, and laid on gold leaf.) He can have a foxhead door knocker, carved walnut panelling in his study from sixteenth-century panelling and carving in his dining room. He can satisfy his love for cultural things, such as literature. Lastly, he says, after some thought, 'I have been reading Dickens, Thackeray, Stevenson, Dante, Shakespeare, Pops, the Old Testament.' He also reads, 'omnivourously,' the various biographies of J. P. Morgan and the Rothschilds.

"With money in his pocket he can install a \$15,000 sound recording and amplifying system in his house ('As big as the one at Roxy's')."

"With money in his pocket Mr. Fox can let his imagination run free. Says one of his friends: 'After twelve Scotch John will tell you that he wants to set up an international buying the Boston Post; that would give him a mousetrap. The way he figures it, the Post might even be a good investment ('I can't overstate the habit of making money')."

One of Bob Greenock's cherished possessions was an overcoat that had been worn by Heywood Brown. It was contributed by Brown to the Chicago strikers in the days when warm clothing was a welcome gift for those who picked through two Chicago winters.

The garment was a generous size for Greenock. Brown's measurements were more ample than Bob's. But Bob kept the coat and wore it as he had received it. It is still hanging in the closet of his San Francisco home.

Brown died December 18, 1939. Greenock's funeral was held on the fifteenth anniversary of Brown's death.

In various organizing projects in the western states and was widely known among Guildsmen in locals of the region.

Greenock was a graduate of Northwestern University.

His widow, Annabelle, has been identified with Guild activities for many years. She worked as a volunteer in the Chicago strike headquarters. When they moved to San Francisco she was hired as office secretary by the San Francisco-Oakland Local and continued in that position for more than ten years. She resigned in 1952 to take care of Bob when his illness confined him to his home.

Funeral services were held December 18 in San Francisco.

Greenock was a member of the ANG staff since 1946, died in San Francisco December 16 at the age of 47. He has been ill since April, 1952, when he suffered a paralytic stroke. His death occurred two days after a second stroke from which he never regained consciousness.

Greenock was a veteran Guild member. He joined the Guild in Chicago as an employee of the Chicago Herald-American where he had worked for 10 years. When the Guild struck the Chicago paper in 1938 Greenock was one of the members of the strike committee and a leader in the strike which continued for eighteen months.

Out of a job after the strike was settled he returned to San Francisco, his native city. He worked for two years on the San Francisco News as a reporter and for a short time was on the staff of the San Francisco Examiner.

He left newspaper work to join the staff of the War Relocation Authority where he served until the work of that agency was completed. He was appointed an international representative of the Guild in July 1946. He represented the Guild

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Statement of Condition of General Fund as at October 31, 1954

CURRENT ASSETS	ASSETS	
Cash in Bank and on Hand.....		\$22,992.98
Advances Receivable.....		9,400.95
Exchangeable Receivable.....		495.27
Loans Receivable.....		300.00
Total Current Assets.....		\$33,190.20
OTHER ASSETS		
Accounting equipment, less depreciation allowance.....	9,927.69	
Deposits.....	1,286.12	
Total Other Assets.....	11,213.81	
TOTAL ASSETS.....		\$44,404.01
LIABILITIES	LIABILITIES AND RESERVES	
Exchangeable payable.....		\$34,408.57
W. E. Hulse Memorial Fund.....		15.00
Harvard Brown.....		135.00
Memorial Fund.....		1,200.00
Payroll Taxes payable.....		7,500.00
Due International.....		2,500.00
Due Ontario.....		10,000.00
Notes payable.....		2,410.00
Accrued interest.....		2,410.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES.....		\$52,418.54
	RESERVES	
	Reserve for Governance.....	\$12,408.57
	Reserve for Hearst Negotiations.....	1,581.31
	Reserve for 1955 Convention.....	4,000.00
	TOTAL RESERVES.....	\$18,000.00
	TOTAL LIABILITIES AND RESERVES.....	\$70,418.54

Analysis of General Fund Budget and Expenses for the Quarter Ending October 31, 1954

