

LOWELL THOMAS SUNOCO BROADCAST

June 15, 1932.

Chicago is on its toes for what promises to be THE big scene of the Convention. We have had two sessions of the G.O.P. already. But as everybody has agreed, we aint seen nothing yet. And tonight will come what everybody expects to be the big fight, ~~This is~~ the fight on the prohibition plank. It is scheduled, by the way, for eight o'clock Chicago daylight saving time. But the boys don't seem to be using daylight saving time. They use politicians' time which is anywhere from three quarters to one hour and a half late.

What has occurred so far in the G.O.P. Convention might be compared to the prologue of a play. The supposedly important event of this morning's session was the speech of

Representative Snell of New York, permanent chairman of the Convention. Mr. Snell is a cheerful looking individual, bald, bland and well nourished. His voice is so loud that he hardly needs the ~~loud speakers and~~ amplifiers. His style is the usual ^{brand of} ~~political~~ ^{spell binding.} ~~brand of oratory.~~

~~Of course,~~ ^{As} a colleague of mine said, his speech accused the Democrats of everything from the shooting of Dan McGrew to the sinking of the Titanic. As a matter of fact, he gave the Democrats one valuable hint. He commented on their capacity for fighting and he added that they are much more active in fighting among themselves than they are in fighting their opponents.

(Then there were the parade and the prolonged cheering for President Hoover. To be quite frank, the spontaneity of neither the parade nor the cheering bowled me over. ^{There was the faint} ~~It smelled~~ ^{But I guess that's usual at conventions.} _{aroma} of prearrangement. ^{Despite} the frantic efforts of the chairman

and of such loyal ex-chairmen as Will Hayes, the boys and girls appeared to be yelling because it was expected of them

rather than because they wanted to.

And yet it was quite a thrilling sight when at the shouting of Mr. Hoover's name, Governor Jim Rolph of California led the flag waving. He grabbed the banner of his state, a grisly bear on a white background, and brandished it for all he was worth. Jim Rolph is not a bad looking ^{performer} ~~gentleman~~ himself. The parade was a little bit slow in starting. It was begun by the Texas delegation. But after it was under way, all you ~~saw~~ saw was a lot of rather bored looking men and women slowly shuffling by the speakers' platform. Some of them from time to time would clap, and wave their hats. ~~and some in mechanical fashion.~~

As for that plank, it is not made public yet. At the same time it is generally known that it is ^{to be} ~~as expected~~ a compromise affair. The Resolutions Committee ^{sat} ~~was sitting~~ up all night ^{wrangling over} ~~preparing~~ it. Though it has not been made public copies have been given to all the state delegations. Then the girls and boys took the afternoon off so as to be ready for the

fight tonight.

This procedure was considered a manœuvre by which it was hoped to avert ~~this~~ wet and dry fight on the floor of the Convention tonight.

W. Anyhow ^{S.O.P.} The prohibition plank is for resubmission of the 18th Amendment in ^{somewhat} ~~rather~~ a mild form. It will ask that the law be amended so that the states which are ^{for} ~~against~~ liquor will have no prohibition. But the states which still want a dry law will have federal enforcement within their boundaries.

Senator Bingham of Connecticut, ~~the~~ leader of the wets will submit a minority report tonight, demanding the repealing of the 18th Amendment, demanding that the whole prohibition question be submitted to the Conventions of the people of the several states.

Senator Bingham admitted that defeat of his proposal was a foregone conclusion. The administration apparently dominates the committees and ^{runs} ~~dominates~~ the Convention.

On all sides you can hear sounds of great bitterness among the wet delegates. They know they are being steam-rollered.

And do they like it? I should say not.

One attractive feminine member of the New York delegations was heard to say:

"We are madder than fourteen -----". I couldn't hear the rest of it but it seemed to rhyme with bells.

6.

