

# My Impression of Visiting U.S.A.

## By Professor Sun Chien-wei (孫建偉)

### Formosan Impressed By Press Meetings

(Sun Chien-wei, chief editor of the Chung Kuo Daily News of Taichung, Taiwan (Formosa), is spending a month in Burlington as guest of The Hawk-Eye. This is the first of a series of his reports on his visit to the United States—Ed.)

I had followed with close interest America's achievements in industry, education, news media and social welfare. Now I was to see this progress for myself.

I came here under the sponsorship of Specialist program of the U.S. Department of State.

I am much honored to have the opportunity visiting the United States of America which I had dreamed of exploring for years. American customs and traditions, way of life, cultures, and philosophy always had attracted me.

During my 5 week trip to the east side of America, I led a colorful and exciting life visiting Washington, D. C., Buffalo, Boston, New Haven, and New York. My heart was to experience deep feelings of astonishment, admiration and enthusiasm as events unfolded before my eyes.

I shall try to record my impression and recollections in a realistic spirit, observing honest impartiality.

It was a pleasant trip of almost 22 hours. After stopping in Tokyo, Seattle, San Francisco, I arrived in Washington, D. C. on Sept. 3 at 5 p.m.

When the jet was flying over Seattle, the rising sun rippled its red light to infiltrate through the small window of the plane. But my watch indicated it was 12 o'clock p.m. I knew we were flying over western hemisphere. Time owed me half day sleeping. I thought I would touch my dreaming land soon.

I had 3 hour rest in the Seattle airport before continuing my flight to San Francisco.

At 7:30 p.m. I boarded a Western Line jet plane. While resting in my comfortable seat, I enjoyed the delicious food and sweet music to relax my tiresome trip.

#### Mid-Air Movie

I landed at the San Francisco airport at 8:20 p.m. I stayed at San Francisco for one day. The next day I changed to the TWA airline for a flight to Washington, D. C.

During my flying to Washington, I saw the moving picture show on the plane that added to the pleasantness of the atmosphere in my trip.

#### Veteran Diplomat

When I reached Washington, Mr. Hayworth, a program officer of Far Eastern Cultural Affairs Bureau of State Department, met me. An informative program had been prepared for me. Mr. Hayworth and his wife gave me a warm reception at their house on my arrival evening.

Mr. Hayworth can speak both Chinese and Japanese. He is a veteran diplomat. He had been stationed in Osaka, Japan for eight years. In 1961, he went to our city, Taichung, to pursue his advanced study in the Chinese Language School sponsored by Far Eastern Affairs Bureau of State Department. His wife is a Taiwanese, 10 years younger than he on looking. They were married in Taichung, Taiwan.

#### Meets Officials

The following day I paid a courtesy call to the top-ranking officers who are responsible for Far Eastern Affairs of State Department. The first man I called on was Mr. McCloskey, spokesman of the State Department. I joined a news conference sponsored by him. He gave brief remarks on both international and domestic news. Then he answered some questions submitted by some reporters who attended the conference.

#### Press Conferences

As I am a press man, the things impressed me most during my stay in Washington were the regular White House press

conferences sponsored by George Reedy, secretary of press, and a press conference by Mr. Rusk, Secretary of State.

On Sept. 10, Secretary Rusk, accused Sen. Barry Goldwater at a press conference, of demonstrating "a basic lack of understanding" of presidential responsibilities in foreign affairs. In reply to another question, Mr. Rusk said that "a great deal more clarification" was needed on what he called the basic foreign policy issue of presidential campaign. This issue he said, is whether "the great bipartisan policies of the postwar period will be continued "or do we veer off in some direction and, if so, what is that direction."



## Formosa Editor Learns Dean Rusk Is Affable Man

Mr. Dean Rusk, Secretary of State, gave me the impression that he is a knowledgeable and affable statesman with no authoritative airs. We Chinese would call him an "easy approach man." In response to questions, Mr. Rusk answered briefly and unambiguously with a firm voice.

