

VANDENBERG

L.I. - P. & G. Monday, March 1, 1948.

Senator Vandenberg, has just asked that his name be kept out of Nebraska's presidential primary on April Thirteen. The primary is really only a popularity poll, the outcome not being binding on the state's delegate to the national convention.

Ray MacConnell, Jr. chairman of a bi-partisan committee sent a telegram to Vandenberg asking him if he would like his name included, to which the ~~Mk~~ Michigan Senator replied: "Since I am not a candidate for the nomination, and since I have asked my own Michigan friends neither to present ~~not~~ ^{now} support my name in the Republican convention, I should not be included in your referendum."

So the Nebraska primary is expected to be a race between ~~Senators~~ Taft, ~~Governor~~ Dewey and Stassen; ~~Henry~~ Wallace ^{is} not ~~being~~ on the list. The Bi-partisan committee not having made any arrangements for a third party candidate.

On the democratic side ~~of the Bi-partisan committee~~, President Truman has been named for

re-election and Senator ~~Joseph C.~~ O'Mahoney,

~~Democrat~~ of Wyoming ~~named~~ for ~~the~~ Vice Presidential ~~and~~
ticket.

TRUMAN

The forthcoming presidential election seems to be delaying the adoption of a housing program. President Truman said today that he would not mention names, and he is not reproaching anybody, but he thinks it's a pity that certain Senators who are candidates for the presidency are dealing with momentous issues of the day in a spirit of partisan bias.

At his first press conference in two weeks the President displayed his usual skill in avoiding answers to leading questions. In declining to commit himself on Palestine he wouldn't even say whether under any conditions conceivable he would send American G I's to Palestine to help enforce partition. Nor would he comment on Czechoslovakia; and not even a word about the possible fate of Finland.

He did, however, repeat what he has said at every press conference in the last few months,

that Congress should give him special authority to restore rationing and controls over wages and prices.

As to the revolt of the southern Democrats no comment, except that any state has a right to conduct its election, after its own ideas.

And, he did say further, that the plan offered by the Governor of Virginia, looks like a return to a system that was abandoned more than a hundred years ago because it didn't work.

Actually, it was the system designed by the Founding Fathers of the Republic when they drew up the Constitution of the United States. The idea then was that the people should choose uninstructed electors, and that the electoral college should then proceed to select a President and Vice President, its members using their own ideas about the fitness of candidates.

There's nothing to prevent the electors this year from doing just that.

The action of Senators Pepper of Florida

and Hill of Alabama in refusing to join the southern revolt prompted a reporter at the press conference to ask Mr. Truman whether he thought Pepper would strengthen the democratic ticket as a candidate for Vice President. No reply to that.

Hill, of Alabama, in declining to join the southern revolt, emphasized his support of the President. But Senator Hill did admit that he doesn't like Mr. Truman's Jim Crow idea at all. Thought it was ill-timed, ill-considered and in bad taste.

3
At Washington a fellow Democrat, ^{Today} ~~and in~~ ~~bad taste~~ publicly attacked the President ~~today~~ on the floor of the House. ~~Said~~ Congressman Williams of Mississippi said today that Mr. Truman should eliminate himself as a candidate for the nomination, -- in order to save the party.

Senator Vandenberg today ~~he~~ stepped down from his place as ~~presiding~~ ^{presiding} ~~officer~~ officer of the Senate ~~to~~ to open the big debate of the present session, the debate on the European recovery program. The burden of his speech, which lasted an hour, was, that ~~we~~ cannot afford to lose any more time. That the decision of the U.S.A. now ~~can~~ be the turning point in history for a hundred years to come.

He described Czechoslovakia as "guttled by subversive conquest", and added that the plight of little Finland may be added to the ominous score this very afternoon. That while our Congress is debating, aggressive communism threatens all freedom and all security.

4
Almost every Senator was at his desk to listen to the Dean of the Upper Chamber, Senator Taft and others taking notes as he spoke. The galleries were jammed, and when Vandenberg finished there was an ovation.

