

Politics At A Glance . . .

GOP Nomination To Eisenhower On First Ballot; Democratic Convention Begins In Chicago Monday

By LOUIS SCHOEN

Retired Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower astounded the nation, Friday, when he swept his four competing candidates off their feet to take a dramatic first ballot victory in the fight for the Republican presidential nomination.

Leading throughout the initial roll call, Eisenhower held a 595 (604 votes are needed to nominate) to 500 margin over his nearest rival, Sen. Robert A. Taft of Ohio, when the balloting had apparently ended. But suddenly the chairman of the Minnesota delegation dramatically announced that his delegation wished to change its 19 votes for former Minnesota Gov. Harold E. Stassen to Gen. Eisenhower.

That clinched the nomination for Ike, giving him 614 votes. The remainder of the delegations soon



Eisenhower

changed their votes, and the official balloting ended when a Taft supporter moved that the convention unanimously give the former Kansas farm boy the nomination.

Meanwhile, the convention, on Eisenhower's request, nominated 39-year-old Sen. Richard M. Nixon of California to run in the second slot on the Republican ticket. Nixon is the youngest GOP vice presidential nominee in the history of the party.

Democratic reactions to the Eisenhower nomination ranged from apparent indifference — on the part of President Truman, who had "no comment"—to complete hostility—on the part of Mutual Security Administrator Averell Harriman. Harriman called the choice of Ike a farce, which he said was intended to cover up the "reactionary" policies on which he said the Republican party is founded.

Sen. Estes Kefauver of Tennessee, meanwhile, again expressing confidence that he would win the Democratic nomination, said that he is "looking forward to debat-

ing the issues" with Eisenhower during the campaign.

Only a few hours after his nomination, Eisenhower began a long process of what will probably be a complete revampment of the GOP leaders. His objective is to clean out the entire Old Guard faction—supporters of Taft and Gen. Douglas MacArthur—and replace them with members of his own faction.

And Eisenhower lost no time in ridding himself of all ties with the Army. He submitted his official resignation Saturday, "with a deep sense of regret."

The Democrats began arriving in Chicago this week in preparation for their national convention which begins Monday. Along with their arrival, candidates for the nomination and their supporters began speculation on who was the "man to beat," and above all, on who President Truman would support. Truman is an elected delegate of the state of Missouri, and it is expected that the Missouri delegation will be polled on the first ballot at the convention

to find out who Truman votes for, if he fails to announce it beforehand.

A party subcommittee began meetings in Chicago Wednesday, meanwhile, to begin planning for a platform to contradict the issues advocated in the Republican platform drafted last week. One important plank (probably the most objective one) the platform is expected to contain will advocate legislation providing for a nationwide primary election, in order to give the public more say on who the Presidential nominees are.

The most controversial plank in the platform will undoubtedly be the one on Civil Rights. Southern Democrats will be fighting for weakened Civil Rights laws, giving the states power to enforce them at will, while Administration backers will be fighting for an even stronger plank than the one of 1948 which caused the Southerners to split and form their own Dixiecrat party. The committee is expected to draft a compromise platform which will

probably make neither faction particularly happy, but which will hold the party together come the November election.

With the Democratic chiefs fighting it out in Chicago, an inter-party alliance was reported to be shaping up in Washington.

The objects of this speculation are the small fry of the families of GOP "veep" nominee Nixon and Sen. Kefauver, who live only a block apart. Mrs. Nixon says their six-year-old daughter, Pat, claims to be the "best friend" of David Kefauver, also 6. "He chooses me for everything" in the kindergarten where they are classmates, Mrs. Nixon said Pat reported.

Maybe the next generation isn't such a bad lot after all.



Kefauver

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What About The Voters?

For the Republican party, the convention is over and the campaign is begun.

It was a long and bitter convention. There was a firm split in the party, and the bitterness became deeply embedded in the hearts of many participants. But when Sen. Robert A. Taft pledged his support to the nominee, throughout the campaign and "after he wins the election," it could have sounded as though the split had been mended.

Subsequent developments, however, have caused this writer to wonder if the mend was as firm as it was made to appear.

What about the embittered Taft supporter, reported by one radio commentator, who, upon hearing the news of Eisenhower's nomination, stamped from the scene at Taft headquarters, growling, "now for eight more years of socialism!"

What about the attitude shown by Col. Robert McCormick, editor of the Chicago Tribune and a staunch Taft-man, in his first editorial after Eisenhower's nomination was announced? McCormick said of Eisenhower:

" . . . most extraordinary candidate who has ever received a Republican nomination.

"He is Mr. Truman's candidate . . .
" . . . Wall Street's candidate . . .
" . . . Europe's candidate . . ."

What about the great influence the Tribune has on Middle-western voters? Will McCormick and those voters be able to forget the many charges they have directed at Eisenhower?

And what about the supporters of Gen. Douglas MacArthur, who, in a demonstration for their candidate, sang, "We don't want Republicans, nor guys that say 'me too'; we want MacArthur, Yankee doodle doo . . .?"

And what about Gen. MacArthur, himself? He was the only candidate snubbed by Eisenhower when the nominee went to the other candidates, personally requesting their support in his campaign.

