

L.T. - SUNOCO. THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 1940.

(Time cut short, due to  
balloting results being given.)

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

No doubt you have been listening to the balloting.

But there is a lull, so I'll pass along a few sidelights - and some foreign news.

Until today the crowds have been slow in coming to the Convention sessions. But for this one, delegates and spectators came streaming way ahead of time.

One of the first people I ran into when I got inside the hall was Mrs. Will Hays, wife of the former Postmaster General. And, she gave me a most interesting sidelight. Mrs. Willkie, as you may have heard, is a charming shy little lady. Reporters and photographers just terrify her. This morning she was frightened out of her wits by them. She wanted to come this afternoon but was afraid to. So Mrs. Will Hays, a fellow Hoosier, and Ellen Mason, wife of Frank Mason, one of the heads of the NBC, disguised her in some rather extraordinary clothes, a big hat, dark glasses, and

a veil. They've just gotten her in without anyone knowing who under the sun she was.

Until this afternoon the Press Section has not been overcrowded. But now, the aisles in the press part of the arena are so jammed that you can hardly force your way through. Until now I hadn't seen many familiar faces in the Press Section. But this afternoon they are all here from all parts of America.

After Taft the next candidate to be mentioned was Frank Gannett. Willkie's name came out a few minutes later when the Arkansas vote was ~~XXXXXX~~ announced. Only two votes. But, it brought the first shouts from the spectators. From then on, whenever Willkie's name was mentioned, a yell went up. Whether this Willkie shouting has any significance, we don't know yet.

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As the balloting went on you realized that this Convention is not only a great historial affair but out and out the biggest sporting event of the summer. Listening to the votes as they are called, keeping tabs or looking over the shoulder of somebody who is keeping score -- it beats any horse race for

interest and excitement, even a World's Series ball game.

When they were all tabulated and added up after the first ballot, the result was surprisingly close to the prophecies. Dewey way out in the lead - leading the race with three hundred and sixty, - was stronger than his opponents had predicted, and just about as his own partisans had claimed. The candidate whose own personal prophecy came closest was Senator Taft. He calculated that Dewey would have midway between three hundred and four hundred. He also figured himself as having around two hundred on the first ballot. Well, he was eleven short -- not so bad. It's in the later ballottings that Taft sees Dewey's partisans slipping over him.

One of the big kicks arrived when the name of Missouri was reached on the second round. It was the first approach to a break -- a gain for Willkie. That evidently started something. Then came the turn of Pennsylvania with its hitherto almost solid James delegation. Here again Willkie advanced -- only five votes, to be sure. But they helped push the total up. Of course nothing could be decided by that second ballot -- so much was obvious. But the slow steady climb of Willkie's votes did give a promise of still greater excitement to come.

Dewey, three hundred and forty-two.

Taft, two hundred and three.

Willkie, one hundred and seventy-one.

WAR

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The way of the war in Europe has gone, some sudden new flare might easily have taken a large share of today's headlines away from the Republican National Convention. But no such thing happened. The conflict in Europe takes no large amount of front-page space away from the Republican party, as it selects its candidate. So far as actual fighting is concerned <sup>there are</sup> ~~mere~~ reports ~~are~~ sporadic air raids and skirmishes along Colonial borders.

In fact, the principal item of war news features that opposite word -- peace. Great Britain ~~xxxx~~ is expecting a Hitler peace move. They say the Nazi Feuhrer is preparing to make one of his strenuous radio talks, in which he'll ~~be~~ put out proposals or at least suggestions for a settlement of the war. London declares in advance that any Nazi peace move will be rejected -- no chance of any settlement with Hitler. Berlin, on the contrary, broadcasts a report that the British ~~were~~ ~~xxxxx~~ putting out what are described as "peace feelers". The German radio states that Sir Samuel <sup>a</sup> ~~Hore~~ who is on a mission in Spain, has approached the Franco government on the subject of peace -- with the idea that Franco would get in touch with Berlin. This German statement is vigorously denied in

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London, the British calling it -- "rot". The denial is accompanied by additional statements -- that Britain rejects any idea of peace.

