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Notes From Washington

By Charles J. Colden Congressman, 17th District

The responsibility of leadership of the majority side of the House falls rather heavily upon those who enjoy the honors. The speaker, who has much to say about the policies to be followed, and the floor leader who must carry out this policy and endeavor to guide the membership of his party, have an arduous task. The Rules Committee which determines the number of hours of debate and must regulate the manner in which amendments are offered, also share the responsibility. The House leadership also tries to satisfy the President who is the recognized head of the administration and also the party.



ride along in a pretty fashion. But this country has a vast area and diverse interests. The present Democratic majority has for its backbone, the Democratic South which is probably more interested in cotton than any other one subject. There is also a strong Democratic delegation from the middle western states that are concerned about wheat and corn growing and livestock production. The Democratic delegation from the manufacturing states is also large and those members have a different viewpoint. There is also the mountain and Pacific delegation which is vitally concerned in stock raising, mining, irrigation and reclamation, fruits, fish and lumber. Another block in the House is interested in sugar which includes Louisiana, producing cane sugar, Nebraska and Colorado, Michigan, Utah and particularly Hawaii, the Philippines, Porto Rico and Cuba. There are numerous other problems in which there is a diversity of interest from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

Just at this time, the House leadership is losing sleep and doing some political sweating over bills that have a considerable following in the House but to which the President is reported to be opposed. One is the McLeod bill for the payment of depositors in closed banks. Another is the Frazier-Lemke bill which provides loans to farmers at the rate of 1 1/2 per cent interest and the payment of 1 1/2 per cent on the principal each year. Another is the six-hour day and five-day week bill and still another is silver legislation. Since groups are very much in favor of this program, the leadership of the House is maneuvering to prevent the passage of these bills which arouse considerable animosity on the part of those who favor this particular legislation.

The discharge rule, by which 145 members by signing a petition can force a bill out of a committee and bring it before the House, is causing the leadership a lot of grief. The Democrats, when in the minority and with the aid of a few Republicans, were able to secure the adoption of this rule. The Republican leadership at the time of the adoption of the rule, was very much opposed to it because the discharge rule threatened its program. Now, the situation has reversed itself and the Democratic leadership would like to get rid of this rule which is bringing up bills it does not want. The minority leadership is relieved of all these responsibilities. The minority frequently follows the practice of trying to obstruct at every possible opportunity, the program of the majority party. If at any time the minority discovers that there is a serious breach in the majority, the minority maneuvers to make all the trouble possible. It has always occurred to me that the minority party in Congress, instead of frittering away time attacking the majority program, would be in a better position to build up its organization by offering a constructive program. That sometimes happens but not always. The minority leadership in this Congress has wasted much energy arguing that the present program is unconstitutional and that it is establishing a dictatorship instead of offering a constructive program of its own. But there doesn't seem to be anything that I can do about it.

The leadership of both sides of the House, as well as in the Senate, is vested in men who have been in Congress for many years. Seniority counts for more in Washington in the legislative bodies than in probably any other activity in the country. The man who has been re-elected to Congress for several terms becomes familiar with all the departments in Washington. He establishes a large circle of friends among the members of the House and, if he has the ability, he keeps moving forward in influence. The ability of a member to achieve results depends to a considerable extent on his personality, the number of friends he has made and the esteem with which they consider him. If the member is obnoxious in his personality, discourteous to the other members, exposes his ignorance and tries to show off, he soon loses his standing just as occurs in a lodge or a church at home. The loudest talkers are frequently the members of the least influence. As I have before stated, some of the quiet members are the most efficient legislators.

For the first time since I have been in Washington, I am really on good terms with the weather-man. We have had about three weeks of really delightful weather. Some days have reminded me of Avalon, that noted Arcadia of peace and rest. Now I am able to chase across the lawn from the office to the Capitol and enjoy the shade of the beautiful trees on the Capitol grounds. The trees are the most beautiful feature of Washington. Recently the "horse" and "dog" trees have been the most popular in the tree family.

