

L.T. - Dallas, Wed., Feb. 29, 1956.

That news conference at the White House was a study in -
suspense. A quality beloved by novelists and playwrights -
how to keep you breathless and waiting, minute after minute.
Virtually - in a state of suspended animation. They should
take some lessons - from President Eisenhower.

The suspense - of course, had been building up for
long weeks. Then - ^a case of waiting, day after day. Finally,
this morning, it was - minute by minute. When the President
faced - a record breaking news conference. Three hundred
and eleven reporters and photographers jammed in the room.
All - it could hold. Forty newsmen - turned away because of
lack of space.

No one would suspect our soldier President of a genius
for the dramatic - who merely wanted to keep the news
reporters on tenterhooks. ~~If it had been F.D.R. - wow!~~
President Eisenhower knew what they had come for. The whole
world apprised - that the big announcement would be made today,

to run - or not to run. The reporters - eager to get the headline "Yes" or "No." So why keep them waiting, while talking about other things - minute after minute? Why the suspense?

Well, the simple fact is - the President had a few statements he wanted to make about other matters. Feeling - that these should be communicated. But who would have ~~xxx~~ paid much attention - after the big news was out?

He began by telling the newsmen - that public support ~~is~~ ~~was~~ vitally necessary for the new Red Cross campaign. Then he

spoke of Italian President Gronchi, who is on a formal visit ^K And who addressed a joint session of Congress today. to this country. ^{some} He had nice words ^{to say} about the President of

Italy - international courtesy.

By now reporters ~~xxx~~ were fidgeting like the proverbial cat on the hot griddle. But the President went on to speak about the administration farm bill - urging speedy action in Congress. What did the newsmen care about the farm bill? Or -

about the upper Colorado basin development? That came next.

Never has a girl been more anxious - while waiting for a suitor to pop the question.

There were seven minutes of Presidential statements on other subjects, before Mr. Eisenhower ^{added that} ~~said~~ he had something else to discuss. Which he put in these modest words: "Now, my next announcement involves something more personal. But I think it will be of interest to you - because you have asked me so many questions about it."

What he thereupon said - began a new suspense. Which will continue - until the President goes on television and radio tonight. Ten to ten thirty - and you can get it on CBS television and radio. It will be on - this station.

This morning, he used these words: "My answer will be positive. ~~This~~ That is -- affirmative." But he added - that he could not give a simple "yes" or "no" answer. There were too many factors involved, and a fuller explanation to the American people - was necessary.

He said he would not allow his name to be put before the G O P National Convention, until everybody knew and understood - those factors. Which are - the current state of his health. And - the type of election campaign he would be willing to undertake.

The President added that, after he has explained these factors to the public tonight, the Republican Convention - might not want to nominate him. ^{Which is} Most unlikely - but, here's the way the President expressed it: -

"I don't know, ~~certainly~~ for certain - that the Republican Convention, after hearing the entire story, will want me. I don't know whether the people will want me."

Pal Which certainly does keep up - the suspense.

President Eisenhower declared that he hadn't made up his mind - until yesterday. Still arguing with himself - yesterday morning. Last night, he confided his answer - to half a dozen people. His decision, at the last minute - a

qualified acceptance.

All of which, of course, contradicts those insistent rumors - that President Eisenhower, days ago, told Republican leaders. That - he'd run. Today, he said - nobody could have known his decision at the time. Because he didn't know it, himself.

The question of the Vice President - came up. Would it be Nixon? The President would not commit himself on that point. He wouldn't say that he had any choice - for second place on the ticket. But he spoke in high praise of Vice President Nixon - as he has been doing all along.

So that's the story at this hour - on this leap year day of February Twenty-Ninth. Which had been indicated - as the day of decision. In the morning - an acceptance. But - with qualifications to be given tonight. The long awaited answer - in two installments.

Decision day - a sort of political D-Day. Reminiscent of that famous military D-Day - in the Second World War. The Normandy invasion - when General Ike launched the forces of the West against the Nazi power on the continent. Dwight David Eisenhower - having two D-Days.

EISENHOWER REACTIONS

The reactions are quick - electrical, in fact. Republican leaders - not waiting for the President's qualifying address tonight. All for Ike - in advance of anything he might say.

On the Democratic side, there's immediate indication that the question of the President's health will figure prominently in the campaign. This was indicated emphatically, today, by Democratic Chairman Butler. On the other hand, there are Democratic leaders ~~na~~ who express their gratification - that President Eisenhower feels in good enough health to run for the White House again.

The reaction ~~As expected~~ of the New York stock market was - as expected. Scenes of jubilation, when the flash came ^{that} Ike will run. Stock brokers cheering - even dancing. Prices went soaring to new high levels - in the heaviest ~~na~~ trading in months.

Later, there was a drop in the market, when it was

realized - that the President's offer to seek re-election, depended on conditions to be laid before the voters tonight.

As for the interest abroad, here's a dispatch from London. Where the British Broadcasting Corporation has a policy of rarely, if ever, breaking into programs, To give news bulletins. And, today, a popular favorite was being broadcast. Britain's most popular soap opera - called "Mrs. Dale's Diary."

