

Our Impression Of Earl Brydges

We have never known Senator Earl W. Brydges very well. We have met him on a number of occasions at large meetings and receptions in Albany but never really knew him. Probably, as a result of not knowing him we looked on him as a successful politician but little more.

We were invited by Ned Cole and Betsy Kaplan to meet the Senator at the airport last night and Senator Barclay invited us to the private room at Gran-View which he and Senator Brydges occupied before the Republican dinner. We had the opportunity of talking with Senator Brydges for nearly an hour and were present when he was interviewed and photographed for TV.

As a result of meeting him personally and hearing him talk at the dinner we have a very different idea of him. In my opinion he is a man of outstanding quality, ability and personality.

I mentioned to Senator Brydges that I had read that he had been visiting Gov. Rockefeller at the Rockefeller estate in Pocantico Hills in Tarrytown. I remarked that I have had the privilege of visiting this fabulous estate several times and I presumed that he had been there many times as the guest of the Governor and he told me he had. "I think Nelson Rockefeller is a really great man," Senator Brydges said. "I have worked with him closely for years and I think I know him very thoroughly. The Governor is a man of the highest principle, complete integrity, courage and he has a very real dedication to the welfare of all the people in New York State."

I was very impressed with Senator Brydges' loyalty to the Governor and his complete devotion to him. I admire loyalty as one of the scarcest but the most prized of human qualities and I could not help but have admiration for the Senator's devotion to Governor Rockefeller and complete loyalty to him.

I asked Senator Brydges what he thought of the Attica situation. "That was, of course, a tragic situation," he said. "Few people realized the stress and strain on the Governor it caused and how much it took out of him. I think he did the only thing he could do to quell that rebellion which was aided and abetted by the most destructive influences in the State of New York. I think the Governor was absolutely right in not going to Attica and negotiating with those criminals. It is not a question of personal courage as the Governor is absolutely fearless. He very justly did not feel that the Governor of New York State should have to negotiate with the organized criminal elements in the Attica prison. I think the overwhelming majority of the people of the State support the Governor on this issue."

I discussed the Governor's Transportation Bond Issue with Senator Brydges. "There is no County in the State that has as many miles of highways as St. Lawrence County. From talking with Doug Barclay I know of the urgent needs every community has for improved highways. I know of the special needs of Ogdensburg, Canton, and Potsdam particularly. I know your need for the NuWay. If any County should support the Bond Issue it is St. Lawrence County. If it fails you will get absolutely nothing in the way of highway improvements because there will be nothing to get. Your four Northern counties are slated to receive \$89 million if the Bond Issue passes. This is 3.2 percent of the total Bond Issue and you have 1.9 of the total population of the State."

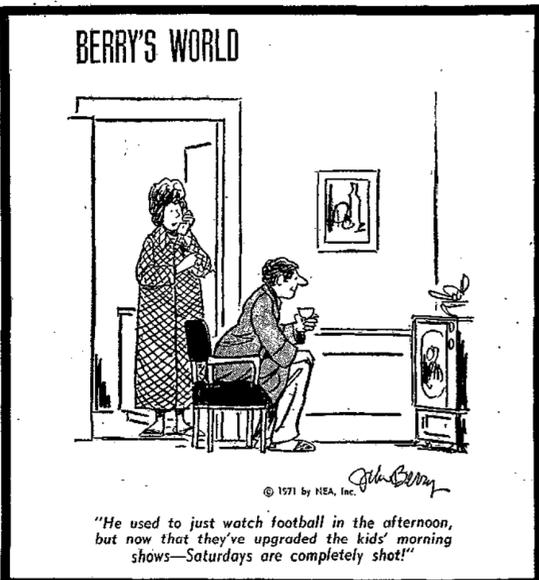
"Also you are assured the work on the NuWay will be started. I think the NuWay is most important to the development of this section of Northern New York. I understand that you can get it by improving existing state and county roads which will provide a vastly improved highway straight from the Ogdensburg Bridge to Utica and the Thruway, and a link in the Ottawa to Washington highway system. The Canadians have kept their agreement with Burch McMorran to build a freeway from Ottawa to Ogdensburg. It is up to New York State to keep its word to complete the highway to Utica and eventually Binghamton."

