

VICE-PRESIDENT

*L.J. - Seneca. Friday, June 28, 1940.*

46

So it's Willkie and McNary. It took just one ballot this afternoon in Philadelphia to select the second man for the Republican ticket - Senator Charles L. McNary of Oregon. It was short and snappy - nothing in doubt - once they had ~~got~~ McNary's consent to take the vice-presidential nomination.

The political news-day began with a whole series of repetitions of that two-letter word - "No". Thomas E. Dewey said it. The New York District Attorney, having lost out in yesterday's dramatic presidential contest, announced that he would not accept any vice-presidential nomination. The same thing was said with equal firmness by the other leading contender whom Willkie defeated yesterday, - Senator Taft. No vice-presidency for him. Or for Senator Vandenberg - he too said "No", as did Governor Bricker of Ohio. And Governor Carr of Colorado and Hanford MacNider of Iowa - all shook their heads negatively.

It was a whole series of self-eliminations, so far as the vice-presidency was concerned. Governor Stassen of Minnesota, who was the convention<sup>al</sup> keynoter and acted as floor manager for Willkie, was not even considered. He's ~~i~~ only

thirty-three, two years too young for the vice-presidency.

But what about Senator McNary? He too said "No".

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In Washington he declared he did not want second place on the Republican ticket. But they didn't let it go at that. McNary was the logical man. Candidate Willkie and his leaders wanted a statesman from the Far West in Number Two position for the campaign. And the gentleman from Oregon, 'so long a distinguished Republican leader, was decidedly - "it". They got him on the telephone and urged him. The Senator was informed that former Governor Landon, the Republican presidential candidate in Nineteen Thirty-Six, was going to second the McNary nomination today. The pressure was too great to be resisted. <sup>P</sup> In Washington he stated to the newspaper men:- "I've told them all along that I don't want the job. I recognize though," he added, "that there are some things you have to do for the sake of the party.

~~Then he was asked: "Will you run on the Willkie~~

~~ticket?"~~

*I'll take it,*  
"If it is imposed on me," Senator McNary replied.

Well, it was imposed on him - and that's that.

~~The convention proceeded to declare its vice-presidential choice~~  
~~and the vote was as follows: McNary, eight hundred and ninety-two.~~  
~~Congressman Dewey Short of Missouri, one hundred and six. Senator~~  
~~Bridges of New Hampshire, two.~~ So it is Willkie and McNary  
running on this year's Republican slogan - "Preparedness, Peace,  
and Prosperity."

48

WILLKIE LIFE SKETCH

As I came out of the Convention Hall a delegate stopped me and said:- "I have now voted for two Presidential candidates in my lifetime, one a Democrat and one a Republican. Both got the nomination <sup>and</sup> ~~under rather similar circumstances, and~~ both had first and second names that began with W:- Woodrow Wilson, Wendell Willkie. Said the delegate, "So you see, Willkie can't lose."

Upon arrival at Movietone to help on the newsreel special on Willkie, the office manager <sup>Ed Kelly</sup> said: "Why, I prophesied this weeks ago and knew it could go no other way." When I asked him why, he explained that when Willkie came in to be filmed for the "Information Please" reel, <sup>Kelly</sup> ~~he~~ told him that he was certain to be nominated because every candidate <sup>for important office</sup> who actually came to the Movietone studio to be photographed there, always won. And, he cited many ~~others~~ who had been victorious in their campaigns.

These are just samples of the cockeyed stories that will start going the rounds regarding this exceedingly colorful man who has been ~~six~~ selected as the standard bearer of the Republican party, the man who was a political unknown until only a few months ago.

salary on the grounds that he would be getting more than the President of the United States, and thought nobody ought to earn more than the President.

Politically he was a Democrat, voted for and contributed to the first election of Franklin D. Roosevelt, and afterwards kicked himself for doing it. Then came his battles with the New Deal, the debates and fights that brought him into the public eye. Businessmen ~~everywhere~~ began to look upon him as a champion. And, although only forty-eight years old, <sup>and</sup> a few months ago politically unknown, his ability as a scrapper, as an executive, as a speaker, and his friendly smile, so captured the young Republicans that, well, the unprecedented thing occurred. And, there's no doubt but what his adherents are wildly, almost fanatically enthusiastic about him.

