

POST-MORTEMS

*11:15 - P.M. Friday, June 25, 1948.
(Lowell Thomas, Jr., did live broadcast.)*

Today brings explanations of some of the mystifying doings in Philadelphia, maneuvers of the Stop-Dewey coalition. Half of the story in Philadelphia was a series of attempts by the Taft, Stassen and Vandenberg forces to get together and produce a deadlock. At the time, one felt that there was something incongruous about the Stop-Dewey coalition, a combination of discordant elements - and that's what the aftermath confirms today.

This post-mortem report relates that the biggest stumbling block of the coalition was the attitude of Senator Taft, who was really not interested in stopping Dewey, unless he could get the nomination himself. Stassen, they say, was willing to support Vandenberg, but was unable to persuade Senator Taft to throw his own strength to the Michigan Senator. Moreover, the Stassen people had their doubts about Taft's ability to swing his delegates to Vandenberg - because the Taft delegates represented the opposition to the Vandenberg foreign policy.

Taft is described as having tried persistently to persuade Stassen to take second place on a Taft-Stassen ticket, which Stassen refused to do - he, refusing to believe that he himself could not get the presidential nomination. But, in this case too, there was doubt about the swing of delegates - would the Stassen-minded people switch over to Taft? Once again there was the fact of opposition in matters of international policy - the Taft and the Stassen people being poles apart. So the elements of the Stop-Dewey coalition were too discordant, and simply refused to jell.

And they all miscalculated Dewey's actual strength. They thought that on the second ballot he would reach a peak of four hundred and seventy-five, but he actually got five hundred and fifteen, with only thirty-three to go - and then it was too late to stop him.

~~Well, all that brings us to the top news headline~~
~~this afternoon.~~ A dispatch from Philadelphia ^{states} ~~stating~~ that
Governor Dewey, if elected, will make Warren what Dewey
calls - "a full partner." In a press conference, the new
presidential candidate told the newsmen that, if he goes to
the White House, he will reorganize the government. And
that's Dewey - the administrator, speaking. To which he added,
he expects to take full advantage of his running mate's -
"administrative ability."

Governor Dewey stated: "I'm sure he could be
relieved of his Senate duties sufficiently so that he could
give a large part of his time to the administration of our
government. Then Dewey emphasized it again:- "he will be a
full partner in the administration."

~~I didn't see Governor Dewey today, or last night~~
~~after his nomination.~~ I did have a chat with him several
times, while the Convention battle was going along, after
which I thought - let's let him alone. You know how it is
~~if you see somebody swamped with people swarming all over him,~~

And now comes the latest out of Philadelphia on the subject. (Governor Warren states that there is a definite likelihood that Dewey, if elected, will make the vice-presidency a Cabinet post, with large administrative responsibilities. He was asked if this prospect of Cabinet rank had influenced his decision to accept the vice-presidential nomination. To which he replied: "Yes, very definitely.")

PALESTINE

(Egypt is charged officially with violating the truce in Palestine. Egyptian troops fired on a ^{Q.W.M. for} convoy.)

The story is this. In the southern desert of Palestine are Jewish villages which are isolated and would starve -- if food were not brought in. Under the U N truce arranged by the mediator for the United Nations, Count Bernadotte of Sweden, - It is permissible to send convoys to such places. So he arranged for truckloads of provisions to be sent, and informed the Egyptian government to that effect. The Egyptians objected, but the U N mediator acted with decision -- and ordered the food convoy to proceed. Whereupon the trucks were fired on by Egyptian soldiers acting on orders from their officers.

Count Bernadotte has protested to the Egyptian government and informs the Security Council of the United Nations that he considers the violation - a serious incident.

The Egyptian government is likewise

involved in an attack made on an American airplane in Palestine -- an observation aircraft doing patrol duty for the United Nations. Egyptian fighters attacked and fifteen bullets hit the American plane. The pilot, however, was uninjured, and landed safely.

Count Bernadotte immediately lodged a protest with the Egyptian government and this incident ~~was~~ comes to a quick solution. Egypt today apologised, with the explanation that the attacking pilot fired on the American plane by mistake.

Palestine troubles were ~~not~~ reflected in New York today when a band of sixty young men and women invaded the consular office of the government of ^{Israel} ~~Israel~~. The invaders were members of a Jewish organization in ~~not~~ sympathy with the extremist organization Irgun Svai Leumi.

