

Drew Pearson's Diary: Still Timely

By Jack Anderson

The unpublished diaries of the late Drew Pearson have remarkable relevance today.

If he had lived to celebrate his 76th birthday today, he would have been in a magnificent rage over the Nixon scandals and the oil squeeze. But he scarcely would have been surprised by today's turn of events.

Two decades ago, he was writing in his diaries about Richard Nixon's dirty campaign tactics, the flow of oil money into the Nixon campaign, Soviet designs on the Middle East, Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Faisal's dislike for the United States and other subjects that bear on today's headlines.

Here are a few excerpts from Drew's diaries, which his stepson Tyler Abell is editing for publication:

On Oct. 29, 1952, Drew recorded that a source close to the late Speaker Sam Rayburn telephoned from Texas "to tell me about a conspiracy which began about two years ago . . . to put Nixon into the Vice Presidency. (The source) claims an untold amount of oil money has been behind Nixon for some time."

Drew wondered how Mr. Nixon, back in his wife's closet days, found the money to purchase a new home. A May 18, 1957, entry states: "Nixon paid \$25,000 cash for his new house and got a \$50,000 loan from Riggs at 4½ per cent, which he pays \$300 a month. I had to pay 6 per cent the other day and am paying \$500 a month on the \$14,

000 I borrowed from Riggs. Nixon still hasn't sold his first house, so where did he get the \$25,000?"

On May 7, 1957, Drew visited the late President Harry Truman in Independence, Mo., and received a private lecture on the Middle East. Pointing to Israel on the globe, Truman said: "That's where history began, American History . . . Most of our wars began down here or in the Balkans. That's what Hitler was after—oil, and a route through Suez. We are not going to have peace until we readjust things . . ."

"There's no reason why they can't get along together. I told that to Ibn Saud (then Saudi Arabia's king) when I saw him. 'You're all cousins,' I said, 'you ought to get along with the Jews even if they do call you bastards. You can call them that, too' . . . He laughed and laughed and laughed. 'We don't deny that Abraham's wife drove us into the desert,' he said."

The following Oct. 1, Drew had breakfast with Lebanon's Foreign Minister Charles Malik, who related an incident involving Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Faisal, now the King. The diary quotes Malik as saying:

"Crown Prince Faisal, who is terribly jealous of the King, wants to take over. Faisal hates the United States, and the American Ambassador, George Wadsworth, had to work on him for some time to get him to come

to the United States for American medical help.

"His hatred dates back to his visit here when Israeli boundaries were under discussion and two Zionist girls chased him at the Waldorf into his limousine. There, he kindly rolled down the limousine window, and they spat on him."

A decade before the United States sent combat troops into Vietnam, Drew deplored the idea in his diary. He added in a June 10, 1954, entry that he had talked to Gen. Nathan Twining, then the Air Force chief, who agreed "it would be foolhardy to go into Indochina."

Like the muckrakers of today, Drew was under constant investigation. "I had rumors," he wrote on Sept. 20, 1949, "that the White House was waiting to pounce on my 1948 return and sure enough they examined it shortly after it was filed. The tip came from Admiral _____ of the National Security Council, who said that Truman had ordered my tax returns gone into twice this year—as far back as 1935."

On June 14, 1951, Drew recorded in his diary: "This is the second or third time the FBI has been prying into me this year. Two or three months ago they had one of their top agents, Maurice Taylor, and a lesser agent, Charles Lyons, interview about 30 witnesses.

"Taylor . . . tried to find out the names of my servants, whether I had a night watch-

man, when I went away to the farm, whether the house was unguarded during trips to the farm, where I kept my files, and what my files were like.

"He even asked questions as to how I felt toward the FBI and whether I was a real friend of (J. Edgar) Hoover's . . . This is the kind of Gestapo tactic which they had in Germany and Russia. But the FBI has built itself up—partly with my help—to an impregnable position where it can do no wrong. Apparently, civil liberties and the sanctity of a man's home or office now mean nothing."

In the later entry, Nov. 18, 1953, Drew told how he had helped the FBI: "I recall how Attorney General Homer Cummings invited Bob Allen and me to dinner in 1933 or 1934 and told us he believed the best cure of kidnapping was to build up the FBI, not only in actual strength but in the strength of public opinion behind it.

"If the underworld came to believe the FBI was invincible, Cummings argued, there would be less kidnapping. To that end, he asked out, advice about the appointment of a top-notch public relations man, and those of us present, including Cummings, all agreed on Henry Suydam. Henry was appointed and did a terrific job. He really went to town with Hollywood, the radio industry and everyone else to make the FBI invincible."

1973, United Feature Syndicate