" DAWES "

The most important bit of news that hit the convention today concerned a Chicagoan - yes, General Dawes. As everybody knows, there have been all sorts of rumors as to his again being offered the vice-presidency. His friends, and he seems to have them by the legion, have been loudly clamoring for him. But the General cut it all short today ^{by} ~~is~~ announcing flatly that he will not run. According to some accounts, he said: "Hell and Maria, they're not going to hit Charley Curtis over my shoulder".

This news leaves the vice-presidential situation more up in the air than ever. There has been frequent mention of Pat Hurley, present secretary of war. But Mr. Hurley declines too, they say. Meanwhile, Sister Dolly is working twenty-four hours a day for "brother Charley." However, like the girl in the song, at the convention today, "Sister Dolly Gann wore a worried look," in addition, of course, to the customary quota of female garments.

And from Manila comes the news that Colonel ~~Theodore~~ ^{Freddy} Theo. Roosevelt, ^{the} governor general of the Philippine Islands, also declined to be considered as a candidate for the vice-presidency.

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~~■ Except for the prohibition matter this has turned out to be a good old steam roller Convention. President Hoover's will is law. This was made evident in the report of the chairman of the Committee on Credentials.~~

And by the way, it ^{is} remarkable to observe how undramatically announcements are made, some of which actually have an exceedingly dramatic background.

For instance, there was the report ^{of the Credentials Committee} on the South~~er~~ Carolina delegation. There had been a contest in that State - two rival delegations, both clamoring for admission. One of them was headed by a picturesque chap, a colored brother named Tieless Joe Tolbert. Tieless Joe, they say, has been Republican boss of South Carolina for forty years. Now, after all that time he "gets the gate". And it is understood this is by personal request of the President. It seems that Tieless Joe has been doing things ~~having to do~~ with ^{the} federal patronage in his State, things of which the President does not approve. ^{He is supplanted} by what they call a "lily white" delegation.

"ADD WHITE"

Oh yes, and Mrs. William Allen White, wife of the famous Kansas editor,
~~And by the way, Mrs. White~~ knows more about Politics

than a great majority of the men present. When ~~the~~ parade started *this morning* she drew ~~may~~ attention to one thing I would not otherwise have noticed. "Oh, Look", she exclaimed, "There is Wisconsin standing up". I was a little bit puzzled by this. I did not know there was anything remarkable in the fact that the Wisconsin delegation got on their hind legs, but it seems that at all previous Conventions Wisconsin, which is pretty much under the domination of the La Follettes, refused to join in these demonstrations.

There was quite a row about it yesterday. In fact, there was pretty nearly a fight on the floor of the Convention. *this year is* The Wisconsin delegation, split between the Stalwarts and the La Follette-led Progressives. The Progressives, as usual, stuck to their seats. In fact, they even kept their seats when the National Anthem was played.

While there was a lot of chatter and fuss about this, it did not amount to anything until to-day, when the Parade of States, led by the Texas Delegation, included the banner of Wisconsin.

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"ADD WE"

"ADD WHITE"

Mrs. White is a sparkling, alert little woman in her middle years and ~~is~~ as keenly interested in Politics today as the first time she ever attended a Convention. She seems to know most of the prominent members of the Party by their first names, from Nicolas Murray Butler of New York, to ²Joseph Scott of Los Angeles, the man who is going to place President Hoover in ~~the~~ nomination tomorrow.

Mrs. White could teach many ^{of us} a newspaper ~~man~~ ^{man} ~~there~~ his business. Not a ^vphase of the proceedings, official or unofficial, escapes her attention. And one remarkable thing was that she showed none of the boredom which most of the newspaper men are experiencing about this show.

Another lady who conspicuous at the Convention is Mabel Walker Willdebrant. Do you recall the name? Let's see, back in 1928 weren't they calling her the "Joan of Arc" of the drys? Well, at the Convention today I learned she was for repeal.

