

Bruckart's Washington Digest

See Less Favorable Reaction to FDR's Remarks Than Formerly

Once Labeled Superman, It Is Now Realized President Is Human and Can Make Mistakes; His Will No Longer Completely Dominant.

By WILLIAM BRUCKART

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WASHINGTON.—There has been much conversation around here lately concerning the changed reception given President Roosevelt's acts or statements. It can not be doubted that there has been an absence of that buoyancy which characterized his shots of earlier days in the White House; but lately, if one may judge from the observations of many persons, he has been missing the target as often as he has been hitting. The result obviously is that a good many persons have noted less favorable reaction to Mr. Roosevelt's remarks than formerly was the case.

It is hardly necessary to recall how through some five or six years the President's remarks made his opposition wriggle and squirm. His statements seemed to have that necessary punch which quelled outbursts from those who disagreed with him. The press corps of Washington, or a large percentage of its membership, always hankered for a fresh Rooseveltian volley. It was good copy, in a news way.

Having noted the changed condition, myself, I sought a canvass of others. Nearly all of them eventually came to the conclusion that the lack of fire now often displayed in Mr. Roosevelt's remarks and their failure to arouse the same fervor among his followers are a natural result of events. He has been found by many people to be just human. Like his predecessor in the White House, Mr. Hoover, President Roosevelt was overbuilt or oversold by his ardent admirers. He was labelled as superman, and that is one of the worst things that can happen to a politician; it is the worst thing that can happen to a President because no man can be President unless he is a politician.

In saying that the Roosevelt circle ballyhooed their man too much, I hope I am not detracting from the good qualities. The point of this story is, after all, that millions of persons were led to believe that President Roosevelt could not make mistakes—mistakes were out his ken. But the job of President of the United States has a way of disclosing the true fiber.

Build-Up Gave Roosevelt False Idea of His Powers

I believe it a fair statement that the success which met Mr. Roosevelt's every turn during the period of his tenure—until perhaps 18 months ago—was due to this illusion that had been created. To repeat: his publicity backers seized on a colorful figure and built up that man to the point where more was expected of him than should be expected from any human being.

It is entirely possible that Mr. Roosevelt suffered personally from the intense fervor of the admiration that was given him. I do not say, of course, that he felt that he was a superman. Yet, the combination of a willing congress and the overwhelming support he had from the country possibly gave him a false idea of the power vested in him. In any event, he used that power up to the hilt.

Then came signs of trouble. His advisors and possibly the President, as well, felt that congress could be made to do his bidding. Republican opposition and the chiding of members of congress that they were rubber stamps began to have an effect. A test was coming and most politicians realized it. Through the session of congress last year and that which only recently ended, Mr. Roosevelt followed the same tactics as before—but the change had come and the course was blocked. It was no longer a period in which the will of the President was wholly and completely dominant.

All of which brings to mind the real facts in the case insofar as the causes of the President's current ineffectiveness are concerned. It is the old story. Any ball team looks good when it is in the lead, when it is winning. Any race horse is a wonder only so long as it continues to win. It can be said, therefore, that having slipped considerably both in political prestige inside his own party and outside of it, and having allowed some of the wide public endorsement to get away from him, Mr. Roosevelt is now being regarded as a human being who can make mistakes. Any mistakes that he may have made while he remained the winner were discounted or ignored. It seems likely, however, that all of them will be dug from their graves now and he must answer for them.

Makes Bad Break in Digging Up Supreme Court Skeleton

Nor is Mr. Roosevelt willing to let some of them die unnoticed. For instance, everyone recalls the heat that was engendered by the President's attempt to get congressional approval of his own pet government reorganization bill. His terrific fight for a reorganization of the Supreme

court with the new appointments that would come to him is easily recalled. But the President dug up the court skeleton, the other day. It struck me as terribly foolish because the country had forgotten much about that mistake. Mr. Roosevelt recalled it in all of its fury, however, by issuing a statement, almost without notice, saying that he had obtained his court fight objectives with enactment finally of a minor bill that sets up a court administrator.

In the same statement, Mr. Roosevelt made a bad break. He announced that besides the passage of the administrator bill, the last session of congress had created five additional judgeships in district court—which he wanted. Well, it happened that the senate passed the judgeship bill, but the house never did, and Mr. Roosevelt was incorrectly informed. The result was the same: it made the President look rather sour for the moment.