On Sept. 14, I joined White House News Conference sponsored by George Reedy, secretary of press. He disclosed that President Johnson would continue his election campaign to the west coast on Sept. 16 and would preside over the presentation ceremony to award three winners of the Harmon International Aviation Trophy at 3:30.

I was thinking of what an exceptional privilege it would be for me to see President Johnson.

I was regretful that I myself did not see President Johnson when he paid the state visit to Taiwan in 1961. However, I had read the full text of his speech addressed to the college students of Taipei. So far as I knew

his message was selected to be a supplementary reading for college students in Taiwan.

Waiting for a little moment, I saw President Johnson appear on the stone steps of White House garden. He hailed the most amazing feats of three winners.

They were:

Leroy Gordon Cooper who won the award for overcoming mechanical failure to guide his Faith 7 space capsule to a safe landing in May, 1963.

Aviatrix Betty Miller, of Santa Monica, Calif., who was recognized for her 7,400-mile flight from Oakland, to Sidney, Australia, in the spring of 1963.

Air Force Lt. Col. Fitzhugh L. Fulton who won the award for flying a B-58 Hustler bomber to an altitude of 85,318 feet with a payload of more than 11,000 pounds.

During my stay in Washington, D. C., I was very much interested in observing the freedom of press. Especially in the presidential election year.

Now I learned of newspapers in the United States are not controlled by political parties I often read the campaign statements of both parties and opinions of the people who sometimes criticize the presidential nominee of each party by expressing their ideas.

I remember one of Late President Kennedy's messages in which he said "The freedom of press is a foundation stone of the democratic system of government and a symbol of man's determination to influence his future by expressing his ideas in his own way.

"I think America's strongest asset lies in such free conscience and democratic system.

My next stop was Williamsburg, Va. where the British colonial government was located in the 17th century. It was a quite merry town. A few streets of the town were dedicated to be History Areas.

I visited the magnificent colonial palace and capitol where the attendants dressed in an old British costume or uniform gave us detailed explanation of past heritage. I was aware Thomas Jefferson and James Madison were councilmen during that period. Later they became the Presidents of America.

Tradition, History

Their struggle for independence of America still remains in the hearts of American people and their brave deeds are written on the glorious pages of American history. All the relics and famed landmarks reflect tradition and history of America.

I spent one day in Williamsburg and returned back to Washington, D. C., next morning.

### Shop Talk

Then I called on Mr. Zusy who is director of Continental Press Service. He is a stocky well-built man. There are shoots of gray mingled with his thick black hair. He does not look like a man nearing 50, but actually he is. We have communicated with each other for two years.

I regularly write two articles per month to report the major developments of Taiwan.

He gave me friendly welcome and our talks ranged over many respects. We exchanged the views of Southeast Asia situations, especially in Viet Nam.

I told him that America is faced with many critical problems in Viet Nam. It seems to me that political and religious issues are more pressing than war.

The stable and popular government that the Vietnamese seek and that the Americans hope will arrive from some where before it is too late seems as remote as ever.



## Visit To Boston Proved Relaxing

I think I should talk something about relaxing topics describing my impression during my stay at Boston.

On one cooler evening, I was invited to take a dinner at the Durgin Park restaurant founded in Colonial days. It was said that the origin of Durgin Park and its typically Yankee recipes went back to Pre-Revolutionary days. About 125 years ago, one of the customers, Eldrege Park who owned a livery

stable nearby, bought there staurant in Partnership with John Durgin, commission merchant, a young dry-goods merchant.

### Long Wait

Before we entered into the restaurant we lined up for one hour in the wind-soaked evening. Actually there was a throng of people waiting outside. When we took seat at the table two hours had passed.

In an atmosphere of clattering dishes, conversation and sharp-tongued waitresses, it served us roast beef rare in big thick slab and sweet desserts. We ate up heartily. When we finished our dinner indicated it was five to ten. It was an unforgettable sentimental evening.

### New Haven Guest

I was much honored to be a guest of City Hall when I visited New Haven. New Haven is a quiet, merry city and will be a sister city associated with our city, Taichung.