Senator Brydges told me of his high respect and regard for Senator Douglas Barclay. "You people in this senatorial district of St. Lawrence, Jefferson and Oswego counties are fortunate to be represented by such an outstanding Senator as Doug Barclay. He is a man of great ability and is highly regarded and respected in the legislature and throughout the State."

We found Senator Brydges to be a man with a sense of humor, a keen and analytical mind. We can well understand how he won and has held his position of Majority Leader of the Senate and the great confidence that Governor Rockefeller places in his judgement. St. Lawrence County was indeed honored to have a man of his stature and his very busy schedule come to address the Republicans of the County. His visit was the best tonic that the Republicans in the County have received. Those who met him and heard him were we believed as greatly impressed with him and the principles for which he stands as we were. It is a stimulating and exciting experience to know and talk with Earl Brydges.

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JACK ANDERSON

'Merry-Go-Round:' 'It Has To Be Done'

Editor's Note: The following is reprinted through the courtesy of 'The Georgetown', Georgetown, D.C.

By ARTHUR HAUPT

No stuffed trophy heads adorn the walls of the modest, 9th floor office on K Street, N.W. But last week a girl was on the phone hunting down Senators and asking their offices why hadn't Senator So-and-So voted that day. The Lockheed loan guarantee had just passed, 49 to 48 and already people were not being allowed to forget it.

We were, in short, in the office lair of Jack Anderson's Washington Merry-Go-Round, the most read, relished and cursed column and columnist in the country. For some time we have been converts to the Merry-Go-Round's style of journalism, having always enjoyed old Cecil B. DeMille diatribes against the wages of sin - but more seriously, ever since the day we looked at a New York Times and discovered that seemingly every front-page story was either A. a government handout (labor statistics, for example); B. an obvious public event (a parade, press conference, or moonshot); or C. a guided tour (war correspondents being shown around).

After that experience we decided that the news must be taking place elsewhere, with the Ubiquitous, Menacing "They" (you know - Them) springing it on the unsuspecting public only when it was too late. The real news, almost by definition, is what "They" don't want us to know.

Seventy years ago, "They" had been stymied by a group of journalists the likes of Upton Sinclair and Lincoln Steffans, who became known (T. Roosevelt coined the term and meant it derogatorily) as "muckrakers," and came as near as journalists can come to changing the course of history. Since then, "muckracking" has taken many shapes and forms, all the way from Walter Winchell to Ralph Nader to Drew Pearson, who for nearly four decades was synonymous with a lot of words in Washington, and whose Washington Merry-Go-Round has always been the most widely-read and most influential column in the country, carried in 600 papers.

In 1947 Mr. Pearson took on his staff a young correspondent back from China named Jack Anderson. Upon Pearson's death in 1969, Anderson, who had co-authored the column for several years and helped mastermind the column's massive exposure of Sen. Thomas Dodd, inherited the Merry-Go-Round, and continued, probably to many people's chagrin, the column's never-ending crusade against the forces of corruption.

And crusade it is. In 1971, Anderson looks sturdy and ruddy-in fact, with his immaculate coffee-brown mod suit and frosty sideburns, almost like one of the successful Washington people one imagines might skulk through his columns. But as soon as he started to speak, two-fisted words issuing in a sure, sonorous voice, it became obvious that the muckrakers of yesteryear have merely changed their threats.

"I accept the term," he said. "We do rake up the muck and expose it to the sunlight. I believe the sunlight's the best disinfectant, and we try to apply it heavily in Washington."

We asked if there was a danger in becoming too sensational.

"Oh, I think that the public is entitled to know what their elected officials are doing. They're particularly entitled to know the wrongdoing. I don't consider muckraking to be sensational except when the facts are sensational. It may be a little irreverent and I hope to keep it that way."

There are too many Washington correspondents who devote their efforts to covering Washington from the Olympian heights. They contemplate their belly button and put out all manner of Georgetown intellect drawingroom punditry. We consider it our duty to grub for the facts. We stay off the Olympian heights, if we find dirt we expose it, if we find muck we rake it and we consider this to be the duty of all newspapers.

"The newspapers are supposed to oppose and to expose. Newspapers are supposed to be a watchdog on the Government. There's too comfortable a relationship in Washington between the Establishment Press and the Establishment Government. If we're Peck's Bad Boy, we welcome it."

Anderson Moves To TV

Jack Anderson, who has more readers than any other Washington columnist, is on his way to doubling his audience. He has gone on national television five times a week. This is in addition to his syndicated column that is published in nearly 700 newspapers.