Along with Mr. Roosevelt's statement about Argentine canned beef being of a better quality than our own beef, I think we ought to rank the President's statement about the refusal of congress to pass the spending-lending bill and the housing bill. It struck me as being very bad politics for the President to climb 'way out on a limb and say that "the congress gambled with the welfare of 1,500,000,000 people when it failed to enact the administration's neutrality bill; it gambled with the welfare of 20,000,000 when it refused to pass the lending bill and the housing bill." He implied, of course, that refusal of congress to accept the President's judgment on the neutrality measure would cast the world into war, and that the action on the lending and housing bills would mean there could be no economic recovery.

President Sincere About Spending and Housing Bills

So, evidently the two or three defeats that were clustered together made the President appear differently than when he had been on the winning side. There were even some of the President's enemies charging him with qualities of a poor loser. I do not believe that is the case. There is evidence that the President sincerely believed his lending measure and the housing program would do the job of restoring a prosperous condition to the country. He has played the game of politics too long not to know how to lose.

On the other hand, there have been many harsh statements concerning the President's accusations that congress was gambling. From among Democrats who voted against him on the major bills, I heard declarations of belief that their judgment was as good as that possessed by the Chief Executive. Those Democrats saw no reason to concede a monopoly of brain power to Mr. Roosevelt. When he fired at them he obviously invited "back talk" of the worst order. He has received it, too.

Take another incident. Only a week ago, the President sent a letter to the Young Democrats of America, meeting in Pittsburgh, to the effect that unless the Democratic party nominates his kind of a liberal, he will take no active part in electing that nominee. In other words, he said actually that he would bolt the party.

Immediately, he got a reaction to that statement that just did him no good at all. Now, it is one thing to lead the party which is united; it is quite another horse to be led when the party is split; and the Democratic party is split. The declaration to the Young Democrats, therefore, was received by a good many Democrats as an open invitation for warfare.

Attempted Purge of Senators Complete and Decided Flop

One has to consider the statement to the Young Democrats in the light of some earlier mistakes. Everyone recalls how the President attempted to "purge" the Democratic party of Senators George of Georgia, Smith of South Carolina, and Tydings of Maryland, last year. That purge attempt flopped in a way that beggars description. Each of those three were re-elected to the senate and when they won their fight, they asserted their own judgment in preference to Mr. Roosevelt's.

There is also the surge that has come, building up "Cactus Jack" Garner for the Democratic nomination, next year. Now, Vice President Garner is a conservative. He has had nearly 40 years of public service. Obviously, he has a following and it appears to be getting bigger. Mr. Roosevelt's declaration that he may bolt the party if someone not his kind of a liberal is nominated is a statement almost certain to strengthen the Garner forces. (Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

Cottons Take on Importance In 'Back-to-School' Wardrobe

By CHERIE NICHOLAS



PLANNING a back-to-school wardrobe for young 1939 sophisticates? Here's news of smart cottons, for cottons are gaining in style prestige. They are the more persuasive in that they are such grand and glorious washable successes, added to which they are durable as well as smart.

True aristocrats among the newer fabrics are the fine shantung cottons and the highly mercerized poplins, both of which actually seem to improve with repeated launderings, for the iron brings out the native luster of the cotton.

Fall prints are more subdued. The backgrounds are darker. No wise mother chooses any print these days that is less than perfectly washable, completely color-fast and sanforized shrank.

For dress-up, little girls will wear stunning cloque piques, fine linens, washable spun rayons and new crases that resemble linens but are actually serviceable cotton.

Another outstanding favorite is washable gabardine for school and for all autumn activities. Blouses, shorts, skirts, culottes, in fact every conceivable type of garment for youthful wearers of both sexes who lead a strenuous outdoor life are showing in cotton gabardines that are processed so they cannot shrink out of fit.

Destined to be a schoolgirl favorite is the cunning dress pictured to the left at the top in the group. As much like mother's bolero jacket outfit as possible is this modish frock designed so cleverly for little daughter with whom it is most certain to prove first choice to wear "first day of school." Made of fine quality shantung broadcloth guaranteed pre-shrunk of course, this model is most attractive. The bolero comes off and leaves a smart little short-sleeved frock. Worn with a new fall felt, the outfit makes a chic

junior ensemble to snuggle under a good warm coat when cool weather sets in.

An ideal tubster is the cunning dress worn by the youngster seated in the foreground. It is made of a modern safe-for-washing print, the excellent shantung cotton print that mothers know and approve for back-to-school wardrobes. Note the dainty hand-fagotting in the collar and please observe that the generous shirring gives plenty of front and back fullness. The pockets are clever and new.