The white-flowered dogwoods are beautiful to behold and they are only rivaled at this time of year by the horse chestnuts which also have a beautiful flower. Other trees on the Capitol lawn that have attracted my attention are the walnut, the oak, the linden, basswood, sycamore, elm, maple (both domestic and European) and the beech. The cherry trees are down near the Potomac river and is the first tree that blooms in Washington. When the cherry trees bloom, the whole town gets excited, dresses up, selects a queen, and parades the streets and makes it one of the events of the year. I have often wondered what Washington would do if it could witness the miles of fruit blooms with which Californians are so familiar.

While the trees are beautiful, I often wish that some of the garden clubs of the Seventeenth District had charge of the lawns in Washington. Compared with a California lawn, they are poorly kept and are well spotted with dandelions. The mowing is so uneven that in some places it looks as if it might have been done with a butcher knife. My good mother was a deadly enemy of the dandelion and wouldn't permit them to grow in the front yard of the farm but they don't seem to worry Capital gardeners.

Another thing I want to kick about is the walks in the Capitol grounds that do not follow the line of travel. When you start for the Capitol from any direction, you go around in circles until you get dizzy by the time you arrive.

Another thing I would like to correct in Washington is the placing of names on public buildings. Ask a man on the street and about seven times out of ten, he doesn't know the location of the building you inquire about. But get into a taxi and the driver will take you to any building desired so I suppose it is taxi drivers' luck to keep the names of many of the public buildings.

CAR STOLEN Allen Wright, 1520 Marcellina avenue, reported to the city police Sunday night that his 1933 Chevrolet sedan had been stolen from its parking place in front of the Christian church, where he was attending services. The car has not been recovered.

CHESS

ALFRED L. PAUL, Chess Editor

Address All Communications to A. L. Paul, 1812 Arlington Ave.

In order that this column in the future may be of maximum service to the greatest possible variety of players and students of the royal game, all readers are urged to write suggestions, comments and criticisms to the chess editor, A. L. Paul, 1812 Arlington Avenue. All communications will be acknowledged, either through this column or by mail.

Correspondence Game What the writer believes to be the most unique idea yet devised has been suggested for this column. The idea is to select one of the best from among the many games the writer is playing by correspondence with notable chess players throughout the world, and to present the progress of the game with annotations in this column each week. Following out this idea the writer has selected a game in progress with a very fine player in Wilmette, Illinois, and which promises to be an intensely interesting battle. The game so far is as follows: White, Easterner. Black, Paul

1. P-K4 P-K4
2. Kt-KB3 Kt-QB3
3. B-B4 B-B4
4. P-QN4 BxP
5. P-QB3 B-R4

Even though this much disputed continuation to the Evans Gambit is not in strict accord with the principles of modern chess strategy, I chose to play it because it relieves Black of the inconveniences of White's normal 6. P-Q4 experienced when black plays the alternative, 5... B-B4. Pointers for the young chess students: Undoubtedly the most important of all fundamental principles in the science of chess strategy is the motive underlying the whole chess game—the strategy for control of the center. Every move should be made to this end. There should never be an instant's deviation from this purpose. The "center" is that group of four squares immediately adjacent to the geometric center of the board.

News of Coming Events

Of outstanding interest to all chess players of Southern California is the great annual Morphy Day Chess Carnival to be held at Sierra Madre in the afternoon and evening of Saturday, June 23. It is an annual affair held in celebration of the birthday of the man who is recognized the world over as the greatest chess master of all times, the young American, Paul Morphy. At the carnival there will be chess events of every kind, including a game using living chessmen, inter-club matches, a rapid transit tourney, simultaneous exhibitions and blindfold exhibitions by prominent Southern California masters.

Are you interested in solving end games? Do you like to solve chess problems? Shall we have here a department devoted to that fascinating pastime for your added pleasure? Let us know if you take this sort of thing and we shall create a very interesting department devoted to problems and end games.

Falla Takes Over White Casino Cafe

S. Falla, well-known dairyman of Torrance, announces that he has taken over the management of the White Casino Cafe, 1521 Carson street. Real Italian cooked dinners, lunches and beverages will be served daily, with dancing every Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday evenings. Reservations for parties may be made by telephoning, Torrance 747.

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- BETTER BEST BRAND, Lb.
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- WALDORF, 2 rolls. 9c
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