	EXPENDED	BUDGET	BUDGET
	Qtr. Ending Oct. 31, 1954	Qtr. Ending Oct. 31, 1954	Qtr. Ending Oct. 31, 1954
A. PER CAPITA TAXES			
CIO, CCL, IFL.....	\$ 7,124.00	\$ 7,124.00	\$ 7,124.00
B. ORGANIZING AND SERVICING			
Salary-Director and Reps.....	\$17,516.50	\$18,750.00	\$18,750.00
Sec. Officer.....	474.50	500.00	500.00
Expenses-Director and Reps.....	7,196.75	6,500.00	6,500.00
Minor Organizing Expense.....	7,028.45	1,000.00	1,000.00
	\$32,115.20	\$26,750.00	\$26,750.00
C. COLLECTIVE BARGAINING			
Salary-Exec. Sec.-I.R.R. Contracts.....	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,625.00	\$ 1,625.00
Contracts Analyst.....	1,425.00	1,425.00	1,425.00
Sec. Officer.....	474.50	500.00	500.00
Expenses-Contracting.....	85.58	25.00	25.00
Miscellaneous.....	5,100.00	5,100.00	5,100.00
	\$ 8,785.08	\$ 8,675.00	\$ 8,675.00
D. WIRE SERVICE ADMINISTRATION			
Salary-Administrator.....	\$ 1,885.00	\$ 1,885.00	\$ 1,885.00
Admin. Assistant.....	1,885.00	1,885.00	1,885.00
Sec. Officer.....	474.50	500.00	500.00
Expenses of Personnel.....	691.18	1,000.00	1,000.00
Wire Service Council.....	4,215.61	4,000.00	4,000.00
Negotiations.....	1,882.76	2,000.00	2,000.00
Wire Service Paper.....	141.15	—	1,000.00
Regional Conferences.....	154.85	—	1,000.00
Activations.....	50.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
	\$11,555.05	\$12,270.00	\$12,270.00
E. RESEARCH AND INFORMATION			
Salary-Director.....	\$ 2,015.00	\$ 2,015.00	\$ 2,015.00
Assistant.....	1,885.00	1,885.00	1,885.00
Sec. Officer.....	474.50	500.00	500.00
Expenses-Director.....	12.17	300.00	300.00
Assistant.....	1.80	300.00	300.00
Books and Periodicals.....	184.15	300.00	300.00
Publications and Literature.....	12.50	2,000.00	2,000.00
Training Conferences.....	16.01	100.00	100.00
Miscellaneous.....	\$ 4,547.77	\$ 6,300.00	\$10,400.00
	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00
F. GUILD REPORTER			
Salary-Editor.....	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Assistant.....	1,885.00	1,885.00	1,885.00
Circled.....	435.75	500.00	500.00
Printing and Postage.....	4,159.55	4,000.00	4,000.00
Mailing and Postage.....	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
News Service.....	175.00	500.00	500.00
Pictures and Special Material.....	265.00	500.00	500.00
Expenses.....	225.00	500.00	500.00
Miscellaneous.....	\$1,985.10	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00
	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00
G. ADMINISTRATIVE			
Salary-Office Manager.....	\$ 1,885.00	\$ 1,885.00	\$ 1,885.00
Payroll Taxes.....	1,124.00	1,124.00	1,124.00
Bookkeeping Dept.....	2,554.78	2,500.00	2,500.00
General Clerical.....	2,714.50	2,500.00	2,500.00
Post and Maintenance.....	2,312.00	2,125.00	2,125.00
Stationery and Supplies.....	1,554.81	1,500.00	1,500.00
Equipment.....	1,554.81	1,500.00	1,500.00
Bookkeeping Machine Expense.....	1,554.81	1,500.00	1,500.00
Repairs and Improvements.....	1,554.81	1,500.00	1,500.00
Telephone and Telegraph.....	1,554.81	1,500.00	1,500.00
Postage.....	1,554.81	1,500.00	1,500.00
Autoline.....	1,554.81	1,500.00	1,500.00
Insurance and Bonding.....	1,554.81	1,500.00	1,500.00
Miscellaneous.....	\$1,554.81	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00
H. EXECUTIVES			
Officers-Salaries.....	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Expenses.....	\$ 6,125.00	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 6,500.00
	\$11,125.00	\$11,500.00	\$11,500.00
I. OTHER EXPENSES			
Legal Fees.....	\$ 2,142.21	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Payroll Taxes.....	1,124.00	1,124.00	1,124.00
Contributions.....	25.00	300.00	300.00
Brown Award Expense.....	25.41	—	100.00
Delegates and Committees.....	95.58	1,000.00	1,000.00
I.R.R. Meetings.....	12.51	500.00	500.00
Delegates and Committees.....	2,572.25	2,000.00	2,000.00
Philip Murray Foundation.....	500.00	500.00	500.00
1955 Convention.....	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
1954 Convention Above House.....	11,542.00	12,000.00	12,000.00
I.R.R. Conference.....	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
CIO Convention.....	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
	\$31,427.42	\$32,500.00	\$33,150.00
	\$18,439.50	\$11,125.00	\$11,575.00

Broun Judges Named

(Continued from Page 3)

expressed, the New York Times recalled on his death, "in the qualities that were born in him—in humor, in courage, in endless and painstaking kindness for the poor, the weak and those whom he thought oppressed."