Jack Anderson's daily show is syndicated. It is a two-and-a-half-minute segment designed to be a part of local news programs. One television station incorporates it five times a day in its news shows.

Anderson's television show, like his column, discloses the inside story of government and politics, usually exposing wrongdoing in high places. He has caused the defeat of a dozen Congressmen and his stories have sent half that number, and many other malefactors, to prison.

His television shows do not duplicate his newspaper revelations. They will often supplement them. The visual medium will permit Anderson to display confidential files he has obtained, in-



Jack Anderson

...Most correspondents write favorably about what goes on in Washington. There is a limit, sort of an invisible line drawn. It's very much there, it's never talked about, but there is an invisible limit beyond which most Washington correspondents don't look and don't write. We go beyond that limit."

We wondered, though, if going after Sen. Dodd with 100 columns might not have been excessive.

"Well," he said, the columns were "spaced over a long period of time...it took a great deal of proof, or documentation to pin a case against him. Only five Senators in history have been censured by the United States Senate. It's a gentlemen's club, and a sort of gentlemen's 'Cosa Nostra' where the rules are against squealing on one another...A certain amount of political embarrassment is permissible, but it's hard to crack this kind of a circle."

"If we had gone after someone less eminent and less respectable, we wouldn't have needed to do as many columns. When we wrote about Adam Clayton Powell we had no trouble persuading Congress to act; it took only three or four columns, and Congress was already busy investigating Adam Clayton Powell. But to get Congress to investigate Tom Dodd took a hundred columns...in a big impact column like ours, we have great impact across the country. If it had been a hundred columns in many other columns, that wouldn't have even done it."

"Just the same," we said, "reading the Merry-Go-Round day in and day out gave the impression that the government is riddled with dishonesty and reeks with corruption. Isn't it true that the U.S. Government is somewhat more honest than many foreign governments (not to mention the U.S. Government of fifty years ago), and actually does a fairly good job?"

Surprisingly, Jack Anderson agreed. "Yes," he said, "I think we're better governed than we deserve to be. I think that the Federal Government has some of the highest standards in the world. I think we have governing us some of the most dedicated and able men in the world."

"But," he added, "it's my peculiar function to cover the shady side of Washington; there's almost no one else doing it. If I were J. Edgar Hoover I suppose I would be finding out a lot of things that I wouldn't be finding out if I were the Chaplin of the Senate. It depends a lot on what your function is, what your job is. My job is to look under the rugs and look in the closets of Washington. I find enough that the public ought to know about to keep the column going. I consider...if people just read my column they might get the impression, of course, that the Federal Government is more corrupt than it is. But they can always get the Reader's Digest..."

Whereas, we said, you report things that people won't want the people to know?

"We're not interested in handouts. We are interested in the news, as you said, that people don't want written. I would be the first to protest if the reporters wrote nothing but that. But we're the only ones really doing it. I think there should be more doing it, not less."

Queried as to who he considered his competition, Anderson named Morton Mintz - "a crackerjack investigator

reporter," particularly in health; and Nick Kotz - "top-notch" - both of the Washington Post; Clark Mollenhoff of the Des Moines Register & Tribune; Bill Lambert, of Life magazine. "There are a lot of good investigative reporters in town...I don't think we're the only ones, but we're the only ones doing it on a regular basis."

Why, then, was the Merry-Go-Round sitting on the comic page of the Post, we inquired.

"Well, the story that's told, and it happened before I joined the column, so it may be an apocryphal story, was that an editor named Bill Casey wanted to throw the column out of the Post. He was overruled by the publisher, who was more concerned, apparently, than Casey about their readership and their subscribers, because the column was, has always been, and still remains a high-reader column. So the publisher, rather than risk having the column come out in a rival paper, overruled this editor, and I'm told that the editor said, 'Well, if I have to run the column, I'll put it on the comic page where it belongs.'"

Could the Merry-Go-Round substantiate its charges, should the charges yell?

"I've been in the newspaper business since I was 12 years old. I do more thorough reporting, more careful documentation for the column than I've ever done for any other publication that I've ever worked for," Anderson replied. "I've always told my reporters, I've stressed it, I've hammered it home, til I'm sure they're tired of hearing it, but a fact does not become a fact in our column until we can prove it. We don't accept facts just because we believe them; we don't accept facts just because our sources believe them. We go out and pin them down."

