

# Washington Digest

National Topics Interpreted  
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Washington.—There is much talk among the Republicans, both for and against, concerning the proposal to hold a general party conference early next year. The plan projected would bring together delegates from every state just the same as the convention that is held every four years for nominating the presidential and vice presidential candidates and formulation of party policies through adoption of a campaign platform.

The question has many angles and in consequence many pros and cons already have been advanced. In natural consequence also, some very well-known Republicans have taken definite decisions, either for or against the plan which has the approval of men like John Hamilton, chairman of the Republican national committee, and former President Herbert Hoover. Some very splendid men find themselves honestly in opposition and have said so in unequivocal terms.

The issue will be fought out at a meeting of the national committee early in November and probably there will be such a convention early in 1938.

As I have said, there is argument on both sides but after discussing the situation with many Republicans, it appears to me that the advantages outweigh the disadvantages. I say this from the standpoint of the country at large. Many times in these columns, I have expressed the conviction that a strong minority party, whether that party be Republican or Democratic, is a very healthy condition for the country as a whole. A political party with too great a majority is likely to run away with itself and do many unwise things. We have had proof of this during the Roosevelt administration and we had proof of it during the administrations of the late President Harding and President Coolidge when Republicans had too many members of the house and the senate and the Democratic minority was impotent.

I cannot speak from a Republican standpoint any more than I can speak from a Democratic standpoint. Nevertheless, from the position I attempt to follow as an observer of national affairs and long range national policies, it does seem that the Republicans ought to quit fighting among themselves and get together to oppose that which the present minority in this country finds objectionable in President Roosevelt's policies. They ought to determine on a set of principles and stick to them. It is their obligation and if they fail to fulfill that obligation, it seems to me they had best disband, get rid of those who attempt to be leaders in the Republican party and let somebody else organize the minority faction in the United States—and it is to be remembered that even in the last election there were almost 16,000,000 Republican voters.

In advocating this action, I am not motivated as much by my belief in and support of some of Mr. Roosevelt's policies as I am in my disagreement with others of the program to which the New Dealer has adhered.

A strong and vocal minority will insure the retention of rights and powers in the hands of the people where they belong and at the same time it will compel Democrats to stick together in carrying out sound policies proposed by the President. That latter statement may sound paradoxical. I think it is not. I make the statement because I know how many times the gigantic Democratic majority in congress has fought over trivialities and because I know how many times sincere opposition to unsound policies has met with defeat without the country knowing the reasons for that opposition.

Taken all in all, therefore, I believe it is an obligation upon me as an observer of national affairs to declare in favor of a movement by the minority party that will result in a concentration of its power for the good of the nation.

And what, one may ask, should be the creed of the minority party next year?

Well, as I see the picture, the Republican party must be the conservative party in the United States. President Roosevelt and his New Dealers cannot avoid being the radical party. I have said this many times in these columns and it is more evident now even than when I reported upon the situation earlier. The conservatives can and should have a voice in their government even if it is only an opposition voice that constitutes a balance-wheel.

Proceeding from that premise, therefore, there can be little argument that the principles which the Republicans advocate should be drawn from principles of governmental policies that have proved sound. That is to say, the Republicans cannot afford to attack Mr.

Roosevelt on everything he has done, but they can tear him politically limb from limb with constructive proposals to take the place of those things he has done which represent discouragement, deceit and disaster to the country's economic life.

There will be no gain for the Republicans in 1938 elections if they attempt to ride two or three different horses as they did in 1936. For example, they cannot do as Candidate Landon did, to wit, call for a balanced budget in one speech and advocate being Santa Claus in another; they cannot blow hot and cold, and, therefore, they must be either conservative or radical.

It seems to me the Republicans can probably plan for an immediate balancing of the national budget. In that connection, they can with justification demand curtailment, if not entire elimination, of many governmental functions inaugurated under the New Deal. They can offer constructively a proposal to legislate out of existence some 20 or 30 federal agencies for which there never has been and is not now any excuse for their existence.

Another question that is crying for attention is the huge national debt, now at \$37,000,000,000, the highest in history.