We have been hearing lately ~~of~~ of clashes between Irgun and the regular army of Israel - Haganah -- this because Haganah stopped an Irgun attempt to bring a ship load of armament into Israel in violation of the Palestine truce. Irgun has

proclaimed an insurrection against the government of
Israel.

In the New York affray today Irgun sympathizers stormed the consulate of the Jewish state. There were fights all over the place, and the vice consul was beaten up -- the trouble going on until the New York police intervened and drove the invaders out of the building.

GERMANY

(The Soviets have called off their ban on railroad and highway transportation for the Western Allies in Berlin. ^{This being} the latest in the puzzling game that the Russians are playing.) For several days it looked as if Moscow had finally got around to a decisive campaign to freeze out the Americans, British and French -- a freeze-out that has ^{been} threatening all along. ^R The Western powers ~~are~~ ^{were} expecting the worst -- admitting that if the Soviet rail and highway block continued, there would be no way to feed the two-and-a-half million Germans in the Western sectors of Berlin.)

^R (In the House of Commons today, Foreign Minister Bevin stated that the Soviets would not be able to starve out Western Berlin in a hurry -- because of the food stocks on hand that would last for days. At the same time it was admitted in London, and Washington ~~was~~ too, that, if the Berlin blockade continued, there would be no way of feeding the German population ~~for~~ for any period of time.) ~~The Western Allies could provision their own personnel by air -- but not two-and-a-half~~

~~million people.~~

With ~~all this~~ ^{things} looking most ominous the Soviets today went into another of their sudden gyrations, turning around completely and announcing that rail and highway service for the Western powers would be open again, transport to be resumed on Tuesday.

~~But, at the same time, the Russians imposed a new ban -- stopping shipments of coal ~~from~~ from Eastern Germany to the Western sector of Berlin. They say they are doing this in retaliation of a British stoppage of hard-coal shipments to the Ruhr. All of which makes matters more bewildering.~~

It may be that the ~~big~~ back-down of the Reds in the food blockade of Western Berlin ^{can} ~~be~~ be connected with events in ^{Warsaw} ~~Berlin~~ today. There the Soviets have been ^{holding} ~~holding~~ an eight-power conference with their satellites, ~~to~~ set up a puppet government of Eastern Germany to compete with the unified regime the Allies have established ^{in ~~Western~~ Western Germany.} ~~in Western Germany.~~

Today the conference at Warsaw ended, and an announcement of a plan for ^{the East} ~~the~~ German government was to have been made. The communique was scheduled for release at ~~ix~~ eleven a.m., but was delayed -- the release to be ~~md~~ made early in the afternoon, between twelve and two. But, ~~night~~ came to Warsaw -- and still there was no communique giving plans for the establishment of an East German puppet government. A news conference on the subject was scheduled, ~~for~~ ^{and} the foreign correspondents in Warsaw hurried to that, -- **But,** it was cancelled suddenly and without explanation.

All we know is that the Soviet and puppet delegations departed amid salutations from Communist organizations, but no enlightenment on what the Red gathering may have accomplished.

FOLLOW GERMANY

Here is a bit of financial news from Berlin which illustrates Russian difficulties behind the Soviet trouble-making moves. Today in ^{the} Red sector of the German capital money-changers of the black market were offering twenty-five marks for one mark of the new currency established by the western allies.

It all comes out of the setting up of a unified government in western Germany, under the sponsorship of the United States, Great Britain and France. The new West-German state has issued new money to take the place of the ~~new~~ old bad money which has been ~~in~~ circulating hitherto -- marks of a most uncertain value.

The trouble for the Soviets was that the Germans would certainly prefer the bank notes controlled by the western allies ~~as~~ instead of the old and dubious paper. So the Russians countered by issuing new currency of their own -- financial competition.

How well this is working is shown by that bit of news tonight -- money changers offering to exchange Soviet marks for western marks, at the rate of twenty-five to one.

D.P.

(President Truman today signed the bill to
admit ~~in~~ two-hundred-and-five thousand displaced Europeans
~~in~~ to the United States, but he signed with an angry
rebuke for Congress. He said the bill to bring in the
D.P.'s included restrictions that discriminate against
Jews and Catholics, ~~and that~~ ^{He said} he signed it only because,
if he vetoed it, no displaced persons would get in at
all.)

