

(Today's Eisenhower statement pictures a General in a dilemma. He is willing to accept a G.O.P. nomination; would welcome the offer. But, he wants to make it clear that he does not put political advancement above his duty as Commander of the West European Army.)

He begins by confirming everything said yesterday by Senator Lodge, head of the "Eisenhower boom" -- who declared that General Ike was a Republican, and that he was in the New Hampshire Primary ~~election~~ "to the finish." One part of the Lodge statement gets especial endorsement -- that General Ike will not seek the nomination.

"Under no circumstances," the General insists, "will I ask for relief from this assignment in order to seek nomination for political office, and I shall not participate in the pre-convention activities of others who may have such an intention with respect to me." But, if the nomination were offered to him,

Eisenhower would consider it, in his words -- "a duty that would transcend my present responsibility."

In these carefully chosen words, and modified phrases, we see the General -- willing to accept the nomination, but indicating repeatedly that he will not abandon his military duties to get it. The only thing that would persuade him to resign his West European Command would be -- an offer of the nomination by the Republican Convention. Which he would consider a call to a still higher duty.

Today's dispatch from Paris ~~described~~ describes General Ike as grim and weary. For seven hours he had been in conference with his advisers -- before the statement was issued. I suppose each sentence was polished in the attempt to combine political aims with military duty. Maybe we can say, in less well-chosen language -- that (General Ike is in the race for the nomination. But, for the present, his political supporters are doing the running.)

This Eisenhower situation may seem to be still a ~~bit~~ bit vague. But, for confusion, consider the story today of our other great General -- Douglas MacArthur. In Wisconsin, a MacArthur Presidential boom has been discombobulated by the General, himself, who ~~will~~ refuses to enter the Wisconsin Primary. So *the* *MacArthur* ~~his~~ political supporters are seeking a way out of that, and have hit upon an ingenious idea. They are looking for somebody else named Douglas MacArthur to put on the ballot. Sounds like they are simply stubborn -- determined to have a MacArthur!

The proposal was put forward today by John Chapple, editor of the ASHLAND PRESS and national head of the "Fighters for MacArthur" Club. He says they are looking for somebody in Wisconsin named Douglas MacArthur who "believes in the ideals" of the General. It would be sad, however, if they found a MacArthur who did not believe in the ideals.

Furthermore, the same suggestion is being

made

to supporters of the General in Ohio, California, Maryland -- half a dozen states. The proposal is that they, too, should, in each state, find a local citizen named Douglas MacArthur -- and put him in the Primary. Well, it would be strange to find all those MacArthurs running for the nomination, if not the Presidency.

However, it is not such bedlam as it sounds. The idea is that, in each state, the name of MacArthur would attract the votes, and might bring about the election of delegates. Then, at the National Convention, all the various MacArthurs would stand aside and support the General of the ^{same} ~~same~~ name. But suppose, they didn't stand aside. Well, it all becomes more confused; -- so let's go on to something simpler.

Senator Kefauver will enter the Ohio ^{Democratic} Primary, which will be held on May Sixth. This is announced by Congressman Wayne Hays of Ohio, number one Kefauver supporter. So the question immediately arises --

will it be a battle against President Truman? Congressman Wayne Hays replies he is sure -- the President's name will not be entered in the Ohio Primary.

There is talk that former Senator Bulkley may compete as a "favorite son" though he has no Presidential notions. The explanation is that ~~he~~ he might get the delegates, then turn them over to President Truman, if the President wants to run again.

In Nineteen Forty Eight the Ohio delegation was pledged to W.A. Julian, then Treasurer of the United States. But at the convention the Ohio delegation actually cast its ballots for President Truman.

Congressman Hays, supporting Kefauver, calls this sort of thing -- "a device to get around the Ohio Primary laws."

All of which adds a little more confusion to the always magnificent confusion of the Presidential Year.

McDONALD

Late word from Washington -- President Truman has just announced the appointment of a Republican -- as head of the R.F.C. Effective January Fifteenth. Harry McDonald, Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission will take over from Stuart Symington.

BARKLEY

Here's a variant on the old line -- George Washington slept here. So many places claim the honor of ~~him~~ having provided room and bed -- you might think the first President spent his life sleeping.

But this concerns our latest Vice-President -- Alben Barkley. Today United Press correspondent Harmon Nichols notes that the V.P., in boyhood was a janitor in a High School at Clinton, Kentucky, where he did plenty of work with a broom. So the proud people of Clinton have put up a sign which reads "Vice President Alben Barkley ^{swept} ~~slept~~ here." The difference between sleep and sweep.

CHURCHILL

(In Washington, President Truman and *Prime Min.*
Winston Churchill have held their first two formal
meetings.)

The British Prime Minister was ^{*reported to be*} in fine
form this morning, ticking off complicated economic
statistics without any notes, Following the meetings
the White House announced that: "there was a joint
review of economic problems concerning the defense
of the free world."

NEWS STORY - FRANCE

President Auriol has accepted the resignation of Premier Plevin, and is already looking around for a successor. Among those mentioned -- former Premiers -- Henri Queuille and George Bidault.

Premier Plevin's government, fourteenth in five years, fell on the issue of the new budget, which called for higher taxes and cuts in Social Security measures.

ISRAEL

(There was a wild riot in Jerusalem today, when a huge mob stormed the parliament of Israel, the Knesset.) The enraged crowd smashed through Police Cordons and hurled stones through windows -- fighting the Police in a battle of tear gas bombs and stones. Some Israeli Deputies were injured -- many choked and blinded by tear gas.

