

CONVENTION / [1] - Deleo. Med. Aug. 15 - '56 (No date show.)
(Chicago Dem. Convention)

Stevenson on the first ballot - the Harriman people conceding this. ^{So said} ~~That was a report by~~ the United Press today - quoting Harriman assistants. ^P This, however, was promptly denied - ^{and} violently. A statement from Harriman headquarters reading: "The story that Harriman's managers are conceding defeat - is an unmitigated lie. At this moment," the statement goes on, "Stevenson has less votes than last Monday - and Governor Harriman is being deluged by delegates wherever he goes."

However, the forecast of a quick Stevenson victory is based on three major events. Early this morning, ~~on the news wires~~ - Michigan declaring for Stevenson. Governor Mennen (Soapy) Williams ~~is~~ - stepping out, as a favorite son.

Then, later in the day, another favorite-son-delegation declared for Stevenson, - New Jersey. (Governor Robert Meyner announcing - that all thirty-six New Jersey votes would be cast for Adlai Stevenson, on the first ballot. The delegation - known to have been for Stevenson all along. Though Harriman - had expected to capture a few New Jersey votes.)

And the Arkansas delegation voted support for Stevenson - but with qualifications. (Arkansas was one of the Southern group - holding off with a wait-and-see policy. They'd wait for the platform - and see what the racial rights plank is like. So the Arkansas declaration for Stevenson is qualified by the following phrase:)

"provided there is no extreme language in the platform - objectionable to the best interests of Arkansas." Which, once again, focused interest on the question of Southern segregation.

All along, it appeared - Harriman's principal chance might come in a fight on the racial rights issue. Tonight, it seems as if this were the only straw - at which he could clutch.

The platform writers, working nearly all night, finally turned out a civil rights plank. Which, during the day - was adopted by the Platform Committee. A large group - of more than a hundred. Tonight, the platform, with its declaration of racial rights, will go to the Convention as a whole. For the first big voting

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CIVIL RIGHTS

The platform stand on racial rights represents - a difficult balancing act. But what else could you expect? The Democratic Party consisting, so largely - of Southern states with racial segregation. And - ~~with~~^{of} Northern big cities, with a heavy Negro vote. So a plank, acceptable to both - would have to seesaw between opposite extremes.

Actually, by way of compromise - the verbiage is divided between two platform planks. The first - on education. Which states:

"Every American child, irrespective of race, or national origin, economic status, or place of ~~residence~~ residence - has a full right under the law of the Constitution, without discrimination, to every educational opportunity to develop his potentialities."

No mention here - of segregation in public schools. The South - bitterly opposed to any such ~~mention.~~ mention. ~~XXXXXXXX~~ The word used is - "discrimination." Which, according to Southerners - need not necessarily refer to segregation at all. I suppose they might reason - that

segregation does not really discriminate against the Negroes. *P* But, then, the Northern big city Democrats could argue - that segregation and discrimination are one and the same thing. So, actually, the proviso concerning schools - may mean one thing to one side. The opposite thing - to the other side.

The remainder of the material on the race question is embodied - in a civil rights plank, ~~which~~ which does make a reference to the Supreme Court decision outlawing racial segregation in public schools. The Southerners were ~~opposed~~ *hotly* against any such mention. But - here it is:

"Recent decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States, relating to segregation in publicly supported schools and elsewhere - have brought consequences of vast importance to our nation as a whole. And - especially to communities directly affected. We reject all proposals," states the plank, "for the use of force to interfere with the orderly determination of these matters by the courts."

The Southerners were especially hostile to any endorsement of the use of force to de-segregate Southern schools. So the plank might seem - to meet their views. However, the declaration could have another meaning as well. Declaring - against the use of force by Southern states or Southern communities - to interfere with *anti-segregation* decisions by the courts.

Once again, a proviso that could be interpreted either way. You pay your money (or your vote) and take your choice.

PLATFORM - REACTIONS

The Southern reaction to the platform varies - from bitter anger to pessimistic resignation. Upon receiving a copy, the Georgia delegation rejected the racial plank. Deciding - they'll vote against it tonight. However, the Georgians declare - they won't walk out. Although - there were savage expressions of discontent.

P Senator Willis Robertson of Virginia says - "A compromise that satisfied nobody."

Senator McClellan of Arkansas remarks philosophically: "It could have been better; it could have been worse."

But what's the response of the civil rights people? Immediate expressions - of discontent. The Conference on Civil Rights called a meeting - of protest. And Clarence Mitchell, Washington Director of the Association for the Advancement of Colored People, denounced the compromise ~~plank~~ in savage terms. Calling on both Adlai Stevenson and Governor Harriman to fight the plank on the Convention floor.

~~(But it remains to be seen whether or not the~~

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racial rights advocates in the Northern delegations will put up a battle in behalf of the Negro vote. Or whether they'll prefer - party unity, keeping the South in line.)

The latest, - a blast from the rally on Civil Rights, which was held - a few hours after the compromise was made public. The meeting attended by such notables as Governor Mennen Williams of Michigan, Senator Lehman of New York, and Mayor Wagner of New York. Also - the Executive Director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The gathering of several hundred - declaring war against the plank on racial rights.

In the lead - Walter Reuther of the A.F.L.-CIO Who calls the plank -- "double-talk." Reuther declaring: "If we can't get an adequate plank through the Committee, we are going to get it through a fight on the floor." The plan of the Civil Rights rally is to make a motion - to have the Platform Committee reconsider the plank. If the Committee refuses - take the matter to the floor of the Convention tonight.