### National Debt

That debt must be reorganized and placed on a basis that will permit gradual liquidation of it. The Roosevelt administration has done nothing regarding the debt except to build it higher and higher.

If the Republican party wants to do a constructive job it ought to set to work to examine all of the statutes enacted by congress in the last ten or twelve years and especially those enacted in the haste of the emergency with a view to repealing of many of them. Some can and should be rewritten to make them workable. Those statutes placed on the books by the Roosevelt administration constitute outstanding evidence of the lack of opposition. We all know many of those bills were written in executive departments and sent to congress with instructions to pass them unchanged. Bad legislation has resulted many times and a checkup surely is indicated.

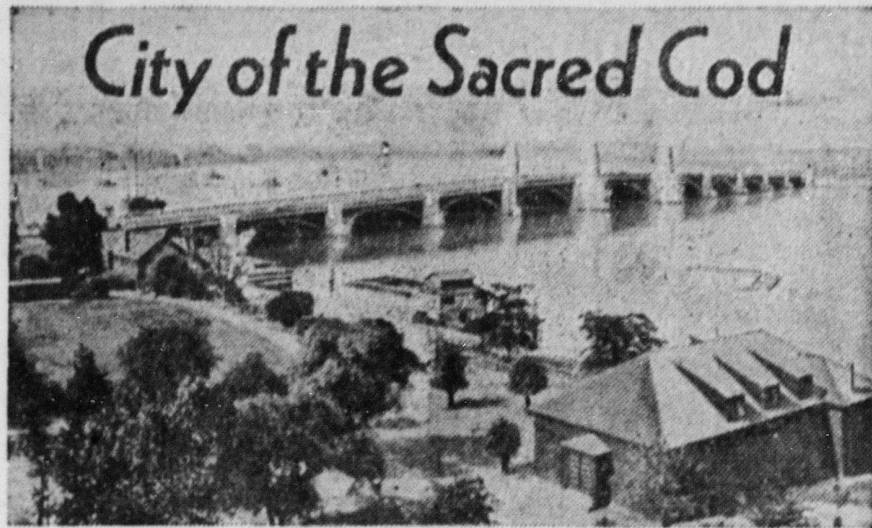
As regards legislation now on the statute books, it seems to me we will never have sound prosperity until certain laws that increase production costs are eliminated. I mean by this that there are numerous laws which have the effect of widening the spread between the price of the raw materials and the price of the manufactured products. Legislation of this kind is bound to force down the prices paid to the producers and, in my opinion, the results are beginning to be reflected on products of the farm.

Probably the most delicate question with which the Republicans are confronted relates to wages and hours of labor. Business interests have been shortsighted. Too many times employers have overworked their employees and have shown but little consideration for the rights of labor. The result is that labor is demanding consideration in the shape of protection at the hands of its national government and the Republicans, whether they desire to or not, must take a stand.

Among other principles upon which I think the Republicans as the conservative party surely can agree is that there is too much government in business. The government itself is engaged in many lines of commerce and industry and it is breaking down private enterprises in countless ways. I regard the function of government as a thing to be confined to matters and enterprises which individuals cannot do as individuals. We might use the postal service as an example. No one would be so silly as to say that the postal service could be operated satisfactorily in any other way than as an agency of the federal government. In contradistinction to the postal service, however, we can point to such things as the building of model homes for private citizens. I think the government has no business at all in that field. This is so, first, because of the tremendous waste accompanying any governmental operation and, second, for the reason that private persons who are holders of funds whether the amount is great or small recognize real estate mortgages as sound investments. I need not mention the red tape or the politics that can choke up any such thing as a government housing development.

I could go on and mention numerous other general principles upon which there can be honest differences of opinion. It is upon these questions where differences are honest and not created for political reasons that the Republican party should express itself. It ought to do this if it is going to be representative of opposition sentiment.

Though Boston, remote from grainfields and ranches, must go far



Charles River Basin and West Boston Bridge.

## Some Reasons Why Boston Can High-Rank Among American Cities

Prepared by National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.—WNU Service.