Does the column have a political point of view?

"I think that most of the reporters on my staff and myself are liberals. When we write about politics we're probably going to be influenced by that background, those convictions. But as far as investigative reporting is concerned, we have no favorites, and I consider a liberal crook to be just as bad as a conservative crook..."

Are there any politicians, liberal or conservative, who passed the Merry-Go-Round's code of conduct?

"I think that most of them would. We don't hand out quality ratings and 'Good Housekeeping' seals of approval. If we did I'm sure that we'd find a number...like Sen. George Aiken, who has served his state of Vermont as a LT.

Governor, Governor and Senator for 42, 43 years. And I think, probably as an indication of the man's granite integrity, the road in front of his house is still unpaved..."

We asked two predictions from Anderson before we left. The first, who could be the next bright light to emerge in American politics? Ralph Nader, he answered. The second, what would be the next menace to arrive from nowhere to shake our complacency?

The menace Anderson was most concerned with was the environment. He told us that the Merry-Go-Round was in the process of changing Kirkland Hall College in Maryland into a college of ecology, a subject that he was very concerned about. And, unlike most ecology centers, it would be man-oriented - "what pollution does to you and me." The Merry-Go-Round had suggested it to the College's Board of Trustees. A research center was now operating on a very low budget and they hoped to increase both the budget and the staff.

Funds? "We'll accept grants from anybody, but won't accept any grants with strings attached. We'll accept grants even from the big polluters, if they want to give it, but with no understanding that we're going to leave them alone or grant them any immunity. We will," he warned, "name whom we will name."

Anderson was dubious that Nader could be persuaded away from his present-day job (which, we reflected, is similar in many ways to Anderson's - which might explain Anderson's enthusiasm for Nader). But "if he could ever be brought into politics he has the dark good looks, speaking ability and the crusading spirit and the fresh approach to politics that could make him an overnight success...I believe increasingly, the American people are looking for fresh faces and they're tired of the same old faces."

During the interview, Jack Anderson took phone calls, received messages from his office girls - "The column is not my work alone. I have four full-time reporters and a full-time investigator and some secretaries, and they all work very hard and they're all very good. I think it's the best staff in Washington." He also corrected us on his brood of children - we had thought he had four; he has nine: "Five girl - uh - five boys and four girls. You get that many and have to stop and recount."

Why did he do the Merry-Go-Round? "Because no one else is doing it, and it has to be done."

Soviet Push For Conference Believed Propaganda Move

By CARL HARTMAN
Associated Press Writer
BRUSSELS (AP) - U.S. diplomats believe the Soviet push for a European security conference may be a propaganda move aimed at strengthening Moscow's position in Eastern Europe.

The Soviets have agreed to talk troop cuts with America and its allies and proposed a security conference as the forum. But the diplomats believe the Kremlin may have an ulterior motive: gaining international recognition for the Communist government of East Germany and maintaining the division between East and West.

Their argument runs like this: The Soviets have been pushing for a European security conference since 1967. They have suggested two subjects for discussion - renunciation of the use of force and better economic cooperation.

U.S. diplomats see little importance in either topic as a way of keeping the peace in Europe.

All members of the United Nations have renounced the use of force by signing its charter. West Germany, which is not a member, has done the same in its pending treaty with the Soviet Union.

Economic cooperation between East and West is going ahead about as fast as

it can. It is limited primarily by the lack anything much in the Soviet Union or Eastern Europe that the West wants to buy.

But just convening a conference would strengthen the Soviet position in Eastern Europe, since all the Communist governments there would have to be invited. An invitation to East Germany - a government not officially recognized by any of the Western allies, would represent a kind of recognition, much coveted by the East German regime.

This is what the United States wants to avoid. Recognition would deprive West German Chancellor Willy Brandt of an important negotiating tool in his effort to improve chances for the East Germans to cross the Berlin Wall - at least for occasional visits. Western allies have pledged not to join a security conference until there is agreement on Berlin.

But the United States and its allies are eager to negotiate troop cuts with Moscow. It has taken the Soviets three years to say they are willing to - but only as part of a general conference.

The allies Wednesday named Manlio Brosio, former Italian defense minister, to go to Moscow and explore the question. They could not give him detailed instructions because some of the allies, especially Britain and Italy, also want troop reductions linked to a general conference.

