

L.T. - P&G. - FRIDAY, JULY 25, 1952 (Chicago, Ill.)

Due to balloting of Democrats at Convention, L.T.'s broadcast did not get on air.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

SOUTHERNERS. The triumph of the South, which was completed late last night, was one of the most curious episodes in American political history. Quite appropriately, a fire broke out in the Convention Hall, as the Dixiecrats were sealing their victory. It wasn't much of a blaze, just some loose paper set afire. But it created a bit of excitement, as the case of South Carolina was being discussed.

All of which is old news by now, and I cite the fire at the Convention as a sort of punctuation mark, like an exclamation point - South Carolina won the right of staying in the Convention. So did Louisiana, and Virginia had been granted that same privilege a

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couple of hours before. Although, none of those three Southern states took the loyalty pledge - their delegations defiantly refusing to do so.

It was a rather comic ending for what had been a sequence of absurdities all along - that loyalty pledge. The Northern radicals jammed it through, kicking the Southerners around. Then, the South remaining defiant, they had to water down the pledge in such a way that it amounted to - a permission to be disloyal. But, even so, Virginia, South Carolina and Louisiana refused to swallow the heavily sugared pill, and got away with it.

Yes, it was a farce - but there were serious implications in it. Loyalty pledge advocates, headed by Senator Blair Moody of Michigan and Congressman Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr., of New York, shouted - majority rule. This, they clamored, was a way of American democracy - the will of the majority shall prevail. Which was -

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correct enough. But, on the other hand, it's equally a part of our democratic system - to affirm the right of dissent. The right of - minorities. That, in large part, is what the constitution is about - guaranteeing the right of minority opinion. Yep, - majority rule, but also minority right. Same old story, a couple of contradictions, and the good sense of the matter lies in the Aristotlean principle of - the golden mean, down the middle. Majority rule - but not majority tyranny.

In fact, it's a common thing in the history of American political parties, for a minority to refuse to submit - walking out, bolting.

The case that comes to mind the most readily is Nineteen Twelve - when the Bull Moose, headed by Teddy Roosevelt, bolted the Republican Convention, and formed a third party.

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In somewhat the same fashion, there was the Democratic split, which favored the election of Lincoln. In 1860, the Southern Democrats bolted the Democratic National Convention that, year, and named a candidate of their own.

The split resulted in - the first Republican president.

Not so well remembered, but equally to the point was a Republican feud in Eighteen Seventy-Two - when the regulars renominated President Grant for a second term. Liberal Republicans, headed by the famous Karl Schurz, bolted, and named a candidate of their own - famous Editor Horace Greeley. The Democrats, badly bedraggled at the time, also nominated Greeley. So there was a combination of liberal Republicans and Democrats - but they lost out, and Grant was reelected.

These historical reminiscences are only a few -

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to illustrate the fact that, in our American political system, it has not been uncommon for a party minority to reject the decision of the majority. It was never considered contrary to the principles of Liberal democracy. In fact, the liberals in this Chicago Convention were running contrary to liberal tradition with their loyalty pledge.

The twister is all the more ironical, because the Northern radicals at the Convention are exactly the people who have been against previous loyalty pledges directed against the Communists. They criticize and ridicule a lot of those anti-Red loyalty pledges - which can be exaggerated. But they came up with a loyalty pledge of their own - and tried to make the Southerners take it, like a bitter dose of medicine. Of course, there's a lot of difference between the loyalty pledges in the case of Communism - and that

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one here in Chicago, demanding submission to the majority rule at the Convention. But it's rather sardonic that the name applied to both should be - loyalty pledge.

Just as curious was the attitude of Governor Stevenson. He is on record as having stood out against an anti-Red loyalty pledge proposed in Illinois - which he decried in scathing terms. So what would he think of that other loyalty pledge at the Convention? Well, Stevenson was against the whole business of kicking the Southerners around and running them out of the Party. One report was that he would not accept the nomination, if the Dixiecrats were driven to bolt. Last night, the influence of Governor Stevenson, we hear, played a part in the decision to let Virginia, South Carolina and Louisiana keep their places - although there is no evidence that he made any personal intervention in the final fiasco of the loyalty pledge.

BALLOTING.

The balloting today was long, dragged out, and would have been altogether tedious - if it hadn't been for the stakes involved. After all, in the political game, it was like a shake of the dice for a tremendous prize, President of the United States. But - a protracted shake of the dice. It needed all the suspense and supremely high stakes to keep up any interest at all.

A characteristic note was sounded right off the bat, the first letter of the alphabet. Alabama, called upon to announce its vote - and there was a request that the delegation be polled. So that began what was to be the dragged-out procedure time and again, as one delegation after another was polled. Typical, this afternoon - so many delegations giving the vote of each of its members, scores of members.

The Alabama poll began at the beginning of the

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alphabet. A for Allen. James B. Allen of Gadsden gave half a vote for Senator Russell of Georgia, favorite son of the South. Half a vote - that, too, was typical. The Democrats have a way of going in for fractional ballots - and it takes twice as long to poll two delegates with half a vote each. Alabama ended by giving thirteen votes to Russell, eight votes to Kefauver, one-half to Vice-President Barkley, one-half to Stevenson. Rather intricate, but some other states were even more complicated, with half votes - as the count of the states dragged on.

Sharp interest focused on Missouri, because of that Missouri citizen, Thomas J. Gavin, on whom the spotlight has been cast for the past few days. Gavin - there as an alternate for Missouri Delegate Harry S. Truman. The President not attending the Convention, Gavin would cast his vote. Or rather - half a vote.

