

LEAD

D. S. - P. 4 G. Tuesday, June 22, 1948.

— on the run to a

I've just come from the Convention Hall, ~~and am~~

high up in

broadcasting ~~from a studio~~ ~~got up in~~ this great auditorium.

~~hoped to hear~~ ~~former - Pres. Hoover.~~ But the Proceedings tonight featured a report from the committee that

has been considering disputed delegations. The principal item

was a committee decision that reaffirmed the seating of the

Georgia delegation that supports Governor Dewey. The Taft

delegation, the ~~his~~ claim of which was not allowed, decided not

to make any contest on the floor of the convention. So that was

that. The report of the committee on credentials was accepted

by a ringing voice vote.

Otherwise the proceedings tonight consisted of music,

the introduction of former heavyweight champion ~~the~~ Gene Tunney,

an ovation for General Robinett, who distinguished himself in

the second World War by stopping Rommel in North Africa. ~~That~~

And, of course, the speeches. Temporary Chairman, Governor Green

of Illinois turned over the gavel to permanent Chairman Joe

Martin of Massachusetts, Speaker of the House -- and he addressed

the convention. Then came the address by ~~the~~ Former President

Hoover.

wild ovation for Mr. H. was still on when I started running. A great night for one of the best. blame of Hoover?

Mr. King, King, Hoover?

FOLLOW LEAD

(We got reports of matters going on behind closed doors at headquarters of candidates. The principal of these was a dispatch stating that Senator Taft and former Minnesota Governor Harold Stassen were in conference -- behind doors that were tightly closed. This was stated on good authority -- that those two prominent candidates were talking over possible plans for stopping New York's Governor Dewey -- the Dewey blitz as they are calling it.)

We all expected that this would be the tamest day of the week. But it seems as if it might turn out otherwise. It looks now as if this might be the vital day, the one when decisions were made, decisions that most political observers believe will decide the outcome.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

This is coming from the Bubble in Philadelphia again tonight. ^{My} ~~The~~ mobile C.B.S. plexi-glass Bubble. Here in the middle of Broad Street, beneath that huge pink and grey elephant you've been hearing about. We are just back from the Convention Hall, ~~coming in from a day that~~ ^{TP} ~~We~~ all thought would be the tame^{day}st of the week. But, it seems as if it may turn out otherwise. It looks now as though this may be the vital day, the one when decisions were made, that most political observers believe will decide the outcome.

The word that dominates all the political talk tonight is highly appropriate - this being Philadelphia. The word is - Pennsylvania. All through these convention proceedings in the Pennsylvania metropolis, the name of the state has figured as a political puzzle, an enigma. The Pennsylvania delegation was ~~going to be~~ badly split, a hot battle going on. It was, in many respects, a battle between west and east - with west Pennsylvania under the leadership of Governor Duff. He ~~is~~ strong for Senator Vandenberg, and ~~has been~~ using all his influence to draw the Pennsylvania delegation toward the Michigan Senator.

But the delegates from eastern Pennsylvania, under the leadership of veteran political chieftain Joe Gundy, tended toward Governor Dewey of New York. The fight within the delegation was so tense, that they agreed on a compromise - deciding to throw their votes, at least during the early ballots, to Pennsylvania Senator Ed Martin. This was an uneasy compromise, as everybody felt out here - and

the state of affairs of the Pennsylvania delegation looked explosive. The ^{explosion} ~~exception~~ came today, when (Senator Ed Martin, for whom the Pennsylvania delegates were supposed to vote, declared himself in favor of Governor Dewey - and stated that he would personally place Dewey's name ^{before the} ~~in the political~~ convention. Which was really an explosion - a resounding break for Dewey.) All along it has been evident that the Philadelphia issue lay with the big delegations from states that have favorite sons - like Pennsylvania, with seventy-two convention votes, second only to New York. Also - Illinois, California, and others.)

So now the first break in the favorite son delegations has happened in spectacular fashion - the Pennsylvania favorite son announcing that he will place the New York Governor in nomination. The belief tonight is that Governor Dewey may get as many as fifty-five of the Pennsylvania votes, that many out of the seventy-two. Of the remainder, Senator Taft may get some, and so may Senator Vandenberg.

DEWEY

The headlines tonight are summarizing the whole thing with splashing statements that (the Pennsylvania break may set the Dewey band-wagon rolling at such a rate that there may be no stopping the political chariot of the New York Governor.)

For example, the United Press blazons the news in these words:

"Governor Thomas E. Dewey today became a red-hot prospect to win the Republican nomination on an early ballot."

The other candidates are denying this vigorously.

From the headquarters of Senator Taft, the statement is made

that the Pennsylvania break marks - "the height of the Dewey blitz."

TP The latest:- Gov. D. says there will only be a few ballots. But he doesn't want it to go ~~so~~ too fast -- not on 1st ballot.

~~the U.P. story goes on to note that~~

Dewey has had a couple of breaks, which preceded this latest

big one. First, in a dispute between rival Georgia

delegations, Dewey and Taft, the Dewey delegation was seated.