Reuther says - the Convention leaders will try to use "parliamentary tricks", to check the uprising. He adds: "We will not be denied our right to reflect the will of the majority."

The Southern states are holding off, still. To see - what will happen. Georgia - will go for Adlai, if the Civil Rights plank is not made more drastic. If it is, Georgia will vote for a favorite son. The south, apparently - willing to put Adlai on the spot. They're for him, if the Stevenson forces back them.

TRUMAN

Former President Truman back-tracked, a step or two, today. With variations on his theme - that Stevenson can't win. (~~Yesterday, he declared - that Adlai, if nominated, wouldn't carry any more states than he did in Nineteen Fifty Two, mighty few.~~) At a news conference today, H.S.T. made it - a bit more complicated. Declaring - that Stevenson couldn't win, without a lot of help. Help, especially - from H.S.T. And the former President added - that he didn't know that he would be asked to help. *P* To reporters, he gave expanded reasons for objecting to Stevenson. Saying - that Adlai, has not got the fighting spirit the Democrats will have to have in a slam-bang campaign.

He said that Stevenson, as a moderate, has abandoned the Roosevelt New Deal and the Truman Fair Deal. And - that the nomination of Stevenson would put the Democratic Party under a conservative, care-taker control.

(He added, however - that, if Stevenson does win the prize, he'll have the Truman backing.

To all the hard words uttered by the former President, Stevenson returns - a mild answer. Saying - the Democrats shouldn't kick each other around. They should kick - the Republicans.)

T.V.-PRESS

A new controversy between Convention officials and radio, television and the press. Democratic Chairman Butler - taking another fling at those agencies of the news. Blaming them - for the vacant seats at the Convention.

Today, Chairman Butler had a meeting with New England delegates - who complained they couldn't get seats for friends. While - so many seats were vacant Butler said, radio, television and the press were to blame. ~~Granted many seats and not occupying them.~~

ILLINOIS - SENTENCE

Here's a Chicago dateline - which applies to Illinois state affairs. The sentencing of the ousted State Auditor, Orville Hodge - convicted in a scandal of crooked finance. Found guilty - of mis^{ap}plying eight hundred thousand dollars, in state funds. Orville Hodge - today sentenced to twenty years in prison.

Hodge has promised - restitution of the money. If he makes good on that, ten years of the twenty year sentence - will be suspended.

DEWEY

In Washington, former Governor Dewey had a talk with President Eisenhower, today. Discussing - the Republican National Convention at San Francisco, next week. Upon emerging from the White House, Tom Dewey said - he's confident that Vice-President Nixon will be renominated. "He certainly is entitled to renomination," Dewey remarked.

At the same time, he repeated former denial of political ambition. Declaring - that he would not, under any circumstance, run for the vice-presidency. Or - any other public office.

SUEZ

Now dateline

Egypt - in a sort of compromise move. Deciding -
on a sort of left-handed attendance at the London
Conference.

Tonight, in Cairo, Premier Nasser ordered a
top-level observer to fly to the British capital. And
play - an unofficial, but important, role in the parley
on the Suez Canal.

The London interpretation is - that Nasser has
been influenced by representations from Iraq, Pakistan,
India, Ceylon and Indonesia. Urging him - to compromise.
Hence, this halfway reversal - of his previous rejection.
of an invitation to London. Where, now - Nasser's
emissary will have a good deal to say.

ARABS

At midnight, the Arab world begins a demonstration - to coincide with the opening of the Suez Canal Conference in London, tomorrow. A twenty-four hour general strike - protesting against Western plans to internationalize the great waterway. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Arab countries - demonstrating their solidarity with Egypt on the canal issue.

PARTY

Here in Chicago,
~~Sunday~~

there can be no doubt about - the authority of the Truman voice. The Truman tone of command - the power of the Truman veto. So let's all salute - Mrs. Truman.

It happened last night - at the party. You may think that, here at the Chicago Convention - the Democratic Party is first and foremost. But, last midnight the Number One place was taken - by the Perle Mesta party. Which was not running for any political office - just running out of the ears with champagne. Our former Ambassadress to Luxembourg, Mrs. Perle Mesta, ^{is still} ~~is~~ being called - "the hostess with the mostest." The party for the Democrats, last night, cost all of twenty thousand bucks. Which certainly sounds like - "the mostest."

We've been hearing a lot about the "common people" here in Chicago, and most of the millionaire politicians - were at the party. Except - Averell Harriman. Maybe he prefers beer to champagne - having only two hundred million dollars or so.

H.S.T. was there, and so was Mrs. Truman -
fortunately. The Ex-President got a huge ovation from
glittering
a ~~huge~~ throng of politicians. Convention quarrels -
forgotten, amid the champagne festivities. There were
shouts of - "speech, speech!" But louder still, were
the yells of - "Piano, piano!" Harry Truman having
achieved renown - as a presidential piano player.

The key-thumping musician was like the
traditional old war horse - smelling gunpowder. He
beamed - as though he might walk right up to the piano,
and assault the ivories.

But at that critical moment, Mrs. Truman
spoke out of the corner of her mouth, and said: "Don't
you dare!" And Harry - didn't dare. No "Missouri
Waltz."

So that was the display of Truman authority -
by the Mrs. ^{Harry -} "Don't you dare!" It was Mrs. Truman who
had - the mostest.

Now - it's not Harry, it's Henry.