

# HEADLINER: A Candidate for Reelection, Little Changed After Three Long Years on the Job

When Franklin Roosevelt was a small boy, he went to Washington with his father to call on President Grover Cleveland. Discouraged with problems, Cleveland patted the lad's head: "My little man, I am making a strange wish for you. It is that you may never be President of the United States."

Franklin Roosevelt, this week starting his fight for a second four-year term in the White House, has not found it a discouraging job—though the Supreme Court has annihilated eight of ten New Deal laws considered; though the press has turned against him; and though, in some parts of the country, it has become almost a badge of social distinction to fear and loathe him, as one who would slaughter the wealthy to provide a Roman holiday for the man in the street.

Outwardly at least, all that has scarcely affected the President. His hallmarks are still the broad smile and buoyant air which friends call his "optimistic spirit" and enemies call an irresponsible, "happy-go-lucky manner." The President Roosevelt who goes to Philadelphia this week to accept his party's renomination remains remarkably like the Governor Roosevelt who made a spectacular flight to Chicago for the same purpose four years ago.

**THE MAN:** Today his hair is a little thinner and grayer, his bald spot a little bigger, his face wrinkles a bit deeper. His weight is approximately the same, 175 pounds.

About his health, the White House physician, Dr. Ross T. McIntire, observes: "His heart and . . . his condition generally are fully as good, perhaps even better, than they were in 1932."

Before the Roosevelts moved to the White House, the new First Lady said of her husband: "If paralysis couldn't kill him, I guess the Presidency won't." In some respects his infirmity has helped him. By sitting still and having others run his little errands, he gets more work done than do most bustling executives. Most of his moving about in the White House is done in a small wheel chair, because walking—with the aid of metal leg braces and an attendant's arm—is slow and tedious.

Mr. Roosevelt takes better care of himself than he used to. His work is more arduous, but he follows a strict regimen, eating lightly, exercising daily, and keeping fairly regular hours.

**SCHEDULE:** At 8 each morning Edwin McDuffie, the Georgia Negro barber whom Mr. Roosevelt converted into a private valet, awakens him: "Eight o'clock, Mista President." After a shave and a few calisthenics, the President breakfasts in bed. The large morning meals he once ate have given way to an alternating schedule of "standard" and "light" breakfasts. Four days a week it is orange juice, one egg,

one rasher of bacon, toast, and coffee; three days a week, just orange juice and milk.

In his early White House days the President made the breakfast period a time for conferring with his secretaries—"Missy" (Marguerite Le Hand), "Steve" (Stephen Early), and "Mac" (Marvin McIntyre)—and occasionally with administration officials. Now he defers the conferences till after his pre-breakfast, indigo mood has vanished. While he eats, he scans important mail and the morning papers (usually The New York Times, New York Herald Tribune, Baltimore Sun, and Washington Post).

Rarely does the President arrive on time at his office in the Executive Wing. Conferences scheduled for 10:30 are more than likely to start at 10:45 or 11. In an average day he holds about fifteen separate conferences with individuals or groups. Invariably he includes one of these in his lunch hour. The guest and the President each get a tray of food from an electric warmer which is rolled into the office. Frequently the guest goes away hungry. Typical menu: soup, salad, coffee.

About 4:30 the President stops conferring and digs into routine office work—studying government reports and bills. Somewhere between 5:30 and 6, "Missy" pops into the office: "F.D., you've worked long enough now." Feigning reluctance, the President obeys, goes to the basement pool, and swims for about twenty minutes. Usually he is joined by Gus Gennerich, his affable bodyguard, and sometimes by a couple of the younger White House stenographers.

**FAVORITES:** Dinner at 7:45 is generally followed once a week by movies—newsreels and animated cartoons preferred. Unless the dinner is one of the many formal White House affairs, the President goes to his upstairs study shortly afterwards and settles down to a night of work. During these evening periods, he dictates most of his letters.

The President climbs into bed at anywhere from 11 to 2. There he scans the evening papers, works over his pet stamp collection, or reads a bit of biography.

His tastes haven't changed much. He prefers simple foods; scrambled eggs, soup, and grapefruit rank high. He still smokes Camels (a little more than two packs a day). He dislikes candy and bananas. And he has abandoned "Home on the Range" as a favorite tune—but only because bands, Girl Scout troops, and women's delegations serenaded him with it at every chance. Now his favorite is "Yellow Rose of Texas."

