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January 28, 1954

Amon G. Carter, Esquire
Fort Worth Star-Telegram
Fort Worth, Texas

Hello, Amon!

Enclosed you will please find a criticism by Ralph McGill of the Atlanta Constitution of "The Secret Diary of Harold L. Ickes, Vol. I, the First Thousand Days, 1933-36". You would get a kick out of reading this book which I have scanned through recently because it touches with decidedly more than a gentle stroke many of your good friends of the Democratic Days and dealt rather heavily in some instances with two of your more or less proteges, Silliman Evans and myself.

Have Mrs. Deakins buy this book for you and take a day off and get real mad and also have some good laughs. My only regret is that poor old Jimmy Moffett has passed along and won't have the pleasure of reading it and fuming and cussing the old "so-and-so" as much as he used to do in the good old days.

Just how are you anyway? Take the trouble to dictate a short line and let me hear from you.

*Cousin Billie
sends her love.*

Affectionately,

LWR

Lawrence Wood Robert, Jr.

LWR:EL

Wyatt Hedrick was just in
my office and says you
are getting along fine.
Wish I could see you

ICKES' DIARY PROVES TO WORLD THAT HIS CRITICS WERE RIGHT

THE SECRET DIARY OF HAROLD L. ICKES,
VOL. 1: *The First Thousand Days, 1933-1936.* New York: Simon and Schuster. \$6.

Reviewed by RALPH McGILL

A long anticipated book, "The First Thousand Days," first selections from the Secret Diary of Harold L. Ickes, is published.

It is a sad book, because it proves that, after all, the enemies and critics of Harold L. Ickes were right all along and those who sought to defend or rationalize him were wrong. He was a liar, a vain and swollen egotist. He was selfish and always on the make. He was childish and revengeful. And he had other faults besides. Among them was that of gossip. He repeats "I heard" and "they say" more often than one will hear it around beauty parlors or barbershops.

He didn't like Roosevelt. A psychologist would find the answer easy. Ickes resented the fact he wasn't president himself because he was, of course, smarter and more able and it was a shame his merits were not rewarded. He was a cabinet member and he swung on to the office, but he was always out for Ickes.

In 1936 his acute ego caused him to put down that he had a chance for the Republican nomination and could have been elected if he had taken it. Obviously, he sought out, or discussed with some unnamed Re-

publicans, the possibility of a double-cross — deserting the cabinet to run with the Republicans. But they would have none of him. So, he swung on to that cabinet job.

Tom Farley, incidentally, is in sharp contradiction with almost all the political notes in the diary and in those years Farley was running the political end of it. So, we will have to take Farley's word for it. In fact, after reading the Secret Diary you can't take Ickes' word.

Mrs. Francis Perkins, who had an advance copy of the diary and did an article for *The Atlantic*, dealt as kindly as she could, but even she notes the really colossal egotism of the man. He resented, she notes, the fact that Morgenthau had a lot of conferences with the President. But, his diary notes he had more. He was suspicious of his colleagues because, he thought, they were jealous of him and sought to undermine him. When the President rebuked the cabinet for too much loose talk and too many news leaks, it was directed at Ickes. Ickes thought sure it was a rebuke at another member. It never occurred to him, in his vanity, he was the man. Mrs. Perkins also wrote:

"One constantly reminds oneself that this was a private diary, and that if candor is a relief to the writer he is certainly entitled to practice it. But some of his comments, particularly about Gen. Johnson and his associates, are perhaps a little too frank for necessity. His comments on the weaknesses of other people undoubtedly gave him relief, and one is moved to laughter at his expression of the pouting and peevishness of one Cabinet mem-



HAROLD L. ICKES
Didn't Like Roosevelt

ber, of the unctuous and pompous ways of another, the over-talkativeness of a third, and the indirect and perhaps deceitful methods of another. These are not profound revelations, and one wishes that he might have had time for ripe reflection on the varieties of human nature and on the development of his own attitudes and conclusions."

The above is from an admirer and friend. Those who read, not as an admirer and old friend, will not be so kind. It is filled with suspicions and hearsay, malicious vanity and pettiness. It does reveal the secret Ickes and this is too bad, in a way, because it proves, as aforesaid, that after all his enemies were right all along in their estimate of him.

of Southern II Open Eyes'

the Johns Hopkins Press, there is proof that the South has written well; better than most of the country, in fact. Many of the pieces in the volume were published originally by The Hopkins Review. Now they are collected

book contains: "The