"All good work in the public interest, including photographs and cartoons, will receive consideration, particularly if it has helped right a wrong. One year, the Broun Award was won by a series of institutional advertisements."

Three other points of importance were cited by the Broun Award chairman:

"The 1954 Award will be given for work done or work completed between January 1, 1954, and December 31, 1954."

"Eligible are employees in the Guild's jurisdiction on newspapers, wire and news services, news magazines, radio or television stations in the United States and Canada, whether they are members of the Guild or not."

"Entries should be submitted in scrapbook form with an accompanying letter describing the circumstances under which the work was done, particularly the initiative and ingenuity shown by the candidate."

"Entries must be received by February 1, 1955, and the decision of the panel of judges will be final."

The award chairman also pointed out that in past years important factors influencing judges' decisions have been disinterestedness of the candidate, significance and quality of the work, and technique.

All entries are to be sent to the Broun Award Committee, American Newspaper Guild, CIO, 90 University Place, New York 3, N. Y.

A recapitulation of Broun Award winners, going backward from last year to the first year of competition in 1941, follows:

1953—Ralph S. O'Leary, Houston Post, for his expose of the "Minute Women."

1952—Wallace Turner, Portland Oregonian, for stories revealing fraud in the purchase of Indian-owned timberlands.

1951—Jack Steele, New York Herald Tribune, for exposing corruption in government bureau.

1950—Leonard Jackson, Bay City (Mich.) Times, for series on the exploitation of migrant Puerto Rican farm workers.

1949—Herbert L. Block, Washington Post, for penetrating editorial cartoons, and Ted Poston, New York Post, for courageous coverage of a Florida rape trial.

1948—Elias A. McQuaid, New Hampshire News, (Manchester, N.H.) for uncovering fraud in state contract awards.

1947—Bert Andrews, New York Herald Tribune, for exposing disregard for civil rights in State Department security dismissals.

1946—James McGuire, Jack McPhaul and Karin Walsh, Chicago Times, whose joint efforts freed a prisoner unjustly convicted of murder.

(Continued from Page 3)

1944—Nathan Robertson, PM, for distinguished Capitol Hill coverage from Washington.

1943—Milton J. Lapine, I. L. Kenen, William M. Davy and E. George Green, for a series of CIO ads in the Cleveland Union Leader on war plant absenteeism.

1942—Dillard Stokes, Washington Post, for uncovering a Nazi propaganda network in the United States.

1941—Tom O'Connor, PM, for revealing hazardous conditions in the nation's coal mines.

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THE GUILD REPORTER

CHARLES E. CRISSEY, Editor

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December 24, 1954

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WERE the Guild Reporter, like Time Magazine, to choose its "man of the year," there would be no hesitancy in this corner as to who it would be.

The title would go, without contest or quibble, to Dan Delaney, of the Wilkes-Barre Newspaper Guild.

Delaney is the un-biased reporter who month after month during the long strike by Wilkes-Barre Guild members against their publishers kept the Guild Reporter—and thereby the entire Guild membership—promptly informed as to developments, or lack of them, in that epic struggle.

He kept his GR copy, often with pix, coming in before deadline all through the summer, even during the period when the Wilkes-Barre Guild insisted that strikers, like regular employees, deserve a vacation, and told Delaney to take time out. He did so, but didn't let it interfere with seeing that GR copy was written and dispatched.

His labors meant that everybody knew what was going on in Wilkes-Barre, how their strike contributions were being used, what success the Valley News—the strike daily—was meeting, even the "underground" dope on shifting management thinking when the pinch of revenue loss began to be felt.

There's no formal award accruing to the GR's man of the year; just an admiring pat on the back for a good Guildsman and a good newspaperman, who was on top of his story all the way.

COLUMNIST Barry Mather, of the Vancouver, B.C., Sun, a member of the Vancouver Newspaper Guild, CCL, devoted space recently to a criticism of suggested "improvements" in labor union procedures.