50  
One of the interesting sidelights on the ~~convention~~ Convention, to me, was the way everybody was flooded with telegrams, telegrams of a type I have never seen before. For instance, Colonel Ted Roosevelt pulled a wad of them out of his pocket and read <sup>me</sup> the first one. It was from a woman who knew

Colonel Roosevelt, and what she wired him was: "If you don't make Wendell Willkie the candidate I'll do so-and-so and so-and-so to you." And Colonel Roosevelt told me it was from a woman who never before had taken the slightest interest in politics.

Yes, it looks as though we are in for an interesting campaign.

ROOSEVELT

51  
President Roosevelt said today that he was willing to meet Wendell Willkie, and confer with him on foreign policy. He made this statement in response to the question whether he and the Republican nominee might get together and discuss a common approach to international affairs. The obvious purpose of this would be to take the war issue out of the campaign. If both of the major parties were to harmonize their attitude toward foreign affairs - ~~there~~ wouldn't be any point of campaign dispute.

With this in mind, let's take a look at a London newspaper. The EVENING STANDARD was the only London paper today to print comment on last night's nomination. The British slant is this:- "The issue of foreign policy," says the London EVENING STANDARD, "has now been removed from the forthcoming electoral battle. Regarding the question of aid to the Allies," it continues, "Willkie agrees with Roosevelt."

The President took what may well be an opening shot at the utilities angle of the Willkie career. He apologized for being a few minutes late for the White House press conference, and said the reason was, the White House elevator was out of gear -

<sup>Power</sup>  
~~somebody has~~ cut off ~~the power~~. F.D.R. made a joke of that and said he hoped that the electrical incident in the White House had nothing to do with the nomination at Philadelphia last night.

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As a companion piece to that presidential whimsy, here's an announcement from Philadelphia - that Willkie will resign from the presidency of the Commonwealth and Southern Corporation. As the head of that <sup>West utilities</sup> ~~utilities~~ company he rose to fame - battling against government competition by the T.V.A. Willkie was re-elected President of Commonwealth and Southern only a few days ago. Now, being candidate for the presidency of the United States, he is resigning as President of the Company.



DEMOCRATS

Here's something that sounds rather peculiar in the news today - a similarity of words. In the Democratic comment on the Willkie nomination, Postmaster General Farley spoke of it as follows:- <sup>It</sup> "He greatly clarifies the issue before the nation - which is a good thing," said he. Then he added:- "The question is of course, 'what sets of forces are to conduct our government' - - the historic American processes", said Jim Farley, "or some new and somewhat foreign methods of concentrated control?" Presumably the Willkie ticket represents "the somewhat foreign forces",  
the  
according to <sup>^</sup>Postmaster General.

53  
Now take this other statement made by Democratic Speaker <sup>of</sup>  
~~Congressman~~ <sup>the House</sup> Bankhead of Alabama. He spoke of the Willkie nomination as providing what he called "a clear-cut division between the two major parties." "If the voter<sup>s</sup>," said Bankhead of Alabama, "wished to place ~~an executive~~ in control of forces which are somewhat foreign to our usual American life, they have a constitutional right to do so." Once again, the mention of -  
"forces somewhat foreign."

That's a curious similarity. It sounds as though the

Postmaster General and the Democratic Congressional Leader were repeating some pre-arranged line of argument. I wonder what they mean - the somewhat foreign forces attributed to the Republicans.

RUMANIA

Stalin, the Red Dictator, accomplished his latest grab today. Red Army troops marched into the Rumanian Province of Bessarabia and the northern part of Bukovina. The Rumanians offered no resistance. King Carol's government had to bow supinely to the Stalin ultimatum, backed by the military power of the Soviets.

Nazi Germany. This line of reasoning points out that Stalin is edging in toward Germany on all sides, the Soviets getting into position to resist the swollen power of <sup>the</sup> ~~Nazi~~ <sup>S</sup>Germany. The Germans are alarmed about this, says the comment from London - and the Italians also are alarmed by the Communist advance. Indeed, there's one report that Hitler advised King Carol to give into Stalin - temporarily. Let the Soviets get by with their push - for the time being. And later on, Germany will fix that. That's one rumor among many conflicting rumors.