RUMANIA

Let's take time out from convention news and look at something <sup>now</sup> that flashes from far away.

Today's sensational Rumanian story is not yet quite official. There is every indication from Bucharest that King Carol's government has yielded to the Soviet demand, and is preparing to surrender the province of Bessarabia. And part of the province of Bukovina, <sup>— And other territory as well.</sup> ~~to Russia.~~ There is every indication of this -- except an official announcement by the Rumanian government. The announcement was expected this afternoon in Bucharest, but it failed to materialize. Instead, the Foreign Minister of Rumania stated that King Carol's regime had not yet taken the final step, had not yet given Stalin the definite word <sup>to</sup> ~~okay~~, go ahead and take Bessarabia, <sup>and the rest.</sup> The decision is being delayed, and <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ word is there's increasing opposition in ~~Rumania~~ Rumania to the tame surrender.

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~~Nevertheless it seems to be ~~xxxx~~ substantially~~  
~~correct~~ that Rumania is getting no support from Germany or Italy, and therefore will not and cannot resist the power of the Soviets. So Rumania must yield to the ultimatum and give up <sup>the rich</sup> ~~Bessarabia~~ the territory the Soviets want.

And it's not only a case of Bessarabia and part of Bukovina. The news tells us that Moscow demands the possession of a couple of Rumanian harbors on the Black Sea -- these for Soviet Black Sea Naval bases. The stretch of coast where these two harbors are, used to belong to Bulgaria. And Bulgaria wants to get back the province in question. That puts three nations into the combination -- Russia, Rumania and Bulgaria. Exceedingly intricate. In fact, it puts the whole Balkans into the combination -- and Germany and Italy too. For Hitler and Mussolini are vitally interested in the Balkans. The territory the Soviets demand would give Italian control of the Rumanian oil situation -- so we are told. And the world knows how vital that oil supply is to the Hitler war machine.

The whole thing may turn into a general explosion in Eastern Europe. This, as Western Europe, is in tremendous suspense. Nazi Germany preparing for its attack on Great Britain.

Don't think that at this convention political topics are the only ones, ~~that are being noticed~~. After all, any national convention includes a large part of the leadership and statesmanship of this country -- men with a watchful eye on happenings abroad that may concern us. For example, while the speeches ~~still~~ ring and the delegates are voting, there's many a thought turned toward Eastern Asia, and Japan. For the Island Empire ~~of Asia~~ is moving, and <sup>what</sup> ~~so~~ it may mean in the end nobody can tell. The Japanese are threatening French Indo-China, the Dutch East Indies -- and Hongkong. That's a key point of danger -- Hongkong, Britain's stronghold on the China coast. *Japan is establishing a* ~~The sharpest focus of interest~~ *blockade of Hong Kong, Japan, in fact, is showing* ~~in the Far East~~ -- as Japan shows symptoms of embarking on policy of excluding the Western nations entirely from the affairs of Eastern Asia.

Foreign  
Today ~~THE~~ Minister Arito went to the Imperial Palace, and

there reported to the Mikado, upon the declaration that Japan appears about to issue. They are calling it a declaration of a Far Eastern Monroe Doctrine. Under this Doctrine Japan will not tolerate what ~~the~~ it chooses to call "interference" by other powers. Such are the comments in Tokyo today, ~~as the Japanese~~

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We're not told ~~xx~~ what the Mikado said to his Foreign Minister today, but no doubt there was a Japanese equivalent of -- "All right, go ahead." We can surmise there's Imperial approval of what seems like a move to oust the Western people from the East.

Well, any American can see the wide possibilities of that sort of thing, and here at this convention many a political figure is giving a thought to the Far East as we come to this recess at the G.O.P. Convention. Tonight, sometime, the Republican  
candidate will be chosen. Tomorrow, we'll know and  
SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.