This program was pushed by China Institute in America, a cultural, non-profitable organization promoting the mutual understanding and friendship between American and Chinese people, in cooperation with City Hall of Taichung, Taiwan.

During my stay at New Haven, I was interviewed by the local reporters of newspaper, radio station, and TV.

Most of them submitted many questions concerning about Southeast Asia situation especially in Viet Nam.

So far as I know, Taichung City Council had just unanimously passed a resolution confirming our proposed "Sister City" affiliation and has already set up a special committee to implement it. A similar committee is currently being formed in New Haven.

My interest in New Haven was in a City Planning Program including a housing project. Many old houses were torn down. Once I visited the new houses built for old, retired men. I was led into the house. It is well furnished, bright, and airy. The rent charged them \$20.50 from their pension each month. They live there very comfortably.

### Visit To Yale

I also visited Yale University which is located in New Haven. I met Dr. Chaowio who is responsible for Yenching Institute for the study of Chinese popular literature and teaches Chinese language and Yale.

She just returned back from Taiwan where she made research work in collecting Chinese drama materials. Her husband, Dr. Pin, who is my old classmate when we studied in the high school on the mainland, teaches in M.I.T. Time elapsed. We have not seen him for 20 years.

#### To Burlington

Burlington is my intermediate stop of my trip in the United States of America. I reached Burlington on Oct. 19. I was warmly welcomed by Mr. Robert Bruegger, managing editor of The Hawk-Eye, at the airport.

The first sight touched my eyes was the quaint westernstyle farm home dotted the rural areas and clean streets were paved.

An atmosphere of fall is prevailing throughout the beautiful city. Maples stand half naked against the clearing sky. Birches stand slim against the hillsides. On the ground the fallen leaves are restless, skittered at the road sides. Fall has come in Burlington.

When I resided at the Burlington Hotel on my first arrival day I opened the window commanding the most serene and lovely panorama. As I saw the tranquil Mississippi river bridges reminiscent of the bridge over the Yalu River in my home town, Antung, which is located at northeastern part of China. I have not seen it for 16 years more.

As I drove on up the winding hills road to the small town to cover a church news story with Mr. Roy Pelca, we traveled through picturesque and wellcontented villages and high corn stockpiles perched on the yard.

I saw people going and coming with ever-smiling and happy faces aware of the blessing of living in so lovely and prosperous country.

One day I was fortunate to join the city council headed by Mayor, Max Conrad and four councilmen.

I observed the basic democratic way of government. In that meeting a Human Rights ordinance for Burlington was given its first reading by the city council. Two more readings and the ordinance will become law. Councilmen decided they will conduct the

second two readings at next Monday's reading. Mayor explained readings could be doubled up to get the ordinance passed because little opposition has been voiced.

I am very much gratified to Mayor Max Conrad and councilmen who gave me a key to be a remembrance. I wish to convey their good will to our people.

The Presidential campaign was virtually over. I had privilege to observe the election activities in Burlington.

When the voting begins I went to the polling place to watch what procedures a voter casts his solemn ballot.

I think American people are intelligent to choose whom he likes to be the president of their country.

In the evening I watched Des Moines County Returns by Precincts in the courthouse. Every man on his face appeared exciting and nervous. "I knew Johnson was going to win" one man said to me, "but the Democrats sweeping Iowa made me surprised". Next day the front page headline read: "Democrat Landslide Sweeps US," "The Johnson Victory."

#### Unmatched Hospitality

I consider it a duty to express my gratitude for the friendship and unmatched hospitality extended to me during my stay at Burlington.

I shall always treasure the many instances of warm and brotherly concern and interest shown by the Hawk-Eye staff editors, especially Editor Stuart Awbrey, who promised me 2-week extension staying.

Such a reception made me ponder the blessings of the historical ties between our two countries.

Benny Shuns Florida SEATTLE (AP) —Comedian Jack Benny, guest violinist at a concert in Seattle, said his itinerary would take him to Portland, Ore., Salt Lake City and Oakland, Calif.

"I was supposed to go to Florida too," Benny said, "but I changed my mind." Then he added: "If Ponce de Leon couldn't find it, the hell with it."