Will MacArthur, the old soldier who forgot to fade away, be able to forgive Eisenhower—who as a major, served as MacArthur's aide—for starting his career years behind the old pro and finishing it years ahead? Or will MacArthur, now that he sees that he has been defeated on the political battlefield, fade away like a good old soldier, as he originally promised he would do?

And what about the GOP Old Guard faction in general, which has such strong support in the conservative Midwest. Will these Old Guard supporters be able to cast aside all their principles and vote for a man who represents the new, liberal Republican movement, who was once allegedly offered the Democratic nomination?

On the other hand, these supporters of Taft, MacArthur, and the Old Guard in general, could hardly be expected to vote Democratic. But the question is: Will they vote for Eisenhower?

Time will tell, but until it does, this writer wishes to jump onto the prophets' bandwagon.

In 1948, the Democratic victory was largely attributed, by many politicians, to the comparatively small percentage of the voting public which went to the polls. The majority of the people who refrained from voting, they excused, were Republicans who were so confident of a Dewey victory that they just did not vote.

In 1952, the percentage of the voting population which exercises its American right will be no larger than it was in 1948. Again it will be Republicans who refrain from voting. They will be the Republicans who represent the Old Guard—supporters of Taft and MacArthur. Their reason for not voting will not be overconfidence.

They will refuse to vote because they have been left out in the cold—without a candidate representing their views.

L.S.

VIEWS OF THE NEWS

The Nation's 1st Demo Battle Since '32

For the first time since 1932 the Democratic party will have a full-fledged political convention. With no less than 17 avowed candidates for the presidential nomination, the Democrats find themselves with the problem of selecting a new winning candidate for the first time in 20 years.

When the Democrats convene in Chicago Monday, the field will be wide open for the first time since 1932 when Franklin D. Roosevelt won a bitterly contested nomination.

Roosevelt's political heirs and opponents are now coming to Chicago—20 years later—to slug it out for control of the Democratic party.

Every presidential election year since 1932, the Democrats have been the party in power and have had nothing to do but renominate the man who had been in the White House for the past four years.

Franklin D. Roosevelt and his running mate, John Garner took office in 1933. The same pair received the nomination again in 1936 and won the election. In 1940, Roosevelt was given a new vice-presidential candidate, Henry A. Wallace, and the Democrats won again.

In 1944 Harry Truman was named as Roosevelt's running mate in his fourth attempt for the presidential chair. The pair was successful. When Roosevelt died soon after he began his fourth term, however, and Truman stepped into the White House, it appeared as though the Democratic rule in Washington was at an end.

But to the surprise and indignation of the Republican party, the ticket of Truman and Barkley swept the Democratic party to their fifth term in the White House, and the Republican party appeared "washed up."

Then a new name arose in the political horizon. Gen. Dwight Eisenhower began to be considered as the logical Republican candidate for president. About the same time, Truman announced that he would not run for re-election and the Democratic presidential race was thrown into confusion.

And there it remains. Seventeen men—each with almost equal support—are tossing their political hats into the ring and the Democrats face their first "real" convention in twenty years—a convention that will not see the nomination on the first ballot like that of the Republicans.

C. K.

The Empire Marches On . . .

A news item from London recently reported that the groundwork is being laid for a possible aboutface in Britain's policy toward Communist China.

A complete change in foreign policy by Great Britain, not only toward Communist China, is badly needed by the Free World.

One place where a British foreign policy aboutface is most sorely needed is in the Middle East. By failing to educate the Iranians in the fields of Independence and Freedom, and through unwarranted and selfish use of their power in that oil-rich nation, the British caused great unrest in that nation and extreme hard feelings against themselves in the entire Middle East.

Had the British taken the opportunity, while they were occupying Iran, to educate the Iranians in the interests of the Free World, the dangers of Communism in the Middle East would not be nearly so great.

Another example of Britain's tendency to think only of more power for Great Britain is in Egypt. Both Egypt and the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan are composed of the same race of people with the same political, cultural and religious interests. The press and the governments of these two nations have been fighting long and hard to become united, but the British, always fearful of losing complete power in the Suez Canal Zone, have always interfered. The unrest which the British have caused in Egypt through their troop occupation and their interference in general, is an invitation to Communist forces to step in and wield their influence.

A few weeks ago, a Russian spy was tried in the British courts. He received only a five-year jail term for his offense, but it brought the British people nearer to the realization that Communism is a world threat. And now, a long-time Communist and long-time holder of a high position in the Church of England, is being exposed in the British press. He will probably not be sentenced to jail. In fact, he will probably not even be tried in court, but he will undoubtedly be stripped of his rank in the Church of England.

The people and the government of Great Britain are marching forward, although they are taking very small steps, toward a realization that if a World Freedom is ever to be realized, the British will have to look out for somebody else besides the British.

L.S.

A Soldier Forgets . . .

Editors note: This poem was originally printed in Reporter magazine, and has been reprinted numerous times since. Small as it may be, it carries a world of truth.

Old soldier, was it not the other day,
You said in trembling tones you'd fade away?
How strange a fading, General, to become
Bugler to the Taftian fife and drum—
Blasting with quite unmilitary candor
The military and your own commander.
How fine a picture, General, you make
Of eating—and of holding onto—your cake.

L.S.