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EDITORS NOTE: --- The following 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.

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WASHINGTON---Jouett Shouse, head of the Democratic National Committee organization in Washington, and Mrs. Shouse separated during the summer of 1931. The separation was privately arranged with the understanding that if agreeable to both parties after a year there would be a divorce. John J. Raskob, then chairman of the Democratic National Committee, and other influential Democrats made many attempts to prevent the divorce. Raskob is known to have been particularly displeased when Shouse took the co-respondent with the Raskob party to the Kentucky Derby in Louisville a year ago. He said that Shouse's conduct was liable to hurt the Democratic party.

Washington society was set agog when the separation first took place, as Mrs. Shouse was reputed to have loaned her husband \$30,000 just before the separation. Practically nothing regarding the separation has been published locally.

Mrs. Shouse for some time was willing to effect a reconciliation.

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Senator Couzens made known his change of views about the sales tax during a golf game with Senator Charles McNary, assistant Republican floor leader and in line for full leadership when Senator "Jim" Watson retires next March 4. The two senators play golf occasionally at the exclusive Burning Tree Club in nearby Maryland. During a recent game the two men fell to talking about tax legislation and Couzens told McNary that he had become convinced that a sales tax was necessary to balance the budget. Senator Pat Harrison's change of position on the issue has leaked out from Democratic quarters.

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