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WASHINGTON DIGEST . . .

(Continued from Page Two)
true. They are important because there is always the possibility that the splitters might find another Teddy Roosevelt to lead them. That can't happen often, though, and meanwhile splitters are fun to watch.

"INSIDE INFORMATION"
PROBES OVEREMPHASIZED
There has been remarkable interest recently in charges that Washington officials used "inside information" obtained because of their connection with the government to play the markets. The other day one high-placed gentleman came to me in quite a stew.

"Have you heard the rumor that I was being charged with playing the market on information I got from the White House?" he asked. "No," I replied. "Who is doing the charging?"

"That's what I want to find out," he spluttered.
"Well," I answered, surprised at his wrath, "you certainly don't feel insulted by it, do you? Anybody can be charged with anything in an election year."

"I certainly am insulted," he came back, "not because my honor is being impugned, but it is an insult to my intelligence to imply that anyone who has been around Washington as long as I have would be such an ass!"

When I first came to Washington as a reporter, I remember there was a minor scandal on "leaks" that had been used for profit. The chief offender, however, was a publicity man, not an official, and from the standpoint of business it proved a fine thing for him. As soon as the charges that he had obtained confidential information and had passed it on to his client were made public he had a dozen offers from other big firms to get on their payrolls. He did, but it wasn't long before he left Washington. He didn't get any more confidences.

A lesser factor in the affair was a newspaper reporter. It was discovered that he was on the payroll of a brokerage firm to whom he phoned anything he thought might be of interest after he had written his story for his paper whose last edition had a nearly afternoon deadline. It was shown that the brokers paid him all of \$25 a month. In the investigation it also was shown that while he knew what was news

for a newspaper, the reporter had only the foggiest idea of what would interest a broker as he probably never owned a share of stock in his life. He was duly fired from the paper, and suspended from the Press club, but nobody was too sure.

They knew, as my friend indicated, it was stupidity rather than lack of virtue which was his chief sin.

My own first lesson on the subject of Washington journalistic ethics was administered very tenderly by an Old Timer, my boss. My assignment was helping to cover the British embassy early in World War I, before America had become embroiled.

One night, my boss, who knew everything in Washington, took me along to introduce me to the British commercial attaché—I'm not sure that was what he was called in those days, but it describes his job. He talked with us quite a while much more freely than he would have conversed with me alone, for I was a stranger to him.

In the course of the conversation, he mentioned that tomorrow, or next day, Great Britain would announce what amounted to an embargo on American wool (Britain wanted to switch her buying to Australia). The attaché explained the background of the move in detail.

When we were out the street, my boss pulled out his watch and remarked to me: "Now, if we were crooked, we would still have time before the markets close to make a lot of money selling what we've heard."

He didn't have to explain further. AFTER the British had made their announcement, I was able to write a good "follow", interpreting the move. That's all any newspaper gets out of "confidential information," and all that 95.44 per cent of us ever expect.

The same thing applies to government employees. Those who are honest soon depart. Those who are not, 'RETHINKING' IS HARD IN ANY COUNTRY.

The following quotation is worth pondering, especially when you consider the source:
"It is hard for a party to discover that its traditional remedies are of no avail. Rethinking is a painful thing to be imposed on any body of earnest, emotional politicians. So it is early yet to expect any party to look far ahead. We walk in the shadow of economic catastrophe and live from month to month . . ."

The above did not appear in an American paper at the beginning of the present session of congress. I changed just one word in the quotation which came from the Manchester Guardian Weekly (England) of January 22, 1948 — I substituted "congress" for "parliament."

One rent "control" proposal will wipe out all restrictions on building of theatres, amusement parks and so on. I suppose that is more practical than putting up a lot of little cottages. Think how many veterans' families could sleep in a housing alley.

GET RID OF IT WITH AN ENTERPRISE CLIPPING

FARMINGTON W.C.T.U. MEMBERSHIP IS INCREASED

Several new names were added to the membership list of the Farmington Woman's Christian Temperance Union when they held their regular monthly meeting last Tuesday, February 24, with Mrs. William Lanchester at her home on Grand River Avenue.