Under the headline, "Coty Plan in Bad Odor With Me" he wrote:

Mr. Philip Cortney, president of the cosmetic company, Coty & Coty, has joined the ranks of businessmen with plans for labor.

At least these plans are said to be for labor. Sometimes, after reading them, I wonder if they are not against labor.

No doubt I am wrong. The Cortney plan is three-fold.

ONE—Any votes on strikes by labor should not be open, raise-your-right-hand votes. No, Cortney says, they should

be secret votes. This, it is thought, would help to eliminate from unions what business calls mob-psychology and what labor calls solidarity.

The non-open vote is a great natural idea. . . . Those fickle workers! They just don't know their own minds. They never vote as they think. Oh, no. No more than the employers' associations who take their votes by the dark of the moon, in case one might influence another.

One possible improvement over the Cortney secret vote. Why not keep the results secret, too? Why count them?

This would prevent all strikes.

TWO—Negotiations for union contracts should not be held every year, but only once every three years. Cortney figures this would eliminate two thirds of the friction over contracts.

This is a terrific idea. But why negotiate every three years? Why not just make it every ten years.

Better still, to really eliminate friction, the best plan would be to meet the workers only once in a life-time. Say every 70 years.

THREE—Picketing must be prohibited, Cortney says.

Well, everybody can go along with that. Particularly all union men watching non or anti-union men taking their jobs at cut rates.

This would make for peace, all right.

But, Courtney, why leave it at eliminating picketing?

Why not eliminate organized labor?

The Coty plan?

Personally, I think it scents.

Stockton Elects Stoy President

Stockton, Calif.—Court beatman Herb Stoy, a Stockton Daily Record staffer since 1949, will succeed Marjorie Flaherty as president of the Stockton local.

Stoy, who won by a three-vote margin over fellow city room employee Vince Vandere in a spirited campaign, formerly served the local as secretary.

Other incoming officers are: Bob Whittington, vice-president; Scott Matthews, recording secretary; Helen Niemi, corresponding secretary; Frances Ritter, treasurer; Bob Costa, sergeant-at-arms.

Washington Roundup

By ELEANOR COAKLEY
 Washington Guild

THIS SEASON OF HOLLY AND MISTLETOE, of loving and giving, seems a propitious time for the bestowing of compliments, too, and so we pass along a few of the public plaudits afforded the American press recently.

Most picturesque, of course, was that of French Ambassador Henri Bonnet, who in a farewell speech before returning to France, said American journalism was like "the little glass of white wine that the workman in my country still prefers to milk." How, asked this Diplomat at the Breakfast Table, was he going to get along without his "intellectual morning feast"?

The friendly Frenchman's nosebags were tossed hard upon the presentation by President Eisenhower of a rather large bouquet. In a film appearance at the dedication of the memorial press center of the Overseas Press Club in New York, the President characterized the American newspaperman as a "valiant warrior for the truth that makes men free."

PERHAPS WE SHOULD LEAVE IT AT that, since the London Times, which recently devoted a special edition of its Literary Supplement to American writing, is less open-handed in its praise. However, one senses a tinge of envy in the piece, and that seems praise in itself.

The London paper admits that the press corps in the United States enjoys a very high status, "partly due to its own and to the public's appreciation of the role that the Press plays in the working of the American democracy. . . . Unlike the Press of other democratic countries, its powers and prestige are not a comparatively modern expression of the country's political freedom but are original contributors to it."

This prestige brings the American press privileges and advantages unequalled anywhere else in the world, the London Times finds, and cites the hand-outs, press conferences, guidance and accommodations provided those covering the news, especially in Washington.

The London Times piece, "The American Press—How It Strikes the Visitor," takes Washington to be the center of the American press where public opinion is moulded and political policies are determined in the light of how they will be interpreted by the press.

The article is not signed, but its author obviously gathered his impressions from the National Press Club, the press rooms of the State Department and other government agencies and from the White House press conferences where "The President, followed by his retinue of advisers, walks into the ornate room in which two hundred or more reporters and columnists have assembled to meet him, much as some medieval monarch might enter to hold court with his barons."

OUR ENGLISH BROTHER finds the Washington press corps a closed, exclusive fraternity. The Washington correspondent, he says, is much like the foreign correspondent in that he is away from his own home town, his paper and his colleagues. Naturally, then, newspaper men in Washington spend a great deal of time together in the press rooms of government agencies, at clubs and parties. They talk mostly shop, and as a result, he concludes, there is a "remarkable unity of Press opinion in the United States."

