

Albert Lasker to Support Hiram Johnson for Nomination to Presidency

Senator Likely to Make Issue of Court Proposal

Shipping Board Chairman to Espouse Cause of Californian in 1924 Race for Office.

By MARK SULLIVAN.

Washington, Aug. 18.—On the day after Harding's death one of the press associations printed an article dealing with the changes wrought by that event in the republican presidential situation. It was well informed and comprehensive. In the course of it the following passages occurred. They are condensed and rearranged in their order for the sake of making them clear in the necessarily abbreviated form in which they are reproduced here:

"Six months ago the renomination of President Harding without any substantial contest seemed assured. 'Word had come to Harding that one of the men who was looked upon as a principal contender had said he found himself without an issue upon which to run, and a close friend of the same prospective contender declared that he would undertake to guarantee that the former would not go into a single state on the stump as a candidate seeking delegates to the convention. The men who had been the principal backers of the contender referred to had become devoted friends and, in fact, parts of the Harding administration machinery. The fortunes of Hiram Johnson and Albert Lasker came together at a certain moment some three years ago. A little later they became separated in the political sense, though never in the personal sense, and now, as it might look to an observer surveying the future, they seem likely to come together again."

In the month of December, 1919, Hiram Johnson threw his California derby into the ring that already contained the military cap of General Wood, the hat of Governor Lowden and some others. Johnson began that candidacy for the 1920 nomination on a shoestring. Later on, as I shall tell, fairly considerable resources and organization were put into his campaign. But in the beginning he had practically nothing but his own voice and such small funds as were contributed by a few personal friends. If he had had anything like the resources for organization purposes that Wood and Lowden had he would have gathered together more delegates than either of them. Undoubtedly, he would have led the field, and he might readily have been the nominee. In the few states where he was physically able to use what was practically the only asset he had, namely, his own voice, he almost invariably got larger crowds and more votes than either of the others. For example, in the first of the primary fights, South Dakota, Johnson's friends had only about \$2,000 to spend for publicity and organization, whereas the friends and partisans of Wood and Lowden, eager for the prestige of winning the first round of the presidential primaries, spent large sums on organization, special trains, circularizing and the like.

"The president's pronouncement for entry of the United States into the world court, however, altered the situation materially, and during the last few weeks there had come definite information through the mysterious channels by which political captains maintain their intelligence systems that all was not going to be as clear sailing as had been expected in the republican national convention of 1924, and there might be a contest after all.

Court Became Issue.

"The contender who had once told Mr. Harding's friends and supporters that he feared he found himself without an issue on which to fight the president for the nomination sought out the same men and told them that his previous declaration to them was 'all off' and that he believed he had found the issue; that he was out for the republican presidential nomination if a little further investigation convinced him he had a chance to set it, and that he probably would enter every state having a presidential preference primary seeking delegates. 'Naturally, that upset the Harding friends and advisers and how much, if at all, it upset the president's plans is not known in Washington because he was in Alaska when the de-

velopment came about, but word was sent to him informing him fully. 'All these developments threw political plans awry, and now the sad and sudden death of the president gives them another twist.' That was the press association story printed in the unescapable hurry of the day after Harding's death. In the more abundant leisure of three weeks afterward it may now add something to the amusement of an August Sunday and possibly to the useful information of those who take an interest in the more intimate details of American politics and in the personalities involved if we piece out the story, as to those portions where it is cryptic or anonymous, with some reasonable inferences as to names, places and dates. And the best way to tell the whole story is to go a little further back and make a fresh beginning.

Johnson, Lasker Figure.

You can make the beginning either with Hiram Johnson or with Albert Lasker. They are the two men, every person close to politics can readily infer, who figure cryptically and anonymously in the above story. Johnson moves in the phrases "principal contender" and "prospective contender." Lasker is the chief of those who fit the description "a close friend of the same prospective contender" and former "principal backers of the contender referred to," who had more lately "become devoted friends and, in fact, parts of the Harding administration machinery."