**THE PRESIDENT:** In 1907 Woodrow Wilson said the President was "the



most heavily burdened officer in the world." Since then the burden has increased tremendously. Certainly, none of Mr. Roosevelt's predecessors faced a greater assortment of responsibilities.

Naturally a master of detail, he amazes subordinates with his minute knowledge of even the small alphabetical agencies. When budget problems come up, he inevitably gets out a blue pencil and goes to work. He dotes on figures, though profound economics tends to bore him.

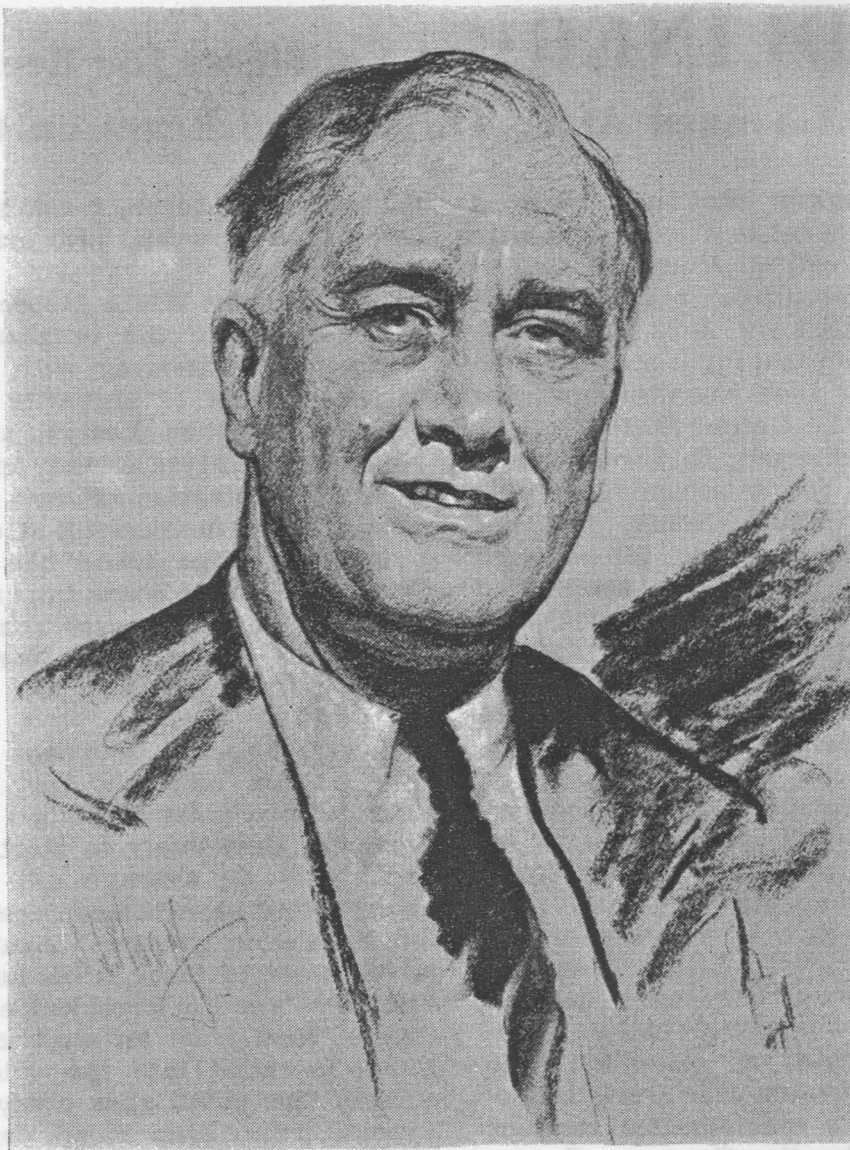
The President shows complete confidence in his own ability. Louis Howe once put the Roosevelt executive philosophy into these words: "I will give my best to making each decision. But no single decision will make or break me. My real capital and value lie in my energy, will, steadfastness, and resourcefulness."

Friends say Mr. Roosevelt is completely conscious of mistakes he has made. He admitted to reporters that his monetary maneuvers failed to produce expected results, and he has spoken of one or two other errors. But such admissions are rare. As a result he is roundly criticized by many who remember his early outline of plans for tackling the depression: "Take a method and try it; if it fails, admit it frankly and try another."