Well, "Mrs. Dale's Diary" was on the air - when, suddenly, it was interrupted. A news announcer cutting in with the headline. Saying - "Ike is willing."

After which they went on with "Mrs. Dale's Diary" Britain's favorite soap opera.

Secretary of State John Foster Dulles testified before a Senate sub-committee, today, and said - it would be "reckless" to rule out the possibility of World War Three. Merely because the United States and Soviet Russia have reached an atomic stalemate. "Events could happen," he said, "which would lead, perhaps by successive stages, to the use of these awesome ~~weapons~~ weapons." Which, he added, would "inevitably destroy a great part of the human race."

The Secretary, however, saw hopeful signs - declaring, "There is some reason to believe that the Soviet Union, itself, would greatly welcome relief from the present burden of armament." Explaining - that the Russian people are dissatisfied with conditions. And some degree of disarmament - would enable Moscow to improve the standard of ~~ix~~ living.

All of which was accompanied by new Democratic charges - that Secretary Dulles had been painting too optimistic a picture of the world crisis.

SUB ALABAMA

Monday morning, March Fifth, nine a.m. will be zero hour at the University of Alabama. A federal judge, tonight - ordering the negro coed, Autherine Lucy, be admitted into class at that time. On hearing the verdict, the young woman said - in a tone of triumph: "I will be back in school Monday morning."

The negro coed also demands - full privileges ■■ of the campus. The Judge said - he'd give a ruling on that, Friday.

At the same time, Judge Hobart Grooms exonerated the University officials of contempt of court. Finding - that they had not incited disorder. And were justified in cancelling the admission of Autherine Lucy. In the face of menacing violence.

Today's verdict was based on the Supreme Court decision - outlawing racial segregation in schools. The Judge saying - the Constitution must be upheld.

Testimony in court pictured \wedge increasing tenseness at the University City of Tuscaloosa. Opinions given that Autherine Lucy would be subject to further violence, when she attends class again.

Apparently, strong protection measures will have to be taken by the State - if more trouble is to be averted.

ITALY

In Italy, today, hundreds of thousands of people prayed for the success of two operations. Performed at a hospital in Milan. Both operations - illegal. But the law is not interfering.

According to the statutes in Italy, it is forbidden - for anyone to bequeath any part of his body to another. Yet a dying priest in Milan - donated his eyes.

Don Carlo Ghocchi (nyo-kee) had, for many years, dedicated his life to afflicted children. Especially those who were blind. So his donation was accepted by ^a ~~the~~ hospital
A
- although it was against the law.

The chief surgeon selected two children, a twelve year old boy and an eight year old girl. Each - to be rescued from blindness. Each - to have one eye.

Today, the two ~~■~~ operations were performed - a cornea transplanted, in each case. Surgery, say the doctors, was a success, technically. But they'll have to wait from five to eight days - to see how it works.

The ^{of this} word spread throughout Italy, and people went flocking to churches and shrines, praying - for the success of the illegal operations.

ETNA

We've been having cold weather news from Europe. Now - fiery. About a mountain - snow capped. With extra heavy masses of ice and snow on its lofty summit - this frosty winter.

Mt. Etna, that eleven thousand foot volcano - in Sicily. Bursting - into eruption with a series of explosions - at the rate of one every two or three seconds. Each eruption hurling red hot lava high in the sky. Together with a burst of smoke - shaped like an atomic mushroom. Huge puffs - one after another.

As for the deep snow that had been up there covering the crater? It went up in steam with the first of this new series of Mt. Etna eruptions.

BALLOON

The Navy says good-bye - to number twenty. The latest balloon - launched hitherto- drifted across the Pacific to the United States. Each one - a complete success in gathering scientific ^{data.} ~~radar~~ Six others were lost - at sea, presumably. While two came down - in Soviet Siberia. ^{two} Those weather balloons - going the wrong way.

As for Number Twenty, it was last reported seven hundred and eighty miles south of Midway Island. That was at six P.M., yesterday - when the final signal was received. The balloon - ^{— sending} ~~— sending~~ automatic radio signals every two hours.

No further word has been received from Number Twenty - which, presumably, came to grief, ~~and~~ somehow, out there in the Pacific - South of Midway.

LEAP_YEAR

I don't feel at all confident, reciting the news, tonight - too much competition from the ladies. Sweet feminine voices - in North Dakota. Preceding and following - this program.

John Boler, President of the North Dakota Broadcasting Company tells me that our CBS affiliates, in that rugged northern state, have been taken over by the women folk. The ladies - in charge of both television and radio. This being - the leap year day.

North Dakota, in fact, has a woman Governor at the moment. Janette Davis, singing star of the Arthur Godfrey show. Appointed by Governor Norman Brunsdale - as his own substitute, for February Twenty Ninth. So here's to the lady governor of North Dakota - in fact to all the ladies in North Dakota. And, Henry, let's not stop there - here's to the ladies everywhere!