"The fortunes of Hiram Johnson and Albert Lasker came together at a certain moment some three years ago. A little later they became separated in the political sense, though never in the personal sense, and now, as it might look to an observer surveying the future, they seem likely to come together again."

Progress Sensational.

Nevertheless, Johnson got practically as many votes as either. The progress Johnson made in the early stages of that 1920 fight, considering the forlorn little shoestring he had to work on, was nothing short of sensational.

In the last phases of Johnson's candidacy for the 1920 nomination Albert Lasker came into the situation. If he had come into earlier Johnson might have been president today; for with Lasker's furious energy, coupled with his resources as the biggest advertising man in the country and the resources Lasker could get from friends and business associates—with all that, if Lasker had entered the situation earlier, Johnson would have been on a par with Lowden and Wood as a matter of organization; and he was stronger than them politically. Lasker was a whirlwind of energy and organizing resourcefulness, but he came into the situation too late.

Heart Into Fight.

Lasker threw his energy and his resources behind Johnson. He got his friends and business associates to help. One of them was William Wrigley, the chewing gum manufacturer. As his characteristic of men of Lasker's temperament, where his interest was his heart was. Indeed, his heart was so strongly with Johnson that it obscured his judgment. The present writer can remember one day a week or two before the 1920 republican convention being backed into the corner of a Chicago hotel by Lasker and Wrigley and vehemently cross-questioned by them as to whether or not Johnson would win. The writer had the judgment that Johnson wouldn't get more than a fifth of the delegates. That judgment was excessively unwelcome to persons so deeply wrapped up in Johnson's fortunes, and the writer, in expressing a judgment contrary to his questioners' desires, had a little the feeling of being a criminal in the dock under cross-examination. However, it is a familiar memory with every political writer who preserves a distinction between facts and emotions to lose a good many of his friends in politics during the three or four weeks before every convention—only to get them back with added

respect for his judgment after the convention is over. Johnson lost the nomination. But Lasker did not lose his interest in politics nor his zest for the big game. It is a legitimate and publicly useful ambition. The country would be better off if more good men had it.

Soon after Harding was nominated Lasker turned up on the front porch of Marion. With characteristic frank directness he told Harding that he didn't know him, hadn't much acquaintance with his political policies, but nevertheless wanted to help make him president. One way or another, Lasker went through the process which in his business is called "selling yourself" to some one you want to impress. Lasker, of course, had nothing he wanted to sell for money. On the contrary, he wanted to trade his own energy and resourcefulness for a chance to sit in the big game, and he was willing to "sell" himself to Harding. It was entirely legitimate, Lasker was and is the superior of most politicians in that he went about it with complete candor.

Lasker "Sells" Himself.

Lasker made the sale successfully. There were typical persons in politics who assumed that Lasker must have held the idea that as a former backer of Johnson he was in a good position to act as go-between, on Harding's behalf, to Johnson, for the latter's support of the ticket.

was the prince of go-getters, and it was in that role that he served Harding faithfully and well.

Lasker No Influence.

Harding made Lasker chairman of the shipping board, but that official position was only a fraction of Lasker's personal relation to Harding. Lasker became the president's most constant companion. It caused a lot of gossip and some disadvantage to Harding in the shape of irritation and jealousy on the part of politicians. Much more was ascribed to the relation than actually existed. Lasker was said to influence Harding unduly in public matters. But there was nothing in that. Lasker was content with companionship and did not grasp for power. Lasker didn't have, or try to have, or pretend to have, the sort of influence on public affairs that was attributed to him. He rejoiced in the personal association with Harding, and was content with it. He was almost extravagantly loyal to Harding.

couldn't oppose him without seeming ungracious. Johnson was invited to White House dinners and White House parties, although everybody knows that Johnson cares less than most men about that sort of thing. Other senators who were on sufficiently close terms with Johnson used to direct humorous remarks at him. Johnson used to just smile.