**COUNSELORS:** The year-long illness of Louis Howe and finally his death two months ago added to the possibility of future Presidential mistakes. The passing of the wizened little Colonel who had been Mr. Roosevelt's close friend and political nurse for twenty years deeply affected the President. It might also affect his policies, for Howe served as a cynical brake on Presidential enthusiasm. Accurately describing himself, Howe remarked "I am Franklin's No-man."

Howe had little interest in New Deal philosophy, but he had a knack for spotting plans that might cause trouble. In such cases he would make the President think twice before acting. Significantly, Howe was ill when Mr. Roosevelt abruptly turned the airmail over to army flyers, with the result that twelve of the aviators were killed in six weeks and the administration was drenched with criticism. Again, Howe was in his sickbed last year when the President overrode army and PWA engineers to approve the Passamaquoddy dam project, an administration headache ever since.

Today there is no one who actually fills Howe's place. The nearest approach is probably Charles R. Michelson, the Democratic National Committee's publicity director. He confers frequently with the President, stands near him at press conferences,



DRAWN FOR NEWS-WEEK BY S. J. WOOLF

... 'Energy, Will, and Resourcefulness'

and helps him prepare speeches. He was absent from the press conference where Mr. Roosevelt referred to the Supreme Court's "horse-and-buggy-day" philosophy.

With elections coming on, Postmaster General Farley has again become a close Roosevelt adviser. On politics his advice means everything; on policies, nothing.

Other so-called advisers have come and gone in a steady procession: Sprague, Berle, Warburg, Douglas, Johnson, Walker, Richberg, Warren . . . In truth most of these were idea men, rather than Richelieus. Intimates say the President has never been one to adopt others' ideas in full detail. Ordinarily, his procedure has been to hear a wide variety of opinions, schemes, and plans, then reach his own conclusion—often a mixture of several suggestions.

Raymond Moley, even for months after he left the official administration fold, served as an idea funnel—listening to dozens of schemes, weeding some out, correlating others, and submitting reports to President Roosevelt. In the last half-year, Moley—as editor of *Today* magazine—has gone in for criticizing administration plans, particularly the new corporation tax.

Among the President's idea men today, top rank goes to ex-SEC Chairman Joseph P. Kennedy, even though he has quit the administration to return to private business. While the President is troubled by his budget, as at present, RFC Chairman Jesse Jones stands high. Mr. Roosevelt still likes and respects Prof. Felix Frankfurter of

Harvard, but he is far from a No. 1 adviser. WPA Administrator Hopkins rates well; Secretary of the Interior Ickes has tumbled from grace. As a friend, Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau is exceedingly close to the President, but not as a counselor.

Ex-advisers report that one reason for the turnover in Presidential counselors is Mr. Roosevelt's dislike of the word no. He prefers to indicate disagreement by a slight shaking of the head or by complete silence. As a result, many leave his office mistakenly believing the President agrees wholeheartedly with them. Ultimately the misunderstanding leads to squabbles.

**CHITS:** Much of the administration's work is done on small memo leaves, a stack of which lie on the President's desk. As ideas strike him, he jots down notes to his Cabinet officers and administrators. One to Secretary of State Cordell Hull might read: "C. H.—What's happened to the Argentine Trade Agreement? . . . FDR." Called "chits" by the White House staff, these notes go out by the score each day.

Under Mr. Roosevelt, Cabinet meetings have lapsed into unimportance—to an even greater extent than in the Hoover era. Occasionally the members debate an important plan and often Vice President Garner takes the opportunity to record his cautious views on some new scheme. But generally they amount to little more than light banter—with President Roosevelt and Attorney General Cummings cast as star wisecrackers.

Even now that the alphabet agencies have lost much of their importance, the Cabinet meetings are far from momentous. Franklin Roosevelt prefers to do his work in groups of two or three.

**THE POLITICIAN:** Those who see the President regularly report that he eyes next November with sublime optimism, although he is fully aware of the complaints being made against him—reckless and excessive spending, dictatorship, violation of the platform.

He has said nothing publicly in answer to charges that he willfully scrapped the 1932 Democratic platform. Aides, of course, hold that unforeseen events forced his hand. The truth is that he has carried out more of the planks than is usually realized.

In general, he recalls that similar complaints were used in the 1934 Congressional elections—when for the first time in history an administration in power had its mandate from the people not only renewed but partly enlarged.