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The President of the United States had only a fraction. Gavin would cast that one-half, according to directions from Washington - give it to the candidate favored by President Truman. So who would it be? Well, it has been known that the President was for Stevenson, and so it turned out today. The Missouri delegation was polled, that was at the insistence of Gavin - so that he could part the President's "half" vote publicly, with television and all. He made a ceremony of it, as he gave the President's choice - Stevenson.

Attention was also on New York - the Empire State, with its huge delegation, having such great political significance. However, to the innocent bystanders at the Convention and at radio and television sets, the terrifying question was - would the New York delegation be polled? New York has ninety-four votes, many of them divided into half votes. Looked as if it would

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take all day to poll the delegation - if it had to be polled. But there was a sigh of relief. New York just up and cast its vote - without polling.

Even so, the result was intricate enough - six and a half for Stevenson, eighty-three and a half for Harriman, one for Kefauver, three for Oscar Ewing. Oscar is not much in the running, but he got a few here and there. So New York was mostly for Harriman, the favorite son, as expected. But there was a catch, an announcement that, on the second ballot - New York would switch to Stevenson.

The real pain in the neck arrived, when Pennsylvania was called, with its huge delegation. Pennsylvania had to be polled, and that was complicated by the fact that one Pennsylvania delegate was in dispute. Producing an argument and there had to be a voice vote by the

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whole convention. That - in addition to the interminable polling of individual delegates.

The first ballot took nearly four hours - and, when it was over, Kefauver was in the lead. The principal contenders having: Kefauver three hundred and forty. Stevenson two hundred and seventy-three. Russell two hundred and sixty-eight. Harriman, one hundred and twenty-three and a half. A close race - the story to be told when, on the second ballot, the delegates would start switching from favorite sons to the real contenders.

EGYPT.

Events in Egypt remain something of a puzzle. We don't know what they mean, in the long run - what the policy of the new revolutionary government will be in the all-important matter of the Suez Canal and the Sudan. The news dispatches from Cairo do not indicate the attitude of the military junta in Egypt's quarrel with Great Britain. But it is amply clear that the regime, which seized power in a coup d'etat day before yesterday - is acting with relentless vigor. Clamping an iron rule - on the land of the Nile.

The head of the military group is General Mohamed Naguib, described as a tough professional soldier. Today, he announced wholesale arrests of high officials of the Ministry of the Interior and the Secret Police. In Egypt, as in many European countries, the Ministry of the Interior is all-important-because it controls the Secret Police.

Those arrested in Egypt include five lieutenant generals, who were seized in raids on their homes this morning. Also arrested - top officials of the Egyptian Coast Guard. The prisoners are accused of conspiring against the new military regime, and will be put on trial - so announced by "Strong Man" Mohamed Naguib.

That was accompanied by an announcement from the new Premier, Ali Maher, who was put in power in the course of the coup d'etat day before yesterday. King Farouk was forced to name him - Farouk being now under the domination of the military junta. Which is indicated eloquently by Ali Maher's declaration - telling of the mass resignation of palace advisers to Farouk. These include members of the King's personal Cabinet, which has been extremely influential in the government of Egypt - quite independent of the Parliament at Cairo. Amounting to - a sort of royal council.

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One of those resigning is interesting - Elias Andraous. Which name doesn't sound Moslem - it sounds Greek. Anyway, Elias Andraous was Economic Adviser to King Farouk and an Egyptian delegate to the Suez Canal Company. It is understood that a large part of the King's great fortune consists of Suez Canal stock, enormously profitable - Egyptian held securities going back to the original terms for the construction of the canal. The ruler of Egypt then given - a large bloc of Suez Canal stock.

Moreover, the military junta today moved into Alexandria, with a heavy military force - seizing all the key points of that great seaport. The city - founded by Alexander the Great. Significant, right now - because it is the summer capital of King Farouk. In the hot months, the royal court moves from Cairo, the neighborhood of the desert - to Alexandria, where

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breezes of the Mediterranean blow.

But, the end of July, King Farouk and his court are moving out of their summer capital, leaving Alexandria and returning to Cairo, the political capital. This - at the demand of the military junta. The statement being that the monarch and the royal officials are wanted at Cairo - so they can keep in close touch with Strong Man Mohamed Naguib, and the new government that^h has installed.

Powerful coup d'etat in Egypt - the ultimate meaning of which is not^{at} all clear.

OLYMPICS.

In the Olympic Games today, the F.B.I. won - which sounds odd. But Horace Ashenfelter took first place in the three thousand meter steeplechase, and he's an agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Whereupon he got a cablegram of congratulations from F.B.I. headquarters in Washington. He not only won, he set a new world record for the three thousand meter steeplechase. Robert Mathias was in the lead at the halfway mark of the decathlon, that same Bob Mathias who starred so brilliantly in the last Olympic Games, winning that gruelling event, the decathlon.

Our athletes are capturing plenty of gold medals, but Soviet Russia remains in the lead, the United States in second place. The Soviets rolled up their total of team points largely because of their victories in the women's events and in gymnastics. So how do we take it, the Reds out there in front, in team points,

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in the Olympic Games?

Well, I'll tell you how. The news today describes a party thrown for an American rowing team, which won out against Russian competition. The party for the Americans - - thrown by Russian athletes. All was friendly between the comrades in competition. The spirit was - may the best man win - as Americans and Russians toasted each other.

That: the spirit if the Reds should score a triumph the Nineteen Fifty-two Olympics, we'll give them a cheer.

Off the air, due to Summer Hiatus,
all of August, until the 25th of the
month.