FIGHT

The news has just flashed -- Louis knocked Wolcott out in the 11th round. It was the same kind of fight as before, but this time Louis caught Wolcott in the 11th and finished him off.

COAL

The new coal contract was signed in Washington today -- the agreement that averts the menace of a coal strike. The companies and John L. Lewis took their seats at the table, and appended signatures.

Only one discordant note -- a walkout by U. S. Steel, which owns captive mines, and is a big coal producer. The negotiator for the Steel company refused to accept one clause in the contract -- a clause providing for a Union shop. But the others went ahead with the contract that ~~provides the~~ ^{gives a} pay boost of ~~one~~ ^a dollar a day ~~for each coal miner~~ and a hike in royalties for the Union welfare fund. Under the old contract the coal companies paid ten cents a ton into the welfare fund. Today they agreed on another ten cents, doubling the former figure ~~for~~ and making it a royalty of twenty cents a ton -- a fund out of which old age pensions are now being paid to soft coal miners.

Except in these two increases, the new contract is the same as the old -- including the provision for a Union shop, which caused U. S. Steel

PHILADELPHIA BET

In Philadelphia today, people gaped in astonishment at -- a man in an overcoat - a big heavy fur coat. Philadelphia Convention weather has been advertised around the world and it was just as hot today. So why wear a fur coat?

You guessed it -- a convention bet.

Bernard Kirschner was an enthusiast for Taft. He said that if Senator Taft lost, he would walk from City Hall to Dewey Headquarters muffled in a fur coat fit for the North Pole. He did just that today and around his neck hung a ^{SIGN} ~~sign~~: "I lost".

Well, he sure did lose and paid for it with -- perspiration.

History records many a famous word, spoken at a great moment, a turning point. There was Caesar, as he crossed the Rubicon, shouting - "The die is cast!" We can recall various others - "Don't give up the ship" and - "Lafayette we are here!"

So last night, when the Republican Convention at Philadelphia made its decision, there was another famous exclamation, or - at least, it ought to be famous. This was in the hotel suite of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas E. Dewey. Today, Mrs. Dewey was asked - what was her reaction when the news broke that her husband had won the presidential nomination, and might very well become the next President? ~~To that~~

She says that
~~question she replied with~~ her exclamation was - "Oh, dear!"

Which is no Hallelujah; but ^{is in fact} the old familiar sigh ^{denoting} ~~of some~~ slight feminine worry.

Today Mrs. Dewey explained: "I guess it was a rather selfish reaction. But I couldn't help feeling the great weight of responsibility. I was proud of my husband, of course, but," she added, "I've always been proud of him - so that's not news."

Well, I think I can add something further to explain that bothered exclamation ^{of a} "Oh, dear!" I have this from the womenfolk^s of our neighborhood up in Dutchess County, New York, who tell me what Mrs. Dewey has told them in the past - her misgivings about her husband's position as Governor. They have two boys, Tommy and Johnny, who are now fifteen and twelve respectively. And the great concern of their mother is to see that they ~~are~~ ^{are} reared as normal boys. Her fear has been that, as sons of the Governor of the State, the two youngsters growing up might incur the disadvantages of what is called - the limelight. She has wanted them to be as other boys, and has felt that this was difficult, when their father was - Governor.

All of which is one of the reasons for the character of the Dewey household when away from the Governor's mansion in Albany. They have a modest place outside of the Village of Pawling, a farm where practical agriculture goes on. Tom Dewey makes a go at it, runs a successful farm - unlike

the usual run of ~~successful~~ city people who take a fancy to farming. That's where, in large part, the Dewey boys have been raised for the past ^{ten} ~~eight~~ years or so - in a simple rural home, kept away as much as possible from the limelight that goes with the office of Governor.

But now what has happened? Mrs. Dewey, as things stand for her, can only see ahead - the White House. So that's why her reaction was - "Oh, dear!"

Well, ^{Nelson} what would be your reaction? Oh dear,

VICE-PRESIDENT

The nomination of a vice-presidential candidate at Philadelphia today brought forth promptly an angle that has long been something of a puzzler in our American system of government.

It is obvious that the Dewey-Warren ticket is, from a geographical standpoint, perfect - the east and the west, the Atlantic seaboard and the Pacific coast, New York and California. Moreover, the Republican ticket represents quite a combination of personalities. On the one hand, a polished eastern lawyer-Governor; product of a small town in Michigan, - but Thomas E. Dewey fits into the picture as the man who made good in the greatest city in the world. Earl Warren, on the other hand, big, genial, something of the rough-and-ready type, traditional of the west. He personifies the mountains and great plains, the tall trees, the mines, ^{and} the soil.