Now the President gets additional confidence from reliable straw votes

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT: PRESIDENT AND—



Picknicker



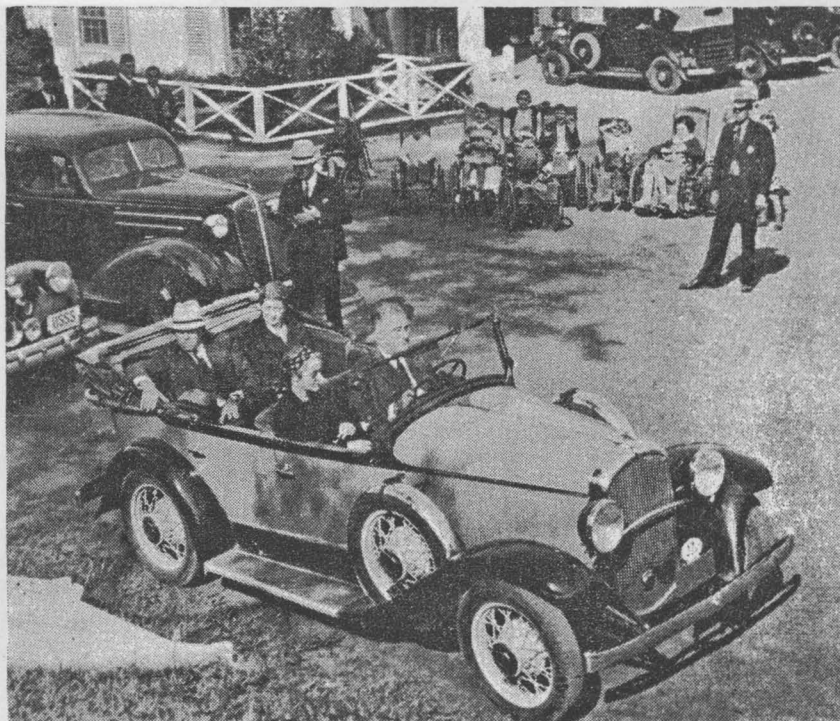
Dedicator

INTERNATIONAL PHOTOS



Sailor

KEYSTONE



Driver



NEWS-WEEK PHOTO BY PAT TERRY  
Friend 'Henry'



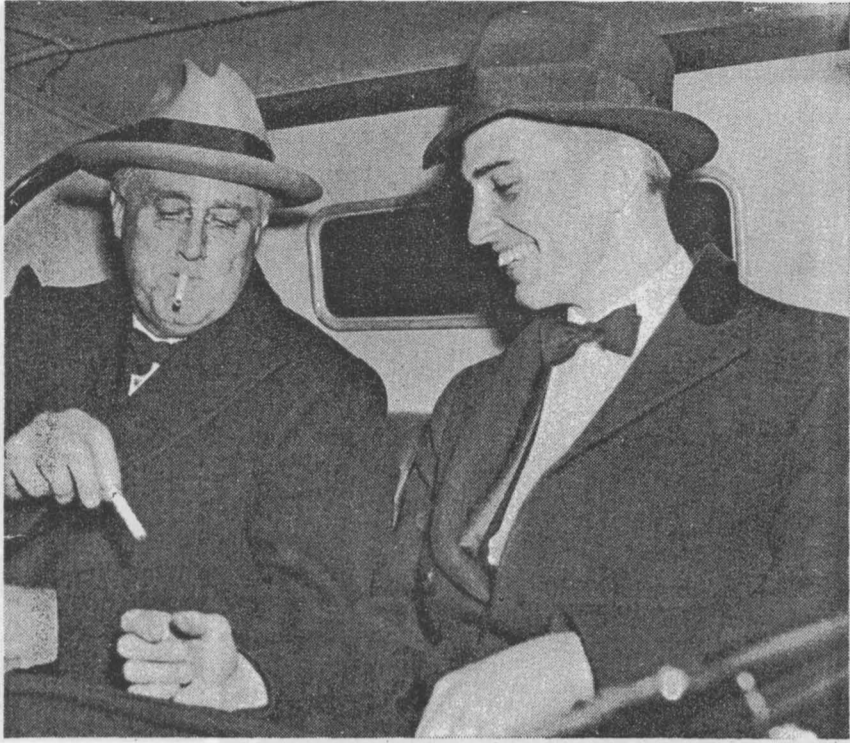
Secretaries: 'Missy' . . .