The smiling young bicyclist on the right wears a very intriguing frock styled of a striped cotton print that is almost as sturdy a weave as could be found in any collection of materials, added to which is its attractiveness. The skirt is pleated and a gypsy sash of the material ties at the waist.

The teen-age who possess almost an uncanny style sense are having great fun ensembling gabardine outfits that make color their theme. A marine blue gabardine skirt, a yellow blouse, a magenta kid belt, a yellow jacket, a bright headkerchief square that has peasant figurines dancing around the wide border goes to the color limit and yet how effective it is and best of all dependably washable.

In choosing the new bright cottons we can't urge mothers too strongly to stop, look and be cautious before they buy. Look at the label whether it be an all-ready-to-wear garment you are selecting for Junior or little sister or a washable fabric by the yard. Look for service guarantees of non-shrinkage and no-fade on the fabrics. (Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

Leading Vogue



Here is a charming interpretation of the "little dinner" suit. It contrasts a formal floor-length skirt with a wee jacket blouse. The fabric that fashions this attractive dinner dress is teal twill, a crimped spun acetate rayon weave that looks like sheer suedelike wool and feels like duvetyn. The modish jacket that buttons around the waist accenting a deep V-neckline is in dusty pink. The skirt, in an Indian wine shade, is styled with a front fullness that lends its sculptural grace.

Flare for Suede

Knows No Bounds

It's going to prove a record season for suede. Paris cables say "suede" with emphasis, citing accessory ensembles of hat, bag, belt and gloves done in richly colorful suede. Some suede enthusiasts are dressing in suede from head to foot. The new suede processing is so amazing, the results are a lightness and softness that yields perfectly to fabric treatments. In consequence high-fashion women are taking to wearing stunning dresses of suede or perhaps a suede topper completes a tweed suit. It's a complete conquest that suede has made in the fashionable world.

Sweaters in for Big Run for Fall

It's going to be a tremendous sweater season. You can get any type of sweater in any color, keyed to any occasion from the most formal to the most sporty.

Sweaters, ever the schoolgirls' delight, resort to all sorts of tricky devices, such as the names of leading colleges scribbled in gay print all over. Bars of music embroidered across the front of your sweater is something to attract the eye. Latest college girl whim is to wear the long cardigan sweater backwards—instead of buttoning it up at front button it at the back.

From the Wings of a Bird Mainbocher's "aviary" pinks are like exotic birds—the ibis, flamingo, cockatoo—and are as bright as spilled red ink.

PATTERN DEPARTMENT

GIRLS planning to go away to college will be particularly delighted with these gay and youthful patterns—day and night, night and day—these are the ones you want! But everybody with an eye for style and a flair for sewing

and cuffs give you a fresh, appealing, little girl look. Choose flat crepe or silk print for this—or thin wool.



will like them! The pajamas (1794) are just as easy to tailor as they are comfortable to wear and charming to look at, with the quaint square neckline and triangular pockets. Flat crepe, silk print, broadcloth and flannel are nice materials for them.

Slimming Basque Bodice. A dress that will send your morale and your spirits soaring, whether you wear it to an office, classroom, or just on shopping trips, is 1797. And why? Because the basque bodice makes your waistline look about as big as a minute, the skirt has a delightfully piquant flare, and the collar

The Patterns. No. 1794 is designed for sizes 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20. Size 14 requires 5 1/4 yards of 39-inch material with long sleeves. With short sleeves 4 1/4 yards; 4 yards to trim. No. 1797 is designed for sizes 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20. Size 14 requires, with short sleeves, 3 1/2 yards of 39-inch material. With long sleeves, 4 1/2 yards; 3/4 yard for collar and cuffs, with 1 1/2 yards pleating. Send your order to The Sewing Circle Pattern Dept., 247 W. Forty-third street, New York, N. Y. Price of patterns, 15 cents (in coins) each. (Bell Syndicate—WNU Service.)

'Twas High Time to Call Halt, Thought the Lady

Former Senator Fess was condemning in Atlantic City the war talk that is troubling the world. "How unreasonable war is," he ended. "It is more unreasonable than the prize fight seemed to the old lady. An old lady said on her return from the big city: "One evening my son-in-law took me to a prize fight. I never saw such a thing. The two men came out on the stage and shook hands like the best of friends, then they began to punch each other all for nothing. They kept on punching till a man in the corner yelled "Time" and nobody answered, so I pulled out my watch and shouted, "Ten o'clock!""

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