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A snag cropped up in the path of the Marshall plan in the Lower House this afternoon. While Vandenberg was talking Congressman Eaton, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House, announced that he was going to offer a substitute bill, including all aid to foreign countries in one package; meaning western Europe, Greece, Turkey, and China. Congressman Eaton [redacted] the Republican leadership in the Senate of having confused the issue of foreign aid by putting it in so many different bills.

Moreover, he said his committee is going to invite MacArthur to come home and testify regarding China. Eaton's Committee has also invited General Claire Chennault, who is now in Shanghai as head of a Chinese airline.

(In Washington the House unAmerican Activities Sub-committee delivered itself of a sensational attack on Dr. E. U. Condon, Director of the National Bureau of Standards, and one of our atomic scientists.

The sub-committee charges Dr. Condon with consorting with alleged Soviet spies, claiming it possesses "derogatory information" about him, and demanding the atomic scientist be removed from the Federal Research Agency, which does top-secret work for the armed forces.

Condon says the charges are so vague that it is hard to comment on them. He brands them as an attempt to smear civilian control of atomic energy - he being a leading figure on the scientific committee which advised the Senate on the atomic ~~energy~~ energy act - which was passed by unanimous vote of the Senate in Nineteen Forty-six.

"If I am a weak link in atomic security, then the nation need have no fears" says Condon. "it is very gratifying; I hope it is true, for then we have

nothing to ~~xxx~~ worry about."

Acting Secretary of Commerce William Foster tonight issued a statement following the House Committee's report on Condon. "In its report dated February twenty-four, Nineteen ^{forty}~~thirty~~-eight says the statement the Commerce Department's loyalty board stated its unanimous opinion that no reasonable grounds exist for believing that Dr. Condon is disloyal to the government of the United States.

6

FINLAND

In Finland today the Cabinet held a long secret conference with the heads of the armed forces.

Stalin is giving Finland a chance to save some face by offering to hold negotiations in Helsinki instead of Moscow.

PALESTINE

A British military command car was on its way up that historic road from Jaffa to Jerusalem. About halfway there was an explosion. The car blown to pieces. It was the car of Lieutenant General McMillan, Commander of the British Forces who would have been murdered if he had not been in Jerusalem instead of on the road to Jerusalem. This was the second attempt on his life within twenty-four hours.

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In the House of Commons, former Secretary Anthony Eden today called for martial law, immediately, in Palestine.

AVIATION

The group of Congressmen appointed to review Uncle Sam's aviation policy today administered a sharp rap to those in charge of our national defense. In spite of the act passed last year to merge the three arms of our military establishment, the joint chiefs-of-staff so far have not prepared any unified strategic plans for national defense.

So says the congressional aviation policy board. Furthermore, that officers of ^{the} Navy, ^{the} Army and ^{the} Air Force ~~are~~ are cherishing their loyalties, each to his own particular service; ~~that is~~ ^{and} doing this at the expense of national security. The Committee goes on to say that President Truman and Defense Secretary Forrestal should exert pressure to insist on such plans. Moreover, that the unification act should be clarified so as to abolish basic differences in interpretations. ~~Most~~ ^{Most} of these differences, adds the report, are between the Air Force and the Navy.

8
This Congressional board also reports that Secretary Forrestal should revise his new ~~board~~

budget and come up with a more realistic program,
a program better suited ^{to our} ~~for~~ national security *needs*.

The board then goes on to map out, on its own account, the broad lines of a whopping aviation program for Uncle Sam:

One, our air forces and the Navy ^{air} arm, must have, and the word "must" is underlined, must have no fewer than thirty-five thousand of the latest planes in order to be ~~all~~ set to repel any attack. Two: over the next five years Uncle Sam should spend on aircraft procurement alone from fourteen billion to nearly seventeen billion dollars. Three: the total sum for military aviation including procurement should be not less than thirty-five billion and might even go as high as thirty-nine billion plus. Four: our total expenditure for national defense, *should be around* in the next five years, including aviation, *perhaps as high as* seventy-billion-forty-million ^{to} *seventy-eight billion-thirty* millions. All this to be budgeted over a period of five years.

9

Supremacy in the air is ⁿout_A surest protection against defeat and slavery, says this *report, a* report which minces no words.

It goes on to say that "deliberately and continuously we are faced with the possibility of aggressive attack" and further, that "sparks may be struck, even accidentally, which could easily flare into open warfare at any moment."

