

From UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE, INC.,
Monte Bourjaily, General Manager,
220 E. 42nd Street, New York, N. Y.

CONFIDENTIAL -- NOT TO BE USED FOR PUBLICATION -- CONFIDENTIAL

EDITORS NOTE: --- The following background is confidential and is strictly for your personal information. It is designed to give frank intelligence of what is going on behind the scenes of the news and news in the making.

WASHINGTON--Senator Borah's return to Washington the day following the election brought to light the real reason why he remained aloof from the Hoover campaign despite repeated urging by presidential emissaries. One of these emissaries called on Borah at his home in Boise as late as October 1 and pleaded with him to take the stump for the President. Borah eyed him up coldly and replied, "You live only two blocks from my house in Washington. All during the spring and summer while I was in Washington you never came to see me about this matter. Now you travel two thousand miles to do so. I can do nothing for you."

The background of this attitude on Borah's part as he tells the story is as follows. Some weeks before the Chicago convention Borah had a talk with the President and warned him against Secretary of the Treasury Mills and Postmaster General Walter Brown. Borah told Hoover that these two members of his cabinet were distrusted by the West and would lose him powerful popular support unless relegated to the background. According to Borah, the President was sympathetic to his view. But nothing was done about the matter. Later, after the Chicago convention, a group of western and dry leaders, among them Raymond Robins, who mysteriously disappeared during the campaign and has been missing since, and who was a close friend of Borah, conferred with the President. Mills and Brown were present at the meeting. In their presence Robins and others of his group repeated in substance what Borah weeks earlier had said to Hoover. They insisted that Borah be brought into the campaign at any cost and that Brown and Mills be kept out of sight. Mills, according to Borah, said nothing, but Brown, in his quiet but decisive manner remarked, "We've taken Borah's measure. We don't need him this time."

Borah, of course, does not admit that the incident was the cause of his campaign silence, but his attitude and the bitterness with which he related the story indicated clearly that Brown's observation had cut him to the quick and that he bitterly resented it.