**G**EOGRAPHICALLY, Boston is the trade and population center of rich, industrial New England. A few minutes' ride from Faneuil Hall are more than 5,700 factories and over 25,000 stores of one kind or another.

Boston does not flaunt these distinctions; yet seek and you find she has America's largest drydock; the world's greatest fish-freezing and storage plant. Here is a center of America's paper, wool, textbook, and cotton-manufacturing industries, and the second port in America in volume of ocean-borne passenger traffic.

Her deep-channel harbor, whose modern piers connect with rails and highways, is one of the most accessible on the Atlantic seaboard; it has 40 miles of berthing space and deep water to accommodate the largest vessels.

When "Boston ships" traded hardware for California hides before the days of '49, the shoe and leather industry of New England began. Today, a large share of all hides used in American leather and shoe factories is bought and sold inside one square mile of old Boston, where even in the middle of the street you catch the acrid whiff of newly tanned leather.

In Bombay is an old American icehouse. It dates from the period, beginning 1805, when Boston skippers took cargoes for sale in Jamaica, Cuba, Brazil and India. Now high-grade electrical machines, which include refrigerators, rank among Boston exports.

Boston's pioneer place in the import and processing of tropical things is still hers. She and her neighbors make now more than a third of all America's rubber shoes; the trade name of one cocoa made here has been a household word for generations. Jute, burlap, goatskins, fleeces, bales of cotton, sisal, fruit, sugar, coffee, all pass this way.

Ask how long skilled workers have served in the same plants; hear how many generations of a given family have worked at the same trades, and you begin to account for the vitality of Boston industry. Here is pride in good work, inherited knowledge, genius for craftsmanship.

### Made Banana a Staple Food.

John Hancock probably never saw a banana. At the Philadelphia Centennial exhibition, in 1876, curious crowds gazed in wonder at a bunch of them. Now everybody, from Quoddy Light to Golden Gate, from Key West to Alaska, knows their smell and taste.

Boston's United Fruit company makes the banana, once a rarity wrapped in tinfoil, today a staple American food.

Yet its greatest feat is not in distribution, but production. About its success in turning jungle into rich plantations and its conquest of tropical disease, piles of fat books are written. All that is far from Boston, yet it was a Boston man, Andrew W. Preston, who conceived these incomparable tasks. When he began, long ago, the world banana crop barely equaled what New York alone now eats in a few weeks!

To get bananas the company had to raise them; so it became a vast agricultural concern. Jungle areas cleared and planted total thousands of square miles.

When Minor C. Keith, of United Fruit, started his railroad to Costa Rica from Puerto Limon to San Jose, a 19-year job that cost more than 4,000 lives from fever, there was but little rail in all Central America. Now the company owns and operates its tracks, trucks, and aerial tramways in a dozen tropic regions. It has built towns, piers, radio stations, hotels, harbors, hospitals; stores, schools, churches, theaters, playgrounds; shops, warehouses, markets; water, light, and power plants, and workers' homes by the thousands.

### Center of Fish Industry.

Besides growing bananas, it raises meat, vegetables, and other foods for its armies of workers, and operates sugar plantations, mills, and refineries; grows coconuts, cocoa, and other tropical products; and annually carries some 40,000 passengers on its 97 ships from Boston, New York, Baltimore, New Orleans, and San Francisco to 25 different ports between Habana and Cartagena, Colombia.

Though Boston, remote from grainfields and ranches, must go far

for bread and meat, she also covers much of America with fish, as well as bananas.

"But what profit might arise?" That was King James' query when Pilgrims asked him, in 1618, to permit them to sail for the New World. "Fishing," they replied.

"So, God save my soul!" he exclaimed. "'Tis an honest trade. 'Twas the Apostles' own calling."

There's a reason why the Sacred Codfish is an emblem of Massachusetts; why its effigy hangs now in the statehouse, and has hung, in one assembly hall or another, for more than 200 years. It saved the early settlers from starving; preserved with salt from England, it became their first export, their first source of revenue.

