

L.I.- Delco. Tuesday, Aug. 14, 1956.
(Chicago Dem. Convention)

LEAD

Here's the latest - in Chicago. Former President Truman says - he does not believe Adlai Stevenson could win against President Eisenhower. If - Stevenson should be nominated, by the Democrats.

This belief, he explained, was the reason why he came out -
for Harriman. H.S.T. putting it this way: "I don't ~~suspect~~
^{think} Stevenson can win, and I think Harriman can."

CONVENTION

The lines of strategy seem to be shaping up here in Chicago - in the battle between Stevenson and Harriman. With a bloc of Southern delegations - in a tactical maneuver, which may be of key importance.

Yesterday, we saw the beginning of a movement by the Southerners - to stand aloof from either candidate. Following a policy of - wait and see. Pending - a decision on a racial rights plank in the platform. Which movement - went on developing, today.

Amounting - to a roadblock against the nomination of Stevenson on the first ballot. The South - counted, previously, on his side. But now holding out, in a bargaining position.

The news day began with the Tennessee delegation voting to name Governor Clement - a favorite son. Although - previously he had hardly been mentioned for the presidential nomination. The Tennessee move was partly, of course, a compliment - after that Clement ex oration last night. Which was not clement at all - no clemency for the Republicans. The Governor whaling away

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at the G.O.P. - in the shouting style of a revival preacher lambasting old Satan. He began at the top of his voice, continued at the top of his voice, and ended - even louder. One long, rip-snorting blast, rallying the Democrats to a gospel tent enthusiasm.

So now, Governor Clement becomes the Tennessee ~~favorite son~~ Stevenson.
The real purpose, we hear - is to put the state of Tennessee in the group of Southerners, holding off, taking a bargaining position. Previously, they had been for Stevenson, but now the favorite son move comes - as a tactical maneuver.

Arkansas, today, joined the Southern hold-out. Voting, no commitment of its twenty-six votes to any candidate, until a platform is adopted. Georgia - thinking of going for a favorite son on the first ballot. Virginia - turning to Senator Lyndon Johnson, named as the Texas favorite son. Then there are - Alabama, Mississippi, South Carolina. Their delegations indicating - that they won't go for Stevenson on the first

ballot. Part of the maneuver of - wait and see. And bargain - for a racial rights plank acceptable to the South.

Adlai Stevenson, however, remains out in front -
~~in the~~
number of delegates pledged to vote for his nomination.

And, at last reports, Adlai was bargaining with the Southerners - to get them back on his own side again.

If he does make an agreement with the South on a racial rights platform - what chance will Harriman have? Well, Governor Harriman, backed by former President Truman, might launch a drive - to upset a Stevenson compromise with the South. Might put up a ~~violent~~ battle - for ^{an} endorsement of the Supreme Court decision, outlawing racial segregation in schools. Seeking to rally - the northern delegates of the big cities, with a large Negro vote. Impelling them - to declare themselves on the racial rights issue.

That's how the Harriman line of strategy may develop - and here's a dispatch on the wire this afternoon. Former President Truman - reported as being

in favor of a strong racial rights plank. Calling - for an enforcement of the Supreme Court decision on the de-segregation of schools.

The former President talked with a Committee known as the "Democrats for a strong civil rights plank." And later members of the Committee said that Mr. Truman told them he had advised the Platform Committee to come out with a "strong civil rights plank." H.S.T. indicating, also - that there might be a battle on the floor of the Convention, over the racial rights issue.

That possibility was echoed by Congressman Charles Diggs of Michigan, a Negro member of the Platform Committee, who says - that, unless the platform endorses the Supreme Court school decision, there will certainly be a minority report. Which will be taken - to the floor of the Convention.

REPUBLICANS

The San Francisco Convention seems remote - although it begins on Monday. No great excitement out there. But - what the ~~San Francisco News Dispatch~~ calls "new ripples". Vice-Presidential - ripples. Nothing - to shake the Nixon position, as the favorite for the second place on an Eisenhower ticket. But - a couple of Governors declaring that they'd be willing to take the vice-presidential nomination, if asked.

One - Governor Goodwin J. Knight of California. Who told a California Labor convention that he is - "available". Governor Knight - known to be not at all enthusiastic about Vice-President Nixon.

Governor Theodore McKeldin of Maryland, in San Francisco, told newsmen today - that he'd be glad to take the number two spot, if he were selected by President Eisenhower.

(The statements by the two Governors do not appear to have much effect on the plans of the Republican high command - to renominate Nixon. But they do give some encouragement to the anti-Nixon campaign, run by Harold Stassen.)

HURRICANE

The big blow - missed Miami. Hurricane Betsy - thundering up on a northwesterly course, a couple of hundred miles off the Florida coast. The danger shifting - to the northern part of the state, and southern Georgia. But the latest is that the storm is veering northward, and may miss the coast altogether.

(In the Pacific - a typhoon. The Atlantic hurricane - second of the season. And therefore has a name beginning with B - Betsy. The typhoon in the Far East - also the second. Its name is - Babs. Blowing toward the channel between Formosa and the Philippines.)

SUEZ

In London, the Labor Party declares itself - against the use of military force in the Suez dispute. Today, Hugh Gaitskell, leader of Her Majesty's opposition, called on Prime Minister Eden, and asked for assurances, - in case the London Conference fails to resolve the crisis - no armed action. The Labor Party view is that Britain should operate within the framework of the United Nations.

