

# Reporter Tells What He Saw

Marquis Childs  
Covers Wide Front  
in Newest Opus

I WRITE FROM WASHINGTON. By Marquis Childs. Harper: \$3.

One of the most human and persuasive among those reporters who get out books, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch's Washington man is, to a certain extent, a Roosevelt adherent. But that does not prevent him from seeing, and exposing, any failures of the New Deal, any weaknesses of F. D. R. himself.

The author of "Sweden, the Middle Way," he takes that way himself in appraising public figures. He has prejudices and acknowledges them; but he is trying to be eminently fair. Most of the time he succeeds.

## Covers Decade

His book is not about Washington alone, though it covers a critical decade, 1932-42, when Washington got into the world's eye. He was in Scandinavia getting material on collective bargaining and housing; he went to Spain and saw the Civil War; he traveled to Mexico at the time of oil expropriations.

That last journey gave him startling facts on where the expropriated oil was in danger of going and on the men behind that move: Americans and Englishmen fighting Standard Oil and Shell. A man named Davis, he says, with a grudge against Standard for allegedly ruining him, conspired to form a giant combine and ship the oil to Germany, Standard and Shell tankers having refused to handle it. But, says Childs, Sir Henri Deterding of Royal Dutch Shell was not himself innocent of working with Hitler. Sir Henri backed him with a huge sum when the Nazi party was about to fall; and it was the oil man's objective to get Hitler to attack Russia so that Sir Henri might take over the Baku oil fields.

## Estimate of Willkie

Among Childs' Washington experiences readers may most enjoy his travels with Willkie and his estimate of the way that man grew in political and world views; his stinging analyses of Roosevelt's vaudeville team, Corcoran and Cohen; his bitter denunciations of power politicians and career diplomats of the old line who did so much to keep us blind to European perils; the graphic miniature biography of Harry Hopkins; his ungentle lambasting of Harold Ickes.

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## Pair Solve Clinic

KILL OR CURE. By William Francis Morrow. \$2.

Tony Martin and his woman Friday, "Butch," solve mystery of weird medical clinic. By author of hardboiled "Rough on Rats."