If the more ambitious plan recommended by the Board is ~~adopted~~ adopted, the Air Force would have twenty-thousand-five-hundred and forty-one planes, the Navy fourteen-thousand-five hundred. But, air ~~power~~ power on that scale in the U.S.A. could deliver an instant crippling and sustained counter attack on any aggressor nation. So say the members of the Committee.

The appropriations recommended by the budget bureau for the next fiscal year, say the Congressmen, do not even come near the stated requirements of the military ~~services~~ services.

The Board's report includes no fewer than ninety-two specific recommendations, some of which are aimed at strengthening the aircraft industry and the air transport lines of the country, also for expanding aeronautical research.

The Board also delivered a scorching criticism of both the Air Force and the Navy, saying they had put out inaccurate information, giving the public a false sense of security. ~~some of these bids for applause, continues the report, constitute an undesirable practice.~~ For instance, that it is misleading to say a plane has flown ten thousand miles without explaining that the same plane could not fly half that distance under combat conditions, despite what the Navy and the Air Force say. The Board declares also that we do not have a single bomber today with a combat radius of more than two thousand miles. Moreover, that it is equally misleading to claim that a military aircraft has flown faster than sound without also admitting that such an

aircraft is years short of being actually usable in combat.

COSTA RICA

10

In Costa Rica, running for the office of President, and getting elected, seems to be a risky procedure. Today at St. Jose, a number of armored cars drew up outside the house where President-elect Otilio Ulate was staying, and showered it with heavy calibre machine gun bullets. Several were wounded, but not Ulate. He had left a few minutes before the armored cars arrived. Ulate, a conservative newspaper publisher obtained a ten thousand majority over the other presidential candidate, a left winger but the Costa Rican administration says it is not satisfied with the ballot, and may rule to reject Ulate. Should this happen a general strike is threatened. Meanwhile, Ulate, elected, is ready to present himself for another presidential ballot, in spite of today's visit by the armored cars.

WEATHER

A storm center that began in Texas and Oklahoma, ~~and~~ is reported moving north and east, sweeping up the Mississippi Valley, arriving in Missouri and southern Illinois tonight, and by tomorrow ^{it will be} over the valley of the Ohio River.

~~Over the weekend,~~ Northern Wisconsin, Minnesota and the Dakotas ^{have just} had the heaviest snowfall of the year.

BRAD WASHBURN

When the story came through that Reynolds the fountain magnate and flyer, was taking off for China, in a big plane to go exploring in Central Asia, I checked today on the whereabouts of Bradford Washburn, head of the New England of Museum of Boston. Washburn left some time ago for China, From Nanking I learned this afternoon that Brad Washburn's mission has been a complete success. He has won the cooperation, of the Chinese in his ambitious plan to find out whether or not that mysterious mountain Anne-Machin, in Central Asia is the highest mountain in the world, higher than Everest.

That's why the plane was left in this country with other members of the expedition on board -- bound for China to pick up Explorer Brad Washburn.

MUSIC

Able Seaman Filipe Torres is wounded in a New York hospital; also, under arrest because he loves good music. Torres was in an uptown bar when a juke box, for a single hour played one tune, something about a party who did not want to leave the Congo. Torres asked the red headed lady who had put in all those nickels to change the tune. Evidently she thought this was an infringement of her liberties, so she put in five more nickels. Torres thereupon pulled out a pistol and put two bullets into the red headed gal. Bystanders got into the affray, and, eventually the police, with the result that the red-head, the bartender and Filipe Torres are all in the hospital, Torres charged with felonious assault.

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VANITY

Since the days of the oldest Pharoah, the human race has been debating which is more vain, the female or the male.

Dr. Bennett Logan of the U.S. Wildlife Service, has been trying to build better grouse traps - not mouse traps, grouse traps - for the benefit of scientific research. They want to know for one thing why eighty percent of those birds are prone to sudden death every ten years.

Up to now grouse have been exceedingly hard to catch. But Dr. Logan has discovered that all they have to do is put a mirror in a wire box and they can catch all the male grouse they want.

1/4 What do you think about that Nelson?