Meanwhile, official circles are in a whirl - ~~gazza~~ getting ready for the international palaver, which begins on Thursday. Delegates from twenty-two nations - arriving in London. Today - ~~marked~~ the appearance of Moscow Foreign Minister Shepilov. Who, promptly - produced a headline.

Shepilov gave a prompt warning - that Soviet Russia will not agree to anything that Egypt will not accept. The Egyptian consent - necessary.

(Foreign Minister Shepilov put it in these words: "The Soviet delegation will do everything possible to seek ways for settlement of the points at issue - through agreement by all the states concerned. With the necessary

participation," he added, - "of the state of Egypt. ~~the~~
And, on the basis of the full sovereignty of Egypt."
Which would mean, apparently - that Russia proposes to
give Egypt a veto.)

In Washington, Secretary John Foster Dulles had another meeting with President Eisenhower, today - in preparation for the London Conference. He says that he and the President believe a formula can be found - for international operation of the Suez Canal. With a full guarantee - of the rights of Egypt.

Dulles remarking: "I go to London hopefully, and with confidence that we will find a peaceful solution."

In Egypt - more warlike gestures. Air raid rehearsals - throughout the Suez Canal^A ^{Zone,} and at the harbor of Alexandria.

EISENHOWER - NEHRU

President Eisenhower has issued a new invitation to Prime Minister Nehru of India. Asking him - to visit the United States for top level talks.

Nehru was to have come to Washington in July, but that had to be postponed - because the President was recuperating from his recent operation. Now - invitation renewed. No date suggested. That, says Presidential Secretary Jim Hagerty - is up to Nehru. He - to say when he wants to come.

MOSCOW - FLYERS

The Soviet Government announces - that no U.S. airmen are now being held by the Russians. This - ~~the~~ ⁱⁿ reply to reports that a number of American flyers are in Russian prisons. "Baseless and erroneous," says the Moscow Foreign Office.

Washington, recently, addressed an inquiry to the Soviet Government - on this point. Today's answer - no U.S. flyers, held in Russia.

C.B.S.

The radio-television industry - rallied in support of C.B.S., today. Criticizing - Democratic National Chairman Butler for the attack he made, last night. When he charged C.B.S. with violating a commitment - by not carrying all of the motion picture that preceded the keynote speech. A propaganda film, half an hour long - strictly electioneering. C.B.S. - only carrying ^{only} about six minutes of it.

Today, Frank Stanton, President of C.B.S., replied - there was no commitment involved. C.B.S. carried the keynote speech in full - and did not consider the propaganda movie a part of the big oratory. He pointed out - that a television network must exercise its own editorial judgment in such matters. Which view was promptly upheld by other T.V. networks - championing editorial rights.

(There's also a row involving N.B.C. Convention officials charging - that the network cut off part of the address delivered by Mayor Daley of Chicago. N.B.C. replying - the speech was carried

in full on the network. But, maybe, some T.V. station affiliates used only part of it.

In addition, veteran Commentator H.V. Kaltenborn called the Mayor's harangue - dull. Daley - no orator. Another commentator characterized it - as a Chicago commercial.)

ROBBERY

Last night, we heard of a jewel robbery, here in Chicago. A Convention delegate - the victim. Tonight, the news of a delegate kidnapped, and robbed.

Lee Nelson, a Montana rancher, who is an alternate delegate, states - that, in front of a theatre, he took what he thought was a taxicab. Telling the driver - to take him to the Morrison Hotel.

Well, it sure seemed a long way to the hotel. They drove on and on, and the alternate delegate was especially becoming suspicious. When - a man arose in the rear seat of the alleged cab, And put - a "stranglehold" on the man from Montana.

Then they robbed him of a six hundred dollar ring, a watch, and money. Finally - throwing him out of the car, and driving on.

Which item of news doesn't sound so much - like Mayor Daley's description of Chicago when the Convention opened yesterday.

FISH BAIT

All of you millions of people, who have been watching the Convention on television, have seen - "Fish Bait." On the screen, from time to time - there comes "Fish Bait."

He's the official doorkeeper at the Convention - and his task is to escort big-time politicos to the Convention platform. His name - William Miller. But everybody calls him by his nickname - "Fish Bait."

How did he ever get that nickname? Well, he explains - that's what they called him when he was a boy, down in Pascagoula, Mississippi.

"When I was fifteen," he relates, "I weighed every bit of seventy-five pounds. Which," he adds, "is a shrimp in any language. And down in Pascagoula, shrimp is just about the best fish bait you can come by."

So he's "Fish Bait" Miller, official doorkeeper at the Democratic National Convention.

LADIES

The ladies had their say at the Convention today - and they said plenty. Political oratory is long winded by tradition - and the womenfolk are seldom short of words. So the Republicans, today, took a beating of excoriation and ridicule - in ~~mix~~ soprano and contralto.

Mrs. Katie Louchheim, for example - put her political wisdom in the form of alliteration. As Director of Democratic Women's Activities, she declared the Republicans have substituted - "attitudes for action." And "platitudes for programs." She said the Eisenhower Administration is a government by "stag dinner". And government - "by stagnation."

Well, I don't quite know how to interpret that - but "stag dinner" does alliterate with "stagnation." So, we'll have to "stagger" along with that, Henry, and wait for the Convention to get under ~~full~~ steam tomorrow.