Johnson Against Court.

In the end, as recited above, Johnson decided not to oppose Harding. But the principal thing that influenced him was the lack of an issue on which to make the fight. Harding's position on the league of nations was identical with Johnson's.

split and a fight between the two men.

Lasker Against Court.

Then, as recited above, Harding proposed the international court. At that, all Johnson's friends, and all who wanted, for their own reasons, that Harding should not be renominated by default—all these rushed to Johnson and told him that now he had his issue. Johnson listened. He made no formal utterance, strongly against the court, and then went abroad. Abroad, he marveled and reflected for four months. When he came back he was again brought under great pressure from many different angles to make a fight against Harding. Johnson contented himself with making his New York speech against the court and again began a period of vigilance, ever ominous silence.

Road Builder Has 4-Minute Chat With Governor

Hy F. Nightengale of Atkinson, Neb., grading contractor, did more than \$60,000 worth of work for the state of Nebraska this summer and now the state refuses to pay him, although the work has been approved and accepted.

Or rather, it refuses to pay the firm of Peterson, Shirley and Gunther, from whom he held a subcontract, which amounts to the same thing, so far as he is concerned.

According to Mr. Nightengale he accepted subcontracts for grading and surfacing Project No. 156 in Kearney county and Project No. 159-E in Holt county, consisting of more than 12 miles of road, each contract amounting to about \$22,000.

Of the \$64,000 thus due, he has received \$31,000, the amount paid by the state to the general contractors.

Now the claim is made that there is a \$700,000 deficiency in the fund from which the money must come, which is augmented by federal aid.

Meanwhile, Mr. Nightengale's last three payrolls are unpaid; he has borrowed \$10,000 from his bank to carry on the work, and has even mortgaged his house in order to pay his men.

Officials of the state finance department, he says, will give him no satisfaction, nor will Governor Bryan, with whom he was permitted to talk for four minutes, after a trip of 100 miles.

August 22.

Thompson, Belden & Co.

When a Girl Goes to College

Certain of the Glad Hand

—is she who goes to college in Trefousse gloves. A one-clasp style of French kid, heavy enough to stand the wear without being clumsy is \$2.75 a pair.

Tom Thumb Umbrellas

—for sun and rain are adorably stubby (they fit nicely into a suitcase) and when carried nonchalantly over the shoulder by the cord attached to heavy English-looking handles, they're bound to be the most swagger thing on the campus. In scarlet or navy, \$10.



A Plaid Top Coat With Red Fox Collar

—like one we are showing at \$35 is just looking for a chance to go to football games or other lively college affairs which will be exactly the right setting for its spirited design.

Others \$25 to \$98.50

Thompson-Belden Special Silk Hose

—for the hurrying feet of active college girls who have few moments to spare for the darning basket, may be selected in all the unusual shoe shades as well as black and white for \$1.95 a pair.

The Problem

—of finding good looking knickers that wear has been solved for the school girl who buys "Fit-Rite." Scientific designing makes them both more comfortable and serviceable. Street shades in satinet are \$2.50. In silk Jersey, \$5.95.

This Girdle

—has no bone in front to poke into you during long hours at a desk. A pretty wrap-around style of flesh broche and elastic webbing is priced \$5. A lighter and shorter style at \$2.

A Long Waisted Brassiere

—of striped flesh batiste with elastic inserts makes a trim finish where the waistline corset ends. Priced \$1.

As to Underwear

Bodice top, tight knee and medium weight are the specifications most girls will give for the knitted union suits they will pack in their trunks for school. We have them and other good styles at \$1.

