

Embarrassment For Office Secretaries

By GAY PAULEY

UPI Women's Editor
NEW YORK (UPI)—If bosses were predictable, the life of a secretary would be pretty staid.

But they're not, and the surprise element often leads to funny

and red-faced moments. Such as the time a secretary, working out on bubble gum, had just blown a masterpiece when the boss walked in. The bubble burst in her face.

This most embarrassing moment is one of many which shouldn't happen to a Girl Friday, but do. Marilyn French, an office super-mill, tells of others in the current "Today's Secretary."

A soft-hearted secretary let the switchboard operator rest on the couch in the boss's office while

he was away—she thought. Just as the operator dozed off, the boss walked in, and a sleepy-headed operator jumped up, yelled "You are not supposed to be back yet" and fled.

A run in a stocking caused embarrassment both for secretary and boss in one instance. The secretary had gone into his office, while he was out, to change stockings. Then she was called to the telephone and there were other interruptions. Meanwhile, the

executive returned with a customer. It was difficult for him to explain how a pair of stockings got draped over his chair.

One secretary daily delivered the inter-office mail. Most employees looked up and smiled when she made the rounds, but one executive paid no attention to her. This sour-puss irked her. And one morning, as she put the mail on his desk, she gave in to an impulse and stuck out her tongue. "Of course," she wailed later.

"THAT was the time he looked up."

Veteran Shorthand Specialist Amazes

By MERRIMAN SMITH

UPI White House Reporter

WASHINGTON (UPI)—Back

stairs at the White House: Jack Romagna for almost 20 years has been the shorthand specialist of the White House, transcribing the news conferences of three presidents and in general, doing a job that has earned the laudatory amazement of reporters and White House officials.

On each Wednesday that President Eisenhower holds a news conference, Jack is the man who can be seen on television sitting at the corner of the President's

desk, notebook spread out only a foot or two from the chief executive and his shorthand pen fairly flying over the pages.

In the nearly eight years of taking the President's news conferences, Romagna has acquired a curious record. Eisenhower has never spoken to him, not even by so much as hello.

Deer farms do not have any teletype account, which helps them to avoid marauding predators.

Sen. Humphrey

Forgotten Man In Sweepstakes

By LYLE C. WILSON

United Press International
WASHINGTON (UPI)—The forgotten man in this year's Democratic presidential sweepstakes is Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey (D-Minn.).

It was notable during last month's presidential primary campaign in Wisconsin that the national spotlight never wavered from Humphrey's opponent, Sen. John F. Kennedy (D-Mass.).

It is extraordinary to observe now the extent to which Kennedy dominates the news and speculation in connection with the current West Virginia primary campaign. Voting day is May 10.

Impact of the West Virginia polling on Democratic presidential politics is being discussed and considered principally only in terms of what it will mean for Kennedy. The commentators, pundits and observers uniformly have written off Humphrey. Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, however, says of him that he has the spark of greatness.

A Professional Analysis

But Humphrey has been out-gunned throughout his running battle with Kennedy. It may be significant that Humphrey now is raising the big spending issue against Kennedy. The Kennedy claim is, as they say, loaded.

A professional analysis of the importance of the West Virginia primary now is attracting considerable attention in Washington. It is an objective analysis by a big time political pro and it runs like this:

If Kennedy wins the West Virginia primary by a good margin he will be nominated for president next July by the Los Angeles convention. He would be unstoppable after a big West Virginia victory.

If Kennedy loses in West Virginia, even by a small margin of only 3 or 4 per cent, the Democratic Party bosses will drop him hard and fast. They will say that Jack's a nice boy, but that he couldn't be elected president.

Could Make Deal

That, however, will not be the end of Kennedy. The analysis continues like this:

If he is rejected for the top spot, then Kennedy will be in a position to dictate to the convention who the presidential nominee shall be. Kennedy, himself, will have to be on the ticket as the vice presidential nominee to protect the Democratic Party against the wrath of Catholics who might resent Kennedy's failure to get the top spot.

Now, if Kennedy becomes essential to the ticket in the second place, he would be in a position to make a deal. He could refuse to accept the second place which might be disastrous for the Democratic Party. Or, more likely, he might agree to accept the vice presidential nomination provided the convention chose Kennedy's choice for president.

This choice could not be Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson (D-Tex.), as it is suggested on the theory that the Democrats must have left wing support of labor and others to elect this year. It would not be Sen. Stuart Symington (D-Mo.) on the theory that Kennedy resents Symington's refusal to contest this year's primaries. Who, then?

The analyzer says it would have to be Adlai E. Stevenson.

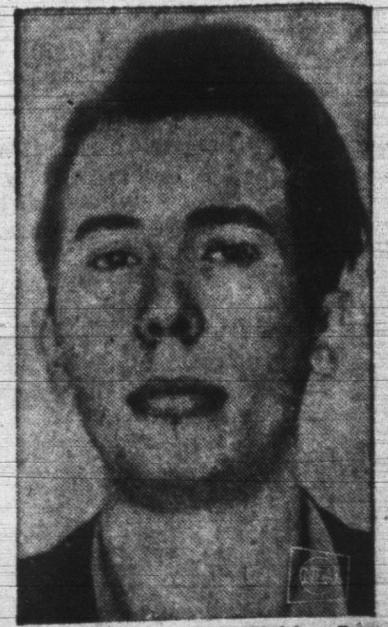
A Stevenson-Kennedy ticket for 1960. Pretty strong, too.

Don't Write, Wire

HARTFORD, Conn. (UPI)—Postmaster John F. Heneghan won praise from his superiors for the "smoothest Christmas mail handling job on record." The congratulations came by telegram.

Watch That Rain

CHICAGO (UPI)—Roads are likely to be more dangerous during the first rain after a long dry spell, the Chicago Motor Club warns. The club said it takes up to two days to wash accumulated oil from the highway.



NABBED — Alvin Karpis, Jr., above, 25-year-old native of Bridgeton, N.J., was arrested in Cuba with Billy Ray Sees, 23, of Arkansas. The men are accused of murdering a Florida fishing skipper and hijacking his boat.

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