

L.T. Delco - Tues. Nov. 2, 1954

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:-

At this moment, the control of Congress is in doubt -- so far as the figures go. That is, on the face of things.

For example, the Republicans have elected two Senators. The Democrats -- twelve. But most of these are in the solid South, where Democratic nominees have hardly any opposition. The Republicans leading in twelve contests for the Senate. The Democrats leading in nine.

As for the House of Representatives, the Republicans have elected eighteen Congressmen. The Democrats-- one-hundred-and-eleven. But, again, most of these Congressional seats are in the South. The Republicans are leading on one-hundred-and-five contests. The Democrats -- in sixty-two.

So, from the surface, it looks like -- a close thing, much in doubt. But there's one thing that may be indicative. In some of the local contests, the GOP seems to have lost its usual great share of the farm vote. In New York State, for example, take the big victory of Averill Harriman for Governor. It would seem that the upstate farm vote did not go for Senator Ives -- anything like as big as in the former years. In Illinois, too, the downstate farm vote is not producing the usual Republican majorities, apparently.

This reminds me of election night, six years ago -- Nineteen Forty-eight. Truman versus Dewey. Governor Dewey -- the favorite in the public opinion polls. I recall standing before the CBS election board, noticing that Iowa was not giving Dewey the

usual kind of Republican majority. Iowa -- nearly always a GOP stronghold, tending toward the Truman side. And I thought at the time: that could tell the story. Governor Dewey not getting the expected big vote in the normally Republican corn belt.

Remembering that, I wonder -- may this be the same story all over again? Suppositions have been -- that there was discontent on the farm. Which seems to be the case in some instances, at least. On the other hand, Kansas, the Queen of the Corn Belt, ran up Republican majorities, as usual.

There has been one curious feature at CBS. The prediction made by the electronic brain, UNIVAC. That mechanism, as early as Eight-thirty, forecasting a democratic landslide. Based on figures fed into it, compared with similar figures from previous elections.

None of the human experts at CBS were inclined to agree -- so early in advance. They -- being of the opinion that we wouldn't be able to tell about the control of Congress for hours; the Republicans actually making a better showing in eight places than had been expected.

Then, a couple of hours later, UNIVAC reversed its opinion remarkably. With a lot more figures fed in, the electronic brain put the race for the House in doubt, saying that the Republicans might win control. But -- still insisting that the Democrats would win definitely in the battle for the Senate.

FORMOSA

The "little war" along the China Coast, was on again today. Nationalist planes -- bombing the Red mainland.

This followed air attacks by the Communists -- who made a heavy bombing attack on the island of Tachen, yesterday. Red bombers -- escorted by -- Russian-built Migs. The Nationalists -- now retaliating.

Chiang Kai Shek's air force discontinued its previous offensive -- on advice by the United States. The American view was that the "little war" might expand into a big war. So -- take it easy.

Now, however, the Communists have started something -- and the Nationalist air force replies.

CHURCHILL

In the London Parliament, today, Prime Minister Churchill gave an opinion of the possible effect of hydrogen and atom bomb experiments. Those test explosions.

A Laborite M.P. put a question to the Prime Minister, asking: "How many of these explosions will it take to make the atmosphere lethal? And are they cumulative?"

"I believe," Churchill replied, "that they are cumulative -- and certainly an undue number of them might have very serious effects."

The Prime Minister indicated that, according to scientists, the radioactive contamination of the atmosphere might increase progressively, and last for several thousand years.

The suggestion was made that Churchill propose a halt of all atomic test explosions. Propose this --

to President Eisenhower and Premier Malenkov.

Churchill hedged, saying: "We should all be much happier if there were no need for atomic explosions." And added: "There are several proposals before the United Nations, and it is there that the solution should be sought."

terrorists -- with a hideout in the mountains to the south. A nearby town -- encircled by outlaws. Soldiers fighting their way in today. After facing -- machinegun fire from barrel barricades.

At another place -- the local constabulary besieged in their barracks. But they managed to fight their way out.

Reinforced by the paratroopers arriving -- local authorities are making a huge search through mountain country, south of the city named after the

Emperor Constantine the Great.

