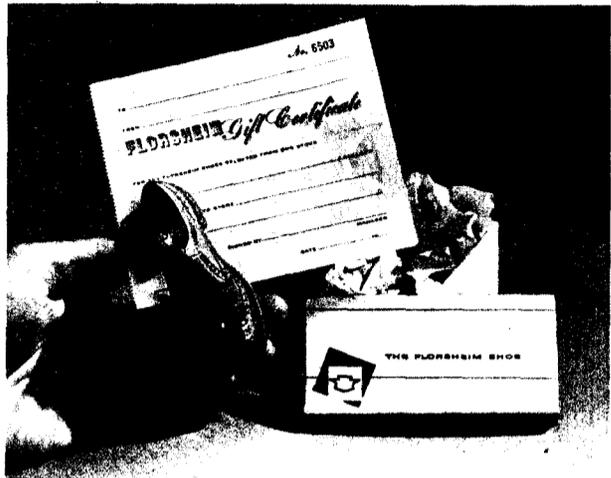


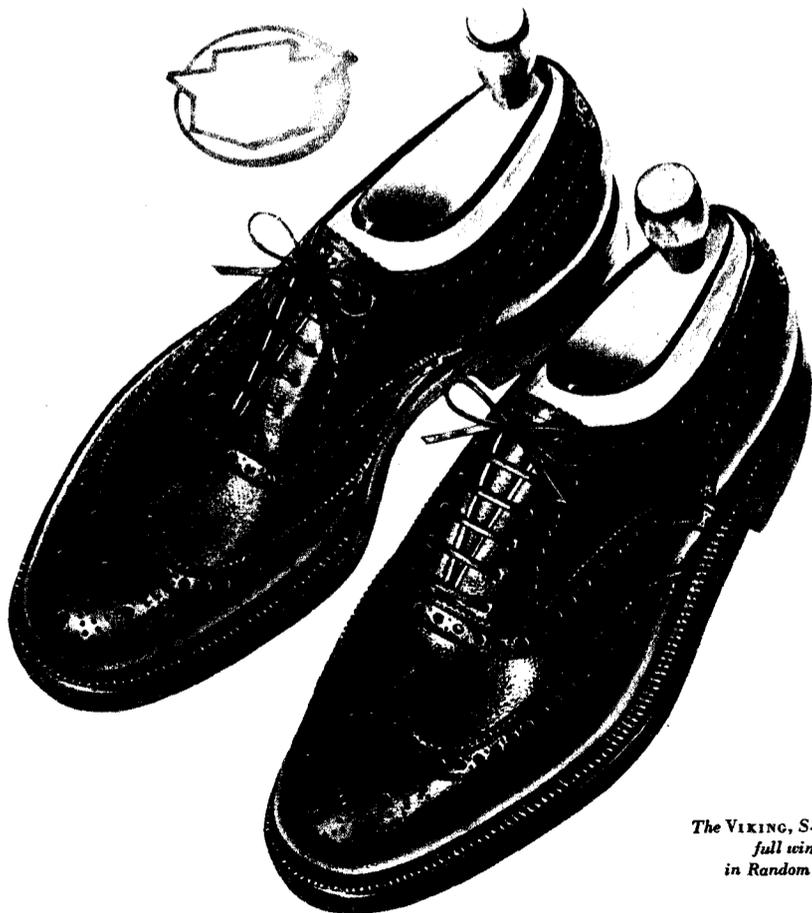
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THE SECRETARY



48 STATES OF MIND

By WALTER DAVENPORT

None of our business, of course, but we'd still like to know what Elizabeth and Philip said about us after they got home, took off their shoes and gathered around the fireplace with the family.

We've just read an editorial in the University of Virginia's student daily, the Cavalier. The writer of this upsetting leader urges that the heavy dough to obtain football stars put up by old grads of so many schools be diverted to strengthening faculties, financing nonathletic scholarships, paying for important researchings and similar nonexciting intellectual projects. Well, you know what they say about daydreaming young idealists.