Yes, Warren's nomination is a puzzler. Many are asking the question - how did they get the California Governor to take second place on the ticket? He refused it cold four

years ago. And, he said this time - that he wouldn't take it. What caused him suddenly to change his mind? Well, that takes us to the angle which has been a puzzle in the history of American government. In accepting the vice-presidential nomination, Governor Warren stated that he would take it only if it were made into a working job. Only, that is, if the vice-presidency were made into something more than merely wielding the gavel as presiding officer in the Senate.

Which brings up the question - what duties can we give a vice-president so that he'll have more responsibility and get more experience in the large affairs of government? When you analyze it, you find that, as things stand, there just isn't much for a vice-president to do. The President has his Cabinet; and, every member of that Cabinet is really a vice-president when you think of the functions that should go with those two words. The Cabinet members must work together with their chief - and how can you put one vice-president over all those other vice-presidents?

and you figure, the best thing you can do for him is turn around and walk away. And you can imagine the way they piled up at Dewey headquarters after nomination last night, and all day today - important political figures, on hand for conferences about the vice-presidential issue, others with other large affairs to discuss, crowds and well-wishers - not to mention the self-seekers. Ordinarily, the polite thing is to go over and congratulate. But, in this case, it seemed to me that the courteous thing was - to stay away, and take a train.

On the train, however, I encountered somebody with whom to discuss that vice-presidential matter, Former President Herbert Hoover and his sons were aboard -- returning from the Convention. After that electrifying ovation, which seemed to stun him, but which must give him a warm feeling of joy to look back upon, like a final vindication for Herbert Hoover, who had the worst breaks as President; and who now has been restored to a greater stature than ever as an American elder statesman.

He told me that he had long pondered on the problem of the Number Two Man. In his own administration, he had taken Vice-President Curtis into the Cabinet - the first President to do this.

We talked of what functions could be given to the Vice-President. Well, there is one job of Cabinet stature that could be created for Earl Warren, in the event of a Republican victory at the polls. Our government has now become so tremendous in its bureaucratic dimensions, with so many scores of thousands of employees, that a new Cabinet officer could be created to take charge of all those bureaucratic government services. If the vice-president were given that responsibility with Cabinet rank, it would be a tremendous experience, and would make him a much stronger executive, more able to take over the duties of the President - if that should become necessary.

Such was the conversation with former President ~~Herbert Hoover on the train~~. And now comes the latest out of

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WARREN

It happened that in Philadelphia I had a chance to get acquainted with the Vice-presidential candidate -- acquainted under rather remarkable circumstances. You might say -- we met in the Bubble.

It so happened that I had a chance to use the new mobile unit that CBS had brought to Philadelphia, a radio novelty -- the bubble -- I called it -- with the plexi-glass dome; and in it we drove to Convention Hall to ~~pick~~ pick up Governor Warren. He must have been astonished, when he saw that "goldfish bowl," as he termed it. But he took it all in stride. It's hard to ^{disconcert} ~~disconcert~~ a Californian. ^R Any of you who happened to have heard this program on Monday night, may recall what a strange way it was to put a Presidential candidate on the ~~air~~ air -- riding through Philadelphia streets as if we were a circus parade, everybody gaping. We had our coats off. Radio control men operating their gadgets, the Governor and I talking into the microphone. And by this time we were in Broad Street,

surrounded by a huge crowd. Thousands around the Bubble, blocking traffic.

The way Governor Warren took these weird radio doings is illustrated by a remark he made. He said he was sorry his three daughters were not with us in the Bubble -- they would have enjoyed the novel experience.

I asked the Governor about his two sons -- young fellows of around college age. He said -- No, they didn't want to come to the Convention, at which ~~the~~ their father was a Presidential candidate. So, they went fishing. To which I remarked -- yes, young fellows of that age were sometimes ^{inclined to pass up the} ~~negligible of the~~ more important things, ~~in the world and~~ more concerned with athletic pastimes. Warren replied that he never ~~interfered~~ interfered with his sons in that respect, and it was all right with him -- if they wanted to go fishing, instead of ^{journeying} ~~going~~ to see father in a ~~xxx~~ presidential race. All of which now winds up with father running for vice-president.