Boston, like Gloucester, catches many other kinds now, from lobster to mackerel, and helps feed the whole United States. And cod is no longer the favorite; haddock is more in demand.

Go for a trip in a trawler. Heading for the Stellwagen bank, the dingdong echo of your radio depth-finder warns you that you are over the fishing grounds, and the big conical net is let go.

Wooden wheels, set on its lower lip, let it roll easily over the ocean floor; big wooden gates at each end, opening outward keep it stretched wide open, so that it scoops up everything that swims or crawls, from "sea eggs" to squid.

"Green," or unfrozen, fish is shipped as far west as Mississippi; frozen fish, really fresh fish preserved by freezing which will keep in perfect condition a year or more, reaches the Pacific coast, while salted and dried codfish, or "bacalao," is consumed as far away as southern Europe, the Caribbean, and the coast of Brazil.

Dawn brings the auction in a big "pit" at the pier's end. Signs on the walls say all bidding must be in English; bids are called in English, but debates rage with confusion of tongues.

Then this big, busy fish pier echoes with excitement. Men in rubber boots, wearing caps with long visors like duck bills, throw fish into rope baskets and swing them to the docks. Others run hither and yon, pushing bright-colored carts filled with fish, followed by sniffing, hard-faced wharf cats.

### Bostonians Are Good Sailors.

These Boston people love the sea. For generations they sailed it to make a living. Now many sail for fun, yet with all the skill and grim intent of adventurous clipper days.

Be asked to sail in yacht club races, especially if all your racing experience has been on the deck of a mustang, and you hear a new language. On the first day of "soft spots" in the air, of tacking, luffing, crossing of bows and sterns, and shutting off of the rival's wind, sailing seems a sport not only of odd speech but of mysterious motions.

Then, all at once, you begin to sense these tricks of jockeying with boats. Here is horse racing, but on water! Instead of crowding the other, riding in to the rail to slow him down, you shut off his breeze power. Ship lines are only bridle reins; stiff breezes are spurs, and letting out a spinnaker is merely giving your nag her head.

Fair play and good sportsmanship are ingrained. Inherited English ways and proximity of Harvard, with its generations of clean sport, have fostered this love for games.

### Plenty of Sport There.

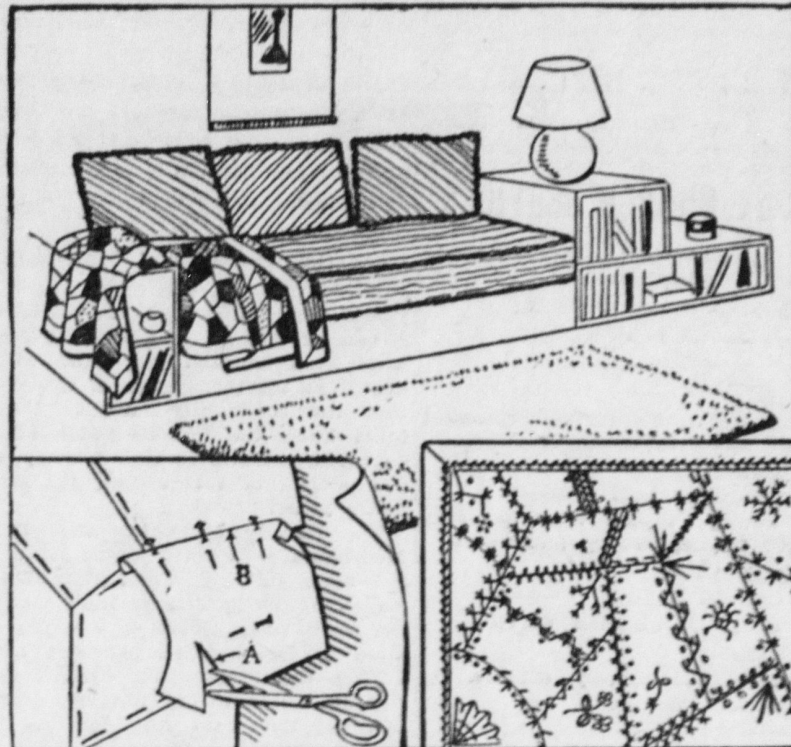
Gymnasiums came early, where circus acrobats and strong men used to be invited to "show off" for the boys. That colorful character in prize-ring history, John L. Sullivan, was born in Boston. Cricket, hockey, boxing, rowing, swimming, high bicycles, and ball players in full beards, Boston fostered them all; yet permitted no league baseball games on Sunday till 1929!