(The rioters were demonstrating against the decision to negotiate with West Germany -- on the subject of reparations to be paid for injury done to the Jewish people by the Hitler persecutions.) The government of Premier Ben Gurion plans a settlement -- with payment by Germany. Today he issued a statement saying that the property of six million murdered Jews should, not in his words -- "be left in the hands of their assassins."

But, in Israel, (extreme Conservatives are against any dealings whatever with Germany -- even for the purpose of getting reparations.) So the Ben Gurion

statement was followed by a gathering of thousands at the Parliament building. Then the violent outbreak - in protest against negotiations with Germany.

EGYPT

Off Port Said today a strange and motley cavalcade of ships hove into sight. A fleet, flying the Soviet Red flag. It turned out to be a peaceful armada of thirty-three Russian trawlers headed for Vladivostok and their Pacific fishing grounds via the Suez Canal. At last word, the Russian fishermen were about to enter the troubled Canal Zone with regular Suez pilots; but, a Special British escort is standing by just in case of trouble, which is most unlikely.

TRUCE TALKS

From Tokyo the news about the truce talks becomes stranger and stranger. Following today's meeting the behavior of the Red Delegation was described as "weird, and ribald."

(^{W^m.} General Nuckols, the U.N. spokesman, put it this way: "The Communist negotiators were rude and ill-mannered, if not intentionally impolite - they giggled and snickered throughout most of the morning while General Turner was talking.")

It seems that the Red delegates arrived at the meeting tent bringing with them a Chinese magazine. As soon as they were seated at the table, the Reds started "grimacing, snickering, and ostentiously passing the magazine from one to another." Every few minutes the Communists put away their comics and as the newswire puts it: "put on ferocious scowls and accused the Allies of insincerity, and trying to wreck the conference."

There seems to be no explanation of their horseplay and buffoonery. However, Admiral Turner Joy stated in Tokyo today that: "with each passing day there is less and less reason to think that the Communists want a stable armistice."

ADD - TRUCE

Meanwhile in Paris Soviet Foreign Minister Vishinsky was saying that Russia could see no alternative to its plan for settling the Korean truce talks in the Security Council. As Vishinsky put it, "there was some progress at Pannunjom, but they have got themselves into a deadlock." So he added:- "Let's the four of us sit down -- the Foreign Ministers, perhaps -- and try to help." All of which sounds more like another monkey wrench thrown in the works.

NEWS STORY - KOREA

(Only ten miles from the truce site at Panmunjon, a savage battle was raging today. In freezing weather U.N. troops, with heavy artillery support, launched another attack on ^{(the} ~~A~~ ^{-North Korean} Chinese mountain fortress near Korangpo.) Time and time again the Allies attacked, only to be driven back by ~~plunging~~ ^{heavy} fire from the enemy bunkers. (At last report, the Reds were still holding ~~fast~~ ^{out} and had brought up ~~heavy~~ mortar and artillery reinforcements.)

ATLANTIC CITY

Atlantic City was hit by flaming havoc today-- when three hotels, twelve rooming houses and a theatre went up in flames. Damage, more than two million dollars

The blaze broke out in a section of frame buildings, hotels and rooming houses. The seven-story Congress Hotel went first, the fire spreading along the line of wooden buildings, which burned to the ground. At one point ~~the~~ a sheet of flame flashed out for one hundred and fifty feet. ^P The GLOBE Theatre ~~was~~ burned out, ~~and the fire spread to the Atlantic City Boardwalk~~ ^{facing} the Atlantic City Boardwalk -- and a shift of the wind carried flames to the Saint Charles, one of Atlantic City's huge hostelryes. One wing of the Saint Charles was gutted by fire, and it looked as if the blaze would spread to the BREAKERS -- another of the great Atlantic City hotels. ^P The raging conflagration was all the worse because of ~~the~~ ^a gale that blew thirty-five miles an hour. But that, in reality, saved Atlantic City a lot from havoc -- the wind ^{blowing} ~~blowing~~ out to sea, away from the center of town.

FLYING ENTERPRISE

From Falmouth. That modern Odysseus, Captain Carlsen -- dubbed "Captain Enterprise," by the British -- is only a hundred miles from port tonight. But we hear that "The Flying Enterprise" is heading into rougher seas and a rising wind. However this seems to be - as the dispatch puts it -- "causing no concern."

Early today there were fears that this fabulous saga of the sea still might end in failure. The long Atlantic swell tipped "The Flying Enterprise" another ten degrees over onto her port side. Then came reassurance from the convoy that she was 'riding well', despite the seventy degree list. Said the skipper of the British rescue tug "Turmoil." "We'll get her in allright."

If all does go well, in that race against time and weather, the stout skipper of the Enterprise should make his first landfall late tomorrow.

HORSE AND BUGGY

In Wayne County, Ohio, the Sheriff's deputies are hunting for the "horse and buggy bandits." These are a gang of crooks who hitch up Dobbin, say "giddap," and rob victims likewise traveling by horse and buggy. No, this is not a picture of crime in the '90's. It happens right now -- among the Amish.

They're the Pennsylvania Dutch, who extend also into Ohio -- sticking always to their old-fashioned customs. They don't believe in telephones, and have no lights in their homes. They also disdain automobiles. It isn't clear if the "horse and buggy bandits" are Amish, or merely put on the style of the Amish.

The latest news tells how an Amish farmer was driving along, when robbers in a horse and buggy drew up alongside and tried to hold him up. But the farmer whipped up his horse, and escaped by turning into a lane leading to a neighboring house -- outracing ^{the} horse and buggy bandits, Nelson.