NEWS-WEEK PHOTOS BY CULVER  
'Steve' . . .



NEWS-WEEK PHOTO  
'Mac'



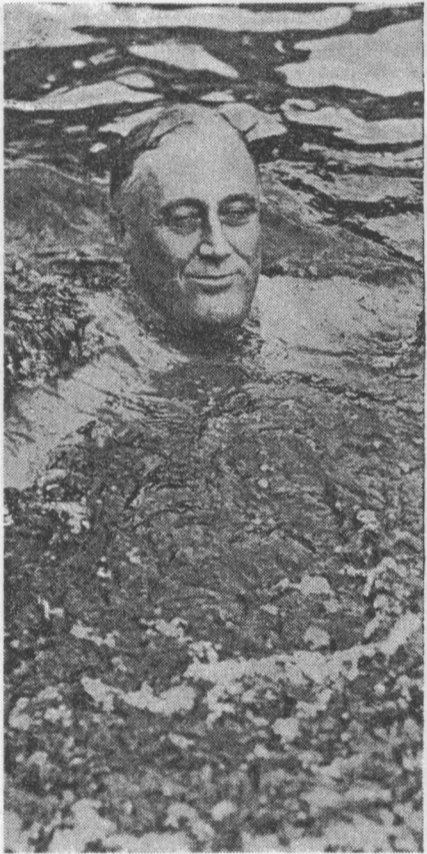
Smoker

ACME



Headliner

HARRIS & EWING



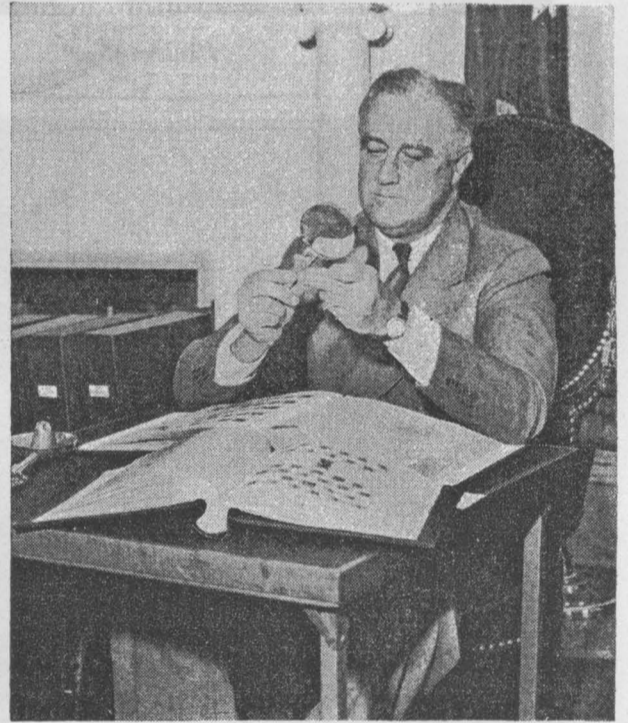
Swimmer

ACME PHOTOS



Handshaker

INTERNATIONAL

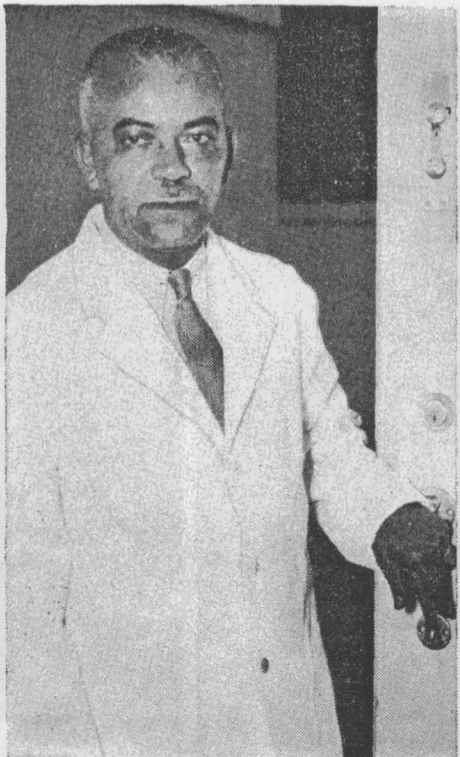


Collector

ACME



Companion 'Gus'



8-O'clock 'Edwin'

HARRIS & EWING PHOTOS



Card Player

KEYSTONE