54  
A ~~report from~~ Bucharest <sup>reports</sup> ~~declares~~ that the Rumanian army is being ordered to mobilize - not against the Soviets, of course. It's a case of Hungary and Bulgaria, both of which nations want to get back territory that Rumania took from them in times past. Germany and Italy are said to be keeping Hungary quiet for the moment, so that actual war won't flare in the Balkans. Rome reports that ~~xx~~ Bulgaria has made a formal demand on Rumania, saying - "hand over the Province of Dobrudja." They say that the Bulgarian requirement was sent to Bucharest ~~simultaneously~~

simultaneously with the Stalin ultimatum.

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Turkey is much concerned by the Soviet advance - pushing down the Black Sea coast toward Istanbul. Turkey of course is afraid of any Russian move ~~aimed in the~~ aimed in the direction of that ancient City of Constantinople - the key point which controls the Black Sea, Russia's southern line of water communication. Constantinople has been a Russian dream since the days of Ivan the Terrible, Peter the Great, and Catherine the Great. And Stalin looks more and more like a Red Communist successor to the Czars of old. So no wonder we hear that Turkey today called two additional military classes to the color<sup>s</sup> and that units of the Turkish fleet are moving through the Bosphorus and into the Black Sea.

WHITE BOOK

The Germans today issued another one of their White Books, in which they make the usual accusation - that the Germans merely went ahead and did what the Allies had intended to do. This - with reference to the invasion of Holland and Belgium. The evidence is also as usual - documents which the Germans claim to have seized in the conquered countries. The White Book charge is that Great Britain and France were planning to invade the Low Countries - ~~xxx~~ with the connivance of the Dutch and Belgian governments. The purpose of the invasion - to strike at Germany's great industrial area in the Ruhr Valley, from the rear.

## BRITAIN

56

British apprehension of a German invasion was revealed today in a series of orders issued by the British government. London has decreed a defense area along the entire east coast of England - from London to Scotland. A strip twenty-five miles deep is now devoted entirely to defense measures, armed guard against possible German landings along the coast.

Evacuation plans in Great Britain have been radically changed. This was announced today. Hitherto, it has been a case of removing children from cities which might be bombed. ~~precautions against air attack.~~ Today's evacuation decree applies to everybody ~~in various areas,~~ and is a precaution against the imminent threat of invasion.

And the British government has demilitarized the Channel Islands; These are bits of land between Great Britain and France in the region of Cherbourg. They're being left without defense. Military equipment has already been withdrawn. The reason - the islands are so near to the French coast occupied by the Germans, that the British cannot defend them. So they're demilitarized, and ~~w~~ one supposes that the Germans are likely to seize them.

FRANCE

57  
Today, the British government <sup>took another step towards</sup> ~~formally and officially broke~~

<sup>breaking</sup>  
^

relations with the government of France - the regime headed by Marshal Petain. London recognizes the French National Committee set up in London by General deGaulle, the Committee which refuses to recognize the armistice made by the Ministry in France. Of course, the deGaulle Committee and the Petain Cabinet are bitterly at odds. DeGaulle has been deprived of his rank and ordered to face military trial if he ever returns to France.

All of which adds decisive points to the following announcement issued in London. "His Majesty's Government," says the declaration, "recognizes General deGaulle as leader of all free Frenchmen, wherever they may be, who rally to him in support of the Allied cause." <sup>This means</sup> Official British support of the attempt

to keep the French colonies in the war. <sup>Altho a later London report describes the De Gaulle Committee as trying to form a French Foreign Legion</sup> ~~How successful this may be is made the more doubtful~~ to fight against Germany.

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Word from Syria; ~~where~~ the French Commander, General Mittlehauser, has announced that hostilities are at an end, so we are told. Of course, there were never any particular hostilities between the French-Syrian armies on the one hand and the Germans



58 1/2  
on the other. The meaning of it is that General Mittlehauser has seen fit to recognize the Petain Cabinet as the government of France and is obeying its orders. We hear that Turkish troops may occupy Syria, if the French lay down their arms. The story is that the Turks don't want to go to war with Germany, but they'll fight if the Italians try to take Syria.

In North Africa, General Nogués is said to be defying the armistice concluded in France - we've been hearing that all along. Today's rumor is that the Petain government is sending a general to dismiss such French officers in North Africa as refuse to recognize the armistice and have anything to do with the deGaulle Committee in London.

59  
Reports in London seem to indicate that the attempt to keep the French colonies in the war is not having much success - and this applies to units of the French fleet that are stationed in colonial harbors.

And now Hugh, what's new here at home in the Blue Sunoco line.

S-l - until Monday.