And here's another - that happened earlier today.

ALPHABET

~~This tells of a break for Dewey because of that ancient problem of childhood, the alphabet, the a-b-c's.~~

The states have their say in alphabetical order - ~~which~~ which means that the first word is spoken by the state at the top of the a-b-c's. The delegation from that state has a chance to start the first big hurrah. Suppose there were a state named Abracadabra, which began the proceedings by declaring for a candidate named ~~Schmalz~~ ^{Joe Epamanordis.} That would start a loud hoopla for ~~Schmalz~~ ^{Epamanordis.} He would get the first ovation - which politicians would esteem an advantage.

However, there is no state of Abracadabra, the nearest we can come to it is Alabama - giving that commonwealth of Dixieland a prominence which was illustrated vividly in Nineteen Twenty-Four, when the Democrats had their prolonged and bitter deadlock, Al Smith versus McAdoo. At that convention, Alabama never changed all night long, sticking to the Alabama favorite son - Underwood. So every ballot began with monotonous refrain - Alabama casts twenty-four

votes for Underwood. Which provided a catch-line for a long time afterward - twenty-four for Underwood.

Similarly, at this present Republican convention, Alabama would normally have the ~~first~~ first say - the first chance to start the cheers rolling. But Alabama won't do anything of the sort. That's because the delegation is badly split, hopelessly divided - the fourteen Alabama votes being divided equally between Dewey and Taft. So, on the first ballot, Alabama, being divided and undecided - will pass.

Next among the states, down the line of the alphabet, comes ARizona - and that takes us to the news of today, which concerns the placing of candidates in nomination. So, with Alabama divided, what state comes next - down the a-b-c's? Why, Arizona. And that southwestern state is for Governor Dewey of New York. So will Arizona start the cheers going by putting Dewey in nomination? Not at all. Arizona will do even better than that for Dewey. When the name of Arizona is called, the delegates from that state will announce - that

they yield to whoever it is that will put Dewey's name before the Convention. That will make Dewey the first to be presented, the first to get the big ballyhoo of cheers and parades.

And that will bring to the speakers' rostrum Senator Martin of Pennsylvania — to nominate Tom Dewey. He the first to be presented.

G.O.P. PLATFORM

The Republican platform, as announced today, contains a strong foreign policy plank, one that backs up Senator Vandenberg of Michigan, the leading Republican champion of the Marshall Plan and the bi-partisan policy. ^{It} The platform, which is calculated to take isolationism out of the picture of the campaign issue, was drafted by the Resolutions Committee, and will be submitted to the Convention tomorrow. All indications are that it will be adopted without a serious fight.

COAL

In the midst of all this Convention news, comes an item from Washington, which has a surprising sound. Suppose that you expect the angry roar of a lion, and instead you hear the gentle cooing of a dove. Suppose that you anticipate a wrathful thunder of storm, and along comes a gentle soothing breeze. ^π Suppose that you're all set to hear Judge Goldsborough issue another stern, ominous verdict against John L. Lewis, and instead - Judge Goldsborough finds in favor of John L. Lewis. But this last is no figure of speech - that's ^{exactly} what happened today. His Honor, who on previous occasions has hurled everything but the book at the burly Union chief, now hands down a decision which upholds Lewis, says he is right, and almost pats him on the back.

This is in the suit entered by the coal operators against the arbitration for payment of old-age pensions to coal miners. In that arbitration, Senator Styles Bridges of New Hampshire, as mediator, voted ~~that~~ with John L. Lewis against the Companies. The Companies went to court, protesting

that the arbitration was illegal - and the case came before Judge Goldsborough, the old-time Nemesis of John L. Lewis. So what would you expect? Well, it didn't happen - Judge Goldsborough today holding that the arbitration was okay. He tossed out the case of the Companies, and ruled in favor of ~~John L.~~ Lewis.

This decision was followed immediately by action on the part of Lewis and the Companies. Late this afternoon they agreed to resume negotiations for a coal contract - prompt result of the big Lewis victory in court.

ORATORY

The Convention Hall in Philadelphia

~~The Republican Convention~~ had its first presidential

outbreak today, its first burst of cheering for a candidate.

The great hall here in Philadelphia ^{rang} ~~echoed~~ with the echoing chant - "We want Wherry, we want Wherry."

This came about as a result of a speech by ^{Nebraska's} Senator

Wherry, ~~of Nebraska~~. The day was given over to oratory, and a prominent spot on the program was given to the lawmaker from

the state of tall corn. He delivered a rip-snorter, with

^{Fine voice - telling gestures,} mighty blasts that rang the rafters. In other words ~~he~~ poured

it on. That phrase has been much used by President Truman

of late in his cannonading against Congress. The President,

as he says, has been pouring it on. Today, however, the

^{grammar} ~~drama~~ was different; - he had it poured on. The President

was on the receiving end of the hottest oratory the Republican

Convention has had thus far. The Nebraskan called him -

"the most vetoing president we've ever had," and thundered,

"We'll vote that fellow right off his balcony."