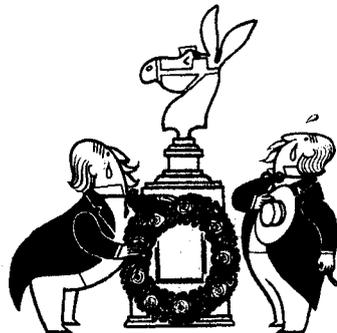
There was a time in our thoughtless youth when we laughed lightly at the Honorable Clare Hoffman, Representative in Congress from Michigan. Mr. Hoffman is an anti-pockets man. He wears suits which have no outside pockets in the coat and only two (both hip) in the trousers. Used to give us quite a heavy chuckle. But the news from the Internal Revenue offices in San Francisco, Boston, Chicago, St. Louis, New York and elsewhere has convinced us that maybe too many of our important public servants have too many pockets. For two cents—a modest sum that we could readily carry in our hatband—we'd organize a new national political party. Call it the No Pockets party. After being elected, our entire slate of candidates would be obliged to wear special improved Hoffmans—no pockets at all.

All sorts of intelligences are coming in to the old Forty-eight's desk. . . . In Nebraska, about one out of every five employed residents is on a government payroll—federal, state and local. . . . A doctor in Maine announces that the more you weigh, the more and louder you snore. True snoring, says he, begins at about a hundred



and eighty pounds. . . . A burglar in Alabama jimmied into a parsonage and stole 76 sermons from his own pastor. . . . Good Citizens Mr. and Mrs. John Carnahan needed a house to live in. Bought 20 acres of woodland near Pine Village, Indiana, and together felled trees enough to build a fine log cabin with their own hands. Cost them \$200. . . . Farmer in Iowa was proudly showing off his new mechanical corn picker. Got too close and the contraption ripped off his pants. While trying to retrieve them, the machine snatched the shirt off his back. Got away in his shorts and shoes. . . . Mr. Jenkins Pratt, of Salamanca, New York, says he wishes history would stop repeating itself. Says every time it does, the price goes up. . . . And another gentleman, who doesn't give his

Collier's for December 8, 1951



LOWELL HESS

name, says from Paducah, Kentucky, that it's all right to say there's nothing certain except death and taxes, but that dying doesn't get tougher every time Congress convenes. . . . Memorial services for the vanishing mule were held in Elberton, Georgia. Eulogies were delivered. Tears were shed. Meeting ended with the singing of: "Oh, the brown Missouri mule has a copper-plated throat, and the welkin splits apart when he hits an upper note."

Yep, Old Forty-eight is getting quite a shower of mail. . . . In Henderson County, the betting is nine to five that gambling won't be wiped out in that part of Kentucky. . . . The University of Chicago has been looking for an editor of the student weekly, The Maroon, who will sit at his desk and handle copy instead of roaming around dredging up stuff he won't be in his office to edit. . . . Elm virus and oak wilt are killing thousands of trees in Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, the Carolinas and the rest of the South. . . . Fellow named Blount—Theodore B.—wants us to buy a yacht. Says he hasn't got one to sell at the moment, but will look around, if we're in the market. . . . Bicycle Information Bureau writes from Chicago that by the first of the year Americans will own one bicycle for every 2 1/2 cars, trucks and busses now on the roads. . . . National Dunking Association is sending out official dunking bibs, pinkie rests and membership badges. Have abandoned the old-fashioned sling for the pinkie, or little finger. Interfered with free arm action. . . . Dr. F. T. Goldfrap, of Muncie, Indiana, tells us that "Texas has recovered from her inferiority complex." That's something we had missed. . . . Buried Treasure Association of Wallula, Washington, is about to go out of existence. Government flooding the sand dunes near that town where gold worth millions was supposed to have been buried by bandits back in 1873. . . . Colonel Dudley (Silent) Haddock, of Sarasota, predicts that the Florida season will be a success this winter in spite of the absence of government officials from Washington enjoying on-the-cuff vacations. . . . Vineyard Haven, Massachusetts, (population 1,000) knows what's going on with the Influence Boys. All government business is conducted in the local post office. And there's a sign conspicuously posted on the door: "SORRY—NO FAVORS."

Now that we've recorded all that, let's get on with major problems. For example, if you didn't know there was a black market in hospital interns, you had nothing on us. But the Pittsburgh (Pennsylvania) Medical Bulletin says so and we've never yet caught the Bulletin lying. Seems there aren't enough medical-school graduates to go around. Therefore, the hospitals are send-

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