Rev. A. Stanley Stone, guest speaker, told of France E. Willard, being one of the great individuals of the world, with a heavenly birthday in February, while two of our great presidents had earthly birthdays in the same month. Using part of Matthew, 18th Chapter as a text, he recommended cheerfulness, simplicity, honesty and humility to Christian temperance workers.

Mrs. J. L. Neff led devotions. Miss Margaret Tremmer sang "How Beautiful Upon the Mountains" and Mrs. Hazel Denton and Mrs. Roy Anna Hawley sang "Be Still and Know". Seven pupils of Mrs. Lanchester, namely Barbara Westlake, Kay Weber, Sandra Stuckey, David Hurkett, Leah Nathan, Jean Rott and Miss Fattie Every each gave one or more readings.

The Union voted money to the Frances E. Willard Fund, and also to the Soldiers' Cookie Jar at Battle Creek.

WILLIAM LA RUE JOINS NAVY AS AIR CREW MAN

William D. LaRue, A.S. (A.), U.S.N., son of Mr. and Mrs. William S. LaRue of 21159 Cambridge in Farmington, enlisted in the United States Navy at Detroit on March fifth. William, along with nine other boys who were enlisted from the Detroit area the same day, left for Chicago on the 11:59 P.M. train, where they will undergo Boot Training at Great Lakes, Illinois. On completion of Boot Training, LaRue will go to Jacksonville, Florida, where he will enter the Navy's Aviation Fundamental School.

shadow of economic catastrophe and live from month to month . . . The rest of this session will get its importance not from legislation, but from the way in which congress responds to the economic crisis and to the foreign policy that accompanies our economic measures."

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CPL. PLETTEMBERG SERVING ON CARRIER IN CARIBBEAN

Cpl. Frank L. Plettenberg, USMC, son of Erwin Plettenberg of 23031 Maple Street, is part of the regular complement of the Eighth Marine Battalion aboard the aircraft carrier USS Philippine Sea, currently participating in Fleet maneuvers in the Caribbean area.

The carrier, currently the third major peacetime operation in which the battalion has been embarked aboard Navy ships. The entire organization, with the exception of "H" Company, embarked at Norfolk, Va., while reinforcements, including tanks, flamethrowers, and artillery, were stored aboard Naval vessels at other seacoast ports. "B" Company is now aboard cruisers which will accompany the Philippine Sea on the forthcoming Mediterranean cruise.

During World War II, the Eighth Battalion participated in nearly every operation of strategic value against the Japanese. It received its first taste of battle at Guadalcanal, and later fought its way through the campaign of Tarawa, Saipan, Tinian, and Okinawa. After the suspension of hostilities, the Eighth remained in Japan as part of the occupational force until the summer of 1946.

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From where I sit ... by Joe Marsh

Ben's Bride Gets Chickenhearted

Ben Ryder was mighty proud of his young bride when she offered to care for his new flock of baby chicks. "Just like a mother with her brood," he boasts.

Then came market time for fryers—and the crisis! Sue simply wouldn't let Ben near her chickens with an axe. She'd raised them as babies . . . she'd named them . . . they were her very own!

Ben poured himself a glass of beer, to think things over sensibly. He hated to lose the price on fryers . . . but he figured Sue had put up

with his peculiarities, he guessed he could put up with her fondness for the chickens.

So now Ben has the nicest brood of laying hens in town, and from where I sit, one of the most successful marriages, too. All because he "lived-and-let-live"—literally. And whenever he wants fried chicken, he takes his bride over to Andy's Garden Tavern for a crisp wing and a glass of beer.

Joe Marsh

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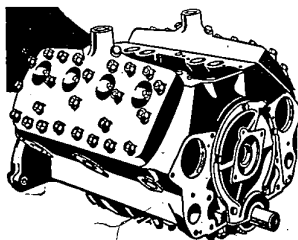
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In line with its policy of enthusiastic and complete cooperation with city authorities in the abatement of air pollution, COAL HEATING SERVICE OF GREATER DETROIT calls your attention to this publication, and congratulates all concerned on its excellence and usefulness. It is a simple and graphic instruction folder for correct firing of hand-fired furnaces in a format especially designed for constant reference.

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