That was the spread eagle eloquence which roused the

chorus: "We want a fighting man for ~~xxxx~~ president," ^{and} the
^ushot rang out: - "We want Wherry."
_^

All of which must have stirred the shades of eight years ago, the ghosts of the Republican Convention in Nineteen Forty. People at Convention Hall could hear in memory that x famous chorus, "We want Wilkie! - we want Wilkie!" And they got Wilkie.) At the same time, the enthusiasm roused by the Senator from Nebraska might have harked back to the oratory of another Nebraskan - William Jennings Bryan in Eighteen Ninety-Six, when he stampeded the Democratic National Convention and won the nomination - with that famous Cross of Gold speech. So now another Nebraskan was stirring another national convention - Republican this time. ^{TR} However, while the applause was general, the presidential outcry was limited to one group - the delegation from Nebraska. They were practically alone in the echoing chorus - "We want Wherry, we want Wherry." So today did not produce a combined latter day version of

William Jennings Bryan and ^{Wendell} Wilkie. Which was just as well, from the Republican point of view, Bryan and Wilkie having lost the election.

Today's outburst of old-time political oratory was in contrast to the witticisms and wisecracks of Clare Luce last night. ~~For entertainment values in the convention speech, they brought in no outstanding figure in national politics, but a woman author and playwright whose quips and smart lines of satirical comedy had won Broadway success.~~ It was she who drew the convention laughs, with flings at the Democratic President like that one with an authentic Broadway reminiscence: "When there's a slump at the ballot-box-office, a real New Deal hero must be able to chew up the scenery." Then ^{her} ~~there was~~ a neat pun at the expense of the reactionary Southern wing of the Democratic Party when she said, "It is anti-Semitic, anti-Catholic, anti-foreign. In short, antediluvian."

And let's not overlook the alliteration in this next one, Clare Luce twitting the opposition party with a matching up of consonants. "Democratic presidents," she cried, "are always troubadours of trouble, crooners of catastrophe. They cannot win elections except in the climate of crisis." Cleverly concocted, Clare!

(Well, this oratorical situation at the Republican Convention is typical of a long tradition in American politics. *In this fair land it seems to be* ~~but it is~~ unwise for an ambitious big-time candidate to indulge in ~~alphabetsixityxxxixixxxpasted~~ levity. He is expected to be serious, not funny. You can look back in American history, and you'll ^{seldom} find a successful national statesman who went in for wit and whimsy, the comic effect.)

Benjamin Franklin, of course, was a humorist, famous for his pungent, spicy remarks - but Franklin really belongs back in Colonial Times. The ~~great~~ great orators like Daniel Webster and Henry Clay, and Bryan later on -

trumpeted spectacular phrases, but they were serious.

Lincoln was wonderfully humorous in private remarks, but his public pronouncements were on the side of wisdom and gravity.

There were notable wits like Chauncey Depew, a Senator, and J. Ham Lewis, ~~J. Ham Lewis~~ a Senator - but neither ever got to top rank in national affairs. Their very levity was considered a handicap - part of the tradition that statesmen should not try to be funny. Much the same goes for Huey Long, with his Louisiana cane break style of wisecracking. At the same time, none of our great humorists ever got far in politics, Bill Nye, George Ade, Will Rogers, Irvin Cobb. ^R But it's different in

England, different in the British tradition of statesmanship - as witness Winston Churchill, whose oratory sparkles with wit.

One of the great sallies of our time was the one, when Sir Stafford Cripps was passing, ~~one day~~, and Churchill remarked acidly, "There, but for the grace of God, goes God."

One of the most brilliant wits in British history was Disraeli - and he was one of the greatest of Prime Ministers.

History relates how Disraeli overthrew the government of Lord Derby - with one remark of cutting ridicule. In parliamentary debate, Disraeli, an M.P., assailed the Prime Minister on the ground that his Cabinet had adopted the policy of the opposition, the Whigs. For a climactic fling at Lord Derby, Disraeli cried: "He caught the Whigs in swimming, and stole their clothes." In the chorus of laughter, the Cabinet of Lord Derby resigned.

~~The classic master of English comedy was Sheridan, who was also a member of Parliament. The story relates how one day the great Edmond Burke, giant of blazing eloquence, reached the climax of emotional oratory, which he dramatized with spectacular act. He drew a dagger and he hurled it to the floor. In the tense pause of silence, Sheridan looked at the dagger, on the floor, and he remarked: "Interesting cutlery, but where is the fork?" The burst of laughter deflated the flaming eloquence of Edmond Burk~~

But that sort of thing is not in the American tradition of high political debate for solemn statesmen.
~~But - it was inserted by a charming lady - Claire Luce.~~

END

And now Nelson, from my mobile short wave broadcasting studio out here in the middle of a congested Philadelphia street, from our C.B.S. transparent dome, we turn to you in New York. From you we expect no emotional oratory, no flaming eloquence - - just some simple statement of fact will do.

How about it?