Washington newsmen consulted on this point were unanimous in their denial. True, they pointed out, all the reporters who cover a press conference get the same facts. If they write strictly factual accounts their stories are going to be pretty much alike and nothing remarkable about it. On the other hand, the columnists and opinion writers will turn out a wide variety of interpretations of the same story.

The London Times writer cites as proof of his point the almost unanimous press prediction that Truman would be defeated in 1948. But the other side of the coin is turned up by unconvinced Washington newsmen who point to the variety of opinions appearing in this year's post-election analyses.

In Washington, for instance, where the fingers of the press are supposed to be continually on the pulse of the nation, the papers, while agreeing that there was no great victory for either party, varied in their interpretations of the phenomena.

The Star found "it was a vote for continuance of middle-of-the-road Government as distinguished from any extreme shift to legislative policy." The Post and Times Herald took the position that there was no "vast" national trend—that local issues predominated. A Scripps-How-

ard editorial in the Daily News concluded that while there wasn't much of a pattern in the voting, "certainly it has a Democratic slant."

THE COLUMNISTS were much farther apart. David Lawrence saw no national trend on any issues; while Thomas L. Stokes said the election of Richard Neuberger in Oregon exploded as a "myth" the idea that there were no national issues of consequence. He termed the Oregon vote a defeat for the Administration's "partnership" idea on public power.

Gould Lincoln wrote that the election did not indicate opposition of the Western States to Eisenhower's water-power policies. But Doris Fleenon maintained that the most sensational overturns pivoted on issues of unemployment and conservation, including public power.

Mr. Lincoln also saw no strong hostility among American farmers toward the Administration's farm program but again Doris Fleenon contradicted him by pointing out that most of the defeated Republican Congressmen had voted for the Eisenhower-Benson farm bill and that if the farmers had decided to give the Administration a little more time, "it is most surely borrowed time."

Perhaps the London Times writer has heard about the "one-party" press revealed in the 1952 campaign. If so he has confused the ideas and convictions of newsmen with the partisan politics of editors and publishers. While it is estimated that 67 percent of our daily newspapers with 80 percent of the circulation supported Eisenhower, that support was a matter of editorial preference and had little to do with the men who gather the news.

As a matter of fact, the London writer does believe that in the United States the most influential journalists are the reporters and columnists. "In Britain," he says, "influence is best exerted through well-thought-out leading articles (editorials). In the United States it is best exerted by being aimed, in the form of repetitive, factual stores expressed in simple, urgent terms, through the reportorial columns at the ordinary reader."

IT WOULD APPEAR that the gentleman does not understand the workings of an American newspaper, for, as one Washington correspondent puts it, "the most influential guy is the one who handles your copy and decides where and how it will run."

Most Washington correspondents would agree with the statement that the American newsmen "sees himself and a few hundred other journalists as the eyes and ears of the American democracy, continually watching and listening to the working of the selfish forces which, if left unreported, might undermine it."

It is this attitude, the Englishman believes, which exerts a strong influence on the government, impressing on government officials, as it were, the fact that the eyes of the American voter are always on them. In fact, he goes so far as to say that "The work of the Press at Presidential Press conferences has done more to correct the vagaries of American foreign policy and to check the abuses of McCarthyism since the inauguration of President Eisenhower than any other agency."

In assuming this role, he contends, the American journalist has had to resort to techniques which can be harmful. Trying to reach each and every citizen with information upon which he can base his political decisions, the reporter tends to over-simplify to the point of distortion; to play up personalities at the expense of attention to economic and social aspects of a situation; to dramatize and foreshorten the development of events and to give the reader a perpetual sense of crisis. Yet, he goes on to say, "Without this kind of journalism it is doubtful if the revolution by which the United States was converted from an isolationist into an interventionist nation within half a generation could have been achieved."

While serving as the conscience of the United States, the American journalist has developed the attitude that "whatever a government wishes to conceal is contrary to the interests of the people and that to withhold such a story, if it comes to their knowledge, is not responsible but irresponsible," the author finds.

He deprecates this as detrimental to international diplomacy and states further that, because of it the American newsmen is often "used" by politicians and officials who plant stories with the press and then deny or confirm them when they determine what public reaction is. It is implied that this could never happen in Britain.