For many months Joan of Arc - I mean Mabel - has maintained discreet silence on this ticklish topic. When she was Assistant Attorney General of the United States of course she did much to aid in the enforcement of the prohibition laws. Mabel Walker Willdebrant has broken her silence. "Resubmission", she shouted, "Is just a weasel word". She then added that she hopes the Convention will take a position in favor of repeal and not attempt to straddle. My, my, how the boys and girls do change their minds these sweltering Summer days.

The year The second speaker on the platform today was a lady. She was Miss Katherine Byrne of Connecticut, chairman of the Committee on Permanent Organization. She is a smart looking, well groomed woman. ~~and~~ I understand she owns and operates a successful department store in her home town. And as Amos and Andy, who, by the way are sitting just outside my door, would say: "And that's sumpin'."

Oh yes, and I met two very beautiful young lady delegates this morning - one of the high spots of the day. ~~you might say,~~ They said they recognized me from my picture in the Literary Digest, and I returned the compliment because I recognized one of them from a picture I had looked at not five minutes before in ~~last night's~~ ^a late edition of the Chicago Daily News, a picture of the youngest delegate, Miss Nedre Wilhelm. She comes from Point Pleasant, West Virginia and she is only twenty-two years old. But she ~~not only~~ knows her politics. ~~but~~ ^{and} she ^{also} is ^a diplomat. I asked her, and her companions, how the West Virginia delegates were going to vote on the prohibition question. Said the little

"Byrne" - #2

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lady from West Virginia: "Ah, but we don't talk about that.

Some of us are wet and some of us are dry," *some say "yes" and some say "no."*

The oldest delegate to the Convention is George ~~M.~~ Dawes of Lansford, Pennsylvania, ~~His~~ age ~~is~~ four score and five.

" G E R M A N Y "

But let's not pass up the news of the world. There is a startling ^{item} ~~bit~~ from Germany. The Prussian Diet by a rising vote passed a communist motion today. It demands that Germany resign from the League of Nations. The followers of Herr Hitler, the handsome Adolph, supported that motion.

The motion is not binding on the federal government of Germany. But Prussia is a large part of Germany.

At the same time the communists are demanding that the former crown prince, his brother Prince August Wilhelm, and other members of the Hollenzollern family be promptly expelled from Germany.

And I'll mention in passing that President Von Hindenburg has cancelled the decree of the Bruening cabinet which suppressed the brown shirt militia of the Hitlerites.

" D O G "

14.

Here comes

~~Now for~~ a speech that isn't a political speech. But it might have some application.

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It seems that General Weygand, one of France's foremost soldiers, was recently made a member of the French Academy. The United Press tells the story in a dispatch to the Cincinnati Post. Now it's customary when a new member joins the French Immortals for him to make a complimentary speech - that is, a speech complimenting the Academy. General Wegand appeared speechless. His explanation was as follows:

"Gentlemen, I ha^d~~ve~~ prepared a speech of more than six pages. In it I proposed to thank you for the great honor you have done me. Unfortunately I left that speech on my study table and my dog ate it".

So while I do not wish to make any deriding remarks yet there are one or two speeches which have been made at this ^{Chicago} Con-
vention which might have been improved if old Fido had been around.

It is a ^{considerable} ~~great~~ distance from ^{the} Chicago ^{River} to the banks of the Seine, but here's a story that by sheer contrast may provide a relief from the avalanche of political news.

Some several years ago a blue-eyed, blonde-haired girl was born to the Swedish captain of a barge. ^{on the historic Seine,} This happened while her father's barge was anchored right under the shadow of the great Cathedral of Notre Dame. The little girl's name, and even then she showed signs of becoming a beauty, was Lucienne. The story goes that even as a little child she used to stroll along the river bank dreaming dreams - I suppose the sort of Cinderella dreams that every little girl in her circumstances must have; dreams that changed her shabby overalls to silks and satins and gowns from the fashionable Rue de la Paix. ^{The United Press in the Chicago Daily Times, tells us} that ~~well,~~ Lucienne was a born mimic even as a youngster.