ALGERIA

A battalion of French paratroopers landed, in Algeria, today. To be followed by two other battalions, for the suppression of the new wave of terrorism we heard about last night.

The trouble centers around the city of Constantine -- capital of an eastern province. The terrorists -- with a hideout in the mountains to the south. A nearby town -- encircled by outlaws. Soldiers fighting their way in today. After facing -- machinegun fire from bandit barricades.

At another place -- the local constabulary besieged in their barracks. But they managed to fight their way out.

Reinforced by the paratroopers arriving -- local authorities are staging a huge manhunt through mountain country, south of the city named after the Emperor Constantine the Great.

BOB HOPE

Bob Hope -- may be in jail tonight. At last reports, he was holding the fort in a Paris hotel room, defying the gendarmes. Saying: "Let them come and get me." The trouble? That whimsical comedian forgot his passport. Left it -- in London. When he landed by plane in Paris, the French Customs officials didn't think it funny at all.

Hope said he'd have some friends in London rush the passport to Paris. Where it would arrive soon, he hoped. The officials replied they'd give him five hours. If he didn't produce the passport by then he'd go to jail.

Whereupon Bob Hope went on to a hotel room where he uttered the defiance: "Let them come and get me." So, at the moment we can't be sure. Bob Hope may be in the Paris hoosegow -- which he might not find much of a laugh.

PLANE

There was a renewal of hope today -- that survivors might be found out in the Atlantic. Survivors of the Navy transport plane -- lost with forty-two aboard.

An oil slick sighted. Also, an object that might be debris. Reports are that faint distress signals have been picked up. The latest, a Spanish airliner sighting a green flare out at sea. The Spanish plane was flying from Bermuda to the Azores -- the same course on which the missing Navy plane had flown.

All -- bringing some hope -- though not too optimistic.

TORNADO

Topsail Island, North Carolina, was hit hard by Hurricane Hazel. The folks there having had enough wind and rain to last them for a long time. Today, however, Topsail Island got another dose. A small relative of the hurricane, small but violent -- a tornado.

The twister hit the island with a roar. One building lifted from its foundations and hurled against another. Both wrecked. Masses of debris -- blown across the island's only highway. Communication lines, down.

Topsail Island, isolated -- just as it was when Hurricane Hazel hit.

FUGITIVE

Here's the case of a fugitive -- who certainly must be shaking in his boots. A con-game artist who absconded, leaving a quarter of a million dollars in debts. So the F.B.I. is after him -- and so are his creditors. The F.B.I. may be -- the least of his troubles. Considering -- those creditors.

The name of this mystery man isn't given. But he operated in Buffalo. Running big deals -- on borrowed money. He'd negotiate loans -- twenty thousand dollars a crack. Promising -- fifteen hundred dollars in interest, in ten days. Paying the interest -- and getting new loans. A racket -- in the style of the legended Ponzi.

He borrowed most of the quarter of a million, from the underworld. His creditors, racketeers, in several cities. They say he owes one hundred thousand

dollars to gangland in Buffalo alone.

So now he's on the lam. Hunted -- by the
F.B.I. and by his creditors. F.B.I. officials
declare they're afraid the underworld will get him
first.

At a town in the Province of Quebec, a thief
broke into a safe and stole two hundred dollars.
But, in handling the eight-hundred-pound
safe, it fell on his hand in such a way as to wipe
off two fingertips. So the police found more -- than
fingerprints.

ROBBERY

This next bit of news is a bit grizzly.

But, in a way, it's a classic. We've heard about the criminal who leaves his fingerprints at the scene of the crime. Here's one, who left his finger-tips.

At a town in the Province of Quebec, a thief broke into a safe and stole two hundred dollars, today. But, in handling the eight-hundred-pound safe, it fell on his hand in such a way as to slice off two fingertips. So the police found more -- than fingerprints.

Returning from California have just come in, showing Republicans taking the lead in the battle for Governor. These are only a few scattered figures.

RETURNS

Let's get back to the election returns for a moment. The latest figures from Illinois seem to assure the re-election of Democratic Senator Paul Douglas.

In Connecticut -- quite a surprise -- the popular Republican Governor John Lodge has been defeated, by Ribikoff!