Special "snow trains" leave now, taking winter crowds with skis, sleds, and toboggans, at the first news of heavy snows in the White mountains. Born of the old East Indian battledore and shuttlecock, and introduced into England about a century ago by returning army officers, the game of badminton is now also much played about Boston.

New among Boston sports is midget motor-car racing. She has a special Tom Thumb track, an oddly formed figure with seven turns. To it, on race days, tiny speed cars are hauled on trucks, for rough-and-tumble contests.

# HOW TO SEW

by Ruth Wyeth Spears



Crazy Patch Work at Home in a Modern Setting.

**T**HE crazy patch is the oldest of quilt patterns, yet there is something amazingly modern in its angular lines. So whether your living room is traditional in style or newer than tomorrow you will be interested in the revival of crazy patch work for what our grandmothers and great-grandmothers called a "slumber throw."

A corner of one of these old silk crazy quilts is shown here at the lower right. The pieces were small—many not more than 1½ inches wide or long. A variety of embroidery stitches joins the pieces. Both plain and figured silks were used, the plain patches often being embroidered with flowers, fans and other amusing motifs—note the beetle embroidered on one patch. Several colors of silk embroidery thread were generally used but in the most artistic of these quilts one color predominated in the embroidery.

Larger patches with simple feather stitch and herring-bone feather at the joinings also give a good effect. The pieces are sewed to a foundation of some firm soft material. Outing flannel or an old wool blanket are good. Pin a piece in place over the space to be filled, trim the edges to the right shape, as at A, allowing enough to turn under, as at B, where the patch laps over the one

next to it. Baste the turned edges down as shown. When a number of patches have been basted in place, sew them down to the foundation with the embroidery stitches and then remove the bastings. The backing is tied to the front with silk embroidery thread as comforters are tied. Little or no padding may be used and a plain band around the edge is effective.

Every Homemaker should have a copy of Mrs. Spears' new book, SEWING. Forty-eight pages of step-by-step directions for making slipcovers and dressing tables; restoring and upholstering chairs, couches; making curtains for every type of room and purpose. Making lampshades, rugs, ottomans and other useful articles for the home. Readers wishing a copy should send name and address, enclosing 25 cents, to Mrs. Spears, 210 South Desplaines St., Chicago, Illinois.

### River of Life

**L**OVE is the river of life in this world. Think not that ye know it who stand at the little tinkling rill, the first small fountain.

Not until you have gone through the rock gorges, and not lost the stream; not until you have gone through the meadow, and the stream has widened and deepened until fleets could ride on its bosom; not until beyond the meadow you have come to the unfathomable ocean, and poured your treasures into its depths—not until then can you know what love is.—Henry Ward Beecher.

## Uncle Phil Says:

**Distrust Is Your Responsibility**  
Is it more disgraceful to distrust one's friends than to be deceived by them?

A nature lover is like other lovers. His love is most ardent when he doesn't know much about it.

Some pick their friends and some are picked as friends by others.

**Likes the Velvety Touch**  
A grouch does not like grouches. He hates them.

Whenever it is "officially denied" there is a "catch" somewhere.

Because you are suavey asked to give your candid opinion, don't necessarily do it.

Romantic names given children may plague them in later life.

**Constipated?**

**NOW COSTS LESS!**

**Nujol**

Many doctors recommend Nujol for its gentle action on the bowels. Don't confuse Nujol with unknown products.

**INSIST ON GENUINE NUJOL**

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## CHEW LONG BILL NAVY TOBACCO 5¢ PLUG

### LIFE'S LIKE THAT By Fred Neher



"Does yours say 'Mama' too?"