She was not only pretty - she was alert and smart. As a matter of fact, the very first time she applied for a job she got it; not a bad job either; the job of manikin at the great dressmaking establishment of Worth's.

She not only got the job but she became known as one of the most graceful of Worth's models. Many sculptors wanted to make statues of her in the altogether and otherwise; in fact, she could have become the sweetheart of many a famous artist. However, that sort of future was nipped in the bud, and in not such a bad way either, for romance came to her in a Rolls Royce with a diamond studded wedding ring, and she now has more coats than she ever modeled when she was a manikin; furs more sumptuous than she ever displayed to potential buyers. And when true love comes to you, riding in a \$20,000 car, with a marriage certificate, well, that's something.

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" B O N U S "

The bonus marchers in Washington won quite a victory today. The House of Representatives passed the Patman \$2,400,000,000 bonus bill by a vote of 209 to 176. Of course, ~~this does not mean that the measure will become law, even if it goes to the Senate, which is unlikely; it is certain the president will veto it.~~ In the meantime, there are 30,000 ex-service men camped on the steaming mud-flats ~~basins~~ of the Potomac River.

There was angry debating before the bill was passed; there was almost a fist fight on the floor of the house. Rep. Blanton of Texas ^{as sometimes happens} was one of the would be scrappers. Colleagues ^{irate statesmen and called it a draw,} stepped between them ~~and put a damper on the bill.~~

(Gaston B. Means, the former agent of the Department of Justice, was today sentenced to fifteen years imprisonment. This is his reward for swindling Mrs. Evelyn Walsh McLean out of \$104,000. The \$100,000 was supposed to be for ransom of the Lindbergh baby. The \$4,000 he had charged up to expenses. Justice Proctor, in pronouncing sentence, described Mean's scullduggery as a cruel and vicious scheme.) And that's putting it mildly.

19.

And now for a little more relief, how about a bit of baseball? The national pastime is livelier than ever this year. How come? The answer is "home runs".

There is a hot race on between ~~our friend~~ Babe Ruth of Gotham and Jimmie Foxx of Philadelphia. Last month Jimmie Foxx of Connie Mack's Athletics pulled ahead. But recently the Bambino has been smacking the old apple for all he's worth. He was pulling up on Jimmie. But today the heavy slugger from Philadelphia laced out two homers, putting him well ahead.

Foxx now has twenty-five home runs to his credit; Ruth twenty-one. Mr. ^{Chuck}~~Charles~~ ^{Klin} ~~Kline~~, of the Phillies, is in third place with only sixteen. Only sixteen! I can remember the time when sixteen this early in the season would have been some record.

" F I G H T "

All you prize-fight fans - what do you think of this? According to a U.P. dispatch to the Pittsburg Press, Herr Max Schmeling, champion heavyweight box-fighter of the world, is a ten-to-nine favorite over Herr Jack Sharkey, the loquacious Lithuanian from Boston. So Max is the favorite. Well, we'll know all about that next Tuesday evening when those two big bozos come to blows at Long Island City. Betting men say this fight ranks with the Dempsey-Willard rumpus at Toledo ~~the~~^{one} hot summer day in 1919. More money was bet on that shindig than on any other fight in history. The odds were ten to nine on Willard, and of course Jack knocked Big Jess kicking. Annihilated him.

What's your dope on the Sharkey-Schmeling tangle? Will it be a good fight? Or will it be another liederkranz? I'm neutral, just as I am ~~at~~^{to} these two big Chicago political fights.

Oh yes, and there was an amusing yarn circulating in the press box today. I got it first from Mrs. William Allen White, and then from Elmer Davis, the novelist. It seems that the New York delegation had a rally last night. They were addressed by Congressman Snell.

"Cheer up!" Mr. Snell is reported to have said.

"The election is not lost yet."

Well, I've got to get back to the convention hall, so cheer up, and --

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.

June 16th
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conventions.