Maryland, on the other hand, has re-elected a Republican governor.

First returns from California have just come in, showing Republicans taking the lead in the battle for Governor. But these are only a few scattered figures.

MITCHELL

Democratic National Chairman Mitchell will resign. So says a Democratic spokesman in Washington. Revealing -- that Stephen Mitchell will step out next month. A year ago, Mitchell said he would quit as National Chairman, after the Congressional elections - no matter who won. So now he sticks to his determination, and will call the Democratic National Committee into session, to pick a successor.

This could have a meaning, for 1956. The choice of a national chairman, a test of strength. On the question, Who's to get the Democratic presidential nomination?

There is the Stevenson faction -- the defeated candidate of two years ago having played the Number One part in the Congressional campaign of the Democrats. On the other side, a number of hopefuls. Senator Kefauver for example, who made a try the last time. A victory for

Averell Harriman, running for Governor of New York, would put him in the competition. Then there are the Southerners -- always the most powerful Democratic element in Congress.

Each faction would like its own kind of Chairman, running the Democratic National Committee.

Carl Stromberg - a sailor belonging to a Swedish vessel anchored in the middle of the river. They had a party aboard at 9, and somebody dared Sailer Stromberg to swim ashore. So over the side went Stromberg.

Well, when the cops got through rescuing him, they found a boat. Rowed by a man in pajamas. The boat half full of water. Another sailor from that Swedish vessel, definitely Danish, the one who'd gotten into the boat.

SAILORS

The cold wave may make some of us shiver - but it doesn't faze the hardy men of the North. The Vikings -- of Scandinavia.

In Philadelphia today - people spied a swimmer in the Delaware River. When the police fished him out, the swimmer was halfway frozen.

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Well, when the cops got through rescuing him, they saw a boat. Rowed by a man in pajamas. The boat half full of water. Another sailor from that Swedish vessel, Helmuth Paul. Who thought -- he'd better follow his shipmate in a boat.

Helmuth was in his pajamas -- but that didn't matter. Although the boat was leaking, and started to fill up, he kept on rowing.

Well, Hugh, there's nothing like that old Viking spirit -- especially when there's a party aboard a Scandinavian ship in harbor. Skol! Down the hatch! And over the side you go!

The gunboat, built during the war -- was a pride of the Confederate Navy. But -- went on only one voyage of battle. Up the Pee-Dee River -- to help the retreat of Southern forces threatened, by Sherman's march to the sea. The vessel in the river fired away bravely with its muzzle-loading cannon. But they had to leave her there in the river -- to keep her from being captured by Sherman's army.

Tonight, at last, once again. The Confederates

gunboat, on display at night.

GUNBOAT

At Marion, South Carolina, they've raised a Confederate gunboat - which lay submerged in the Pee-Dee River, nearly ninety years. A memento of the Civil War - to be put on public exhibition. With its old-time guns, muzzle loaders, cannon balls, grape shot, armament of times gone by.

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Tonight, afloat, once again. The Confederate gunboat, an object for sightseers.

TRUFFLES

Botanists will tell you -- truffles don't grow in this Hemisphere. But that doesn't convince Adolfo Motta, San Francisco restaurant man. Who believes you'll find them in California, in the woods along the foothills of the Sierra.

When Adolfo was a boy in southern Italy, he used to go truffle-hunting with his father. Using dogs, especially trained. The truffle grows underground, near the roots of trees. Looking something like a potato - but with fuzz. No sign of a truffle, above ground. A potato with fuzz! Only to be discovered -- by the sense of smell. Sometimes pigs are used for the sniffing, even goats. But mostly, dogs. So Adolfo imported a truffle hound, which cost him -- a hundred dollars. A good deal of money in southern Italy.

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The time for truffle-hunting is when early winter rains begin to fall. Adolfo -- to start out soon, for the foothills of the Sierra. Where the truffle hound will go sniffing the ground, among the trees.

Botanists may shake their heads, but gourmets and epicures will be hoping. You can buy truffles that are not so tasty, in cans -- twelve dollars and a half a pound! Fresh truffles unobtainable. Can't be exported.

So here's to Adolfo and his truffle hound!