Cash's Woven Names

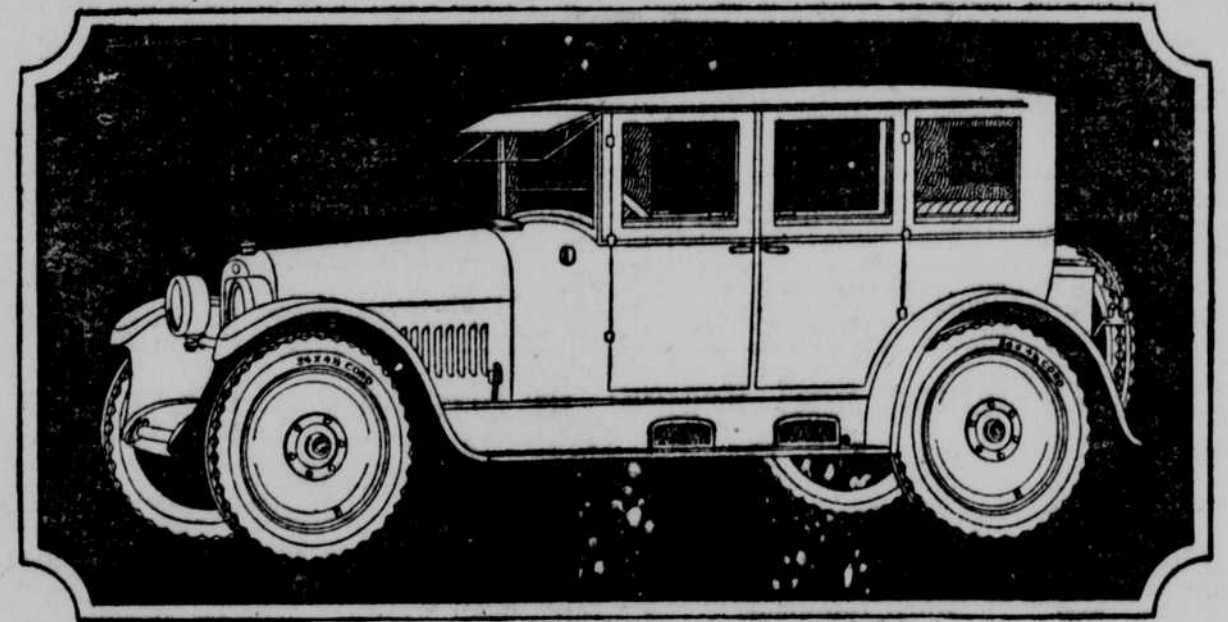
Your name woven in fade-proof turkey red on these convenient little white tapes are indispensable in keeping track of everything that goes to the laundry. Order them now. Six dozen for \$2. Other quantities in proportion.

If She Takes Her Own Bedding

For those dormitories or sorority houses that require students to furnish bedding a soft, rosy comfort covered in silkline (72x84 inches) may be selected for \$5.00. Pequot sheets that survive the rough and tumble of the laundry each week a little better than the most, are priced \$2.00 in the 72x99 size.

NASH

Six Cylinders



Five Disc Wheels and Nash Self-Mounting Carrier, Standard

They've Come! The NEW Four-Door Coupes

Our first shipment of these outstanding new Nash models is here. Only a few have been allotted to us. Buyers will take them quickly. So come in at once. See the important new Nash developments in engineering refinement, body craftsmanship, and luxurious equipment. More than ever this model stands out as the market's greatest value of its class. One look and you'll accord it first place for beauty of line and grace of appearance. The list of fittings and appointments reads like that of a costly custom-built car. Nothing that could add to your comfort, your pleasure, or your pride in the car has been omitted. And—note this—despite all the expensive improvements and added attractions Nash has not raised the price. Don't put off your visit—make it today.

FOURS and SIXES
Prices Not Advanced

Models range from \$915 to \$2190, f. o. b. factory

Nash-Vriesema Auto Company

423 South Tenth St.

AT lantic 2916

Steinhauer & Nickell

Peters Auto Co.

600 Fourth Street, Council Bluffs, Iowa

Millard, Nebraska