

STOP-DEWEY

L.J. - P. + G.

Wed., June 23, 1948.

(The dominant event in Philadelphia today was the formation of a Stop-Dewey coalition.) There had been some previous attempts at this, along the line of a Taft-Stassen combine. One early indication came on the first day of the Convention, when Colonel McCormick of the Chicago-Tribune, champion of mid-western isolationism, came out for a Taft-Stassen ticket - Taft for President, Stassen for Vice-President. But Stassen declined any suggestion that he might take second place.

Then, last night, with the Dewey band-wagon rolling, Taft and Stassen had a conference, from which Stassen emerged, declaring that a tie-up between himself and the Senator from Ohio was impossible. The two candidates had another meeting this morning, and that produced no repercussions. Then the news wire brought word of a break for the Anti-Dewey forces -

(Governor Green of Illinois announcing that the powerful Illinois delegation would go for Taft.) Illinois has fifty-six convention votes, a ponderous block. It is not

stated if all the Illinois delegates will vote for Taft, but it is expected that the switch announced by Governor Green will include most of them.

That was followed by another Taft-Stassen meeting this afternoon. They were joined by Governor Duff of Pennsylvania. Most of the Pennsylvania delegation is for Dewey - as was made eloquently evident yesterday.

Pennsylvania favorite-son Senator Ed Martin announced himself in favor of the New York Governor - he'll place Dewey in nomination. But on the Pennsylvania delegation ~~is~~ there is <sup>that</sup> a minority hostile to Dewey, a minority headed by Governor Duff.

And the Stop-Dewey meeting was joined by Governor Kim Siegler of Michigan, manager of the boom for Senator Vandenberg. Also - by State Chairman Harold E. Mitchell, of Connecticut. His presence at the conference seemed to indicate things about Connecticut. The delegation from that state is pledged to its own favorite-son, Senator Baldwin - on the first ballot. But, when the Connecticut State Chairman

joined the Stop-Dewey conference today, the hint was obvious that Connecticut might go to Senator Taft or some other member of the Anti-Dewey combination.

One of the candidates who was not present, was Governor Warren of California. Today the California delegation took a vote and decided to stand firmly with the California favorite son. This would seem to check any notion that Dewey might pick up some California delegates in a hurry; but, at the same time, Governor Warren did not attend the Stop-Dewey rally.

The result of the conference was an agreement, as announced this afternoon - an agreement on tactics to Stop-Dewey in the balloting tomorrow. None of the candidates involved in the combine <sup>we</sup> had given up their chances, one in favor of the other. Both Senator Taft and Harold Stassen declare firmly that they're in the race to stay, and expect to win. But they are agreed on the necessity of stopping Dewey. They say that the purpose of the conference today was

not to agree on any ticket, It was no attempt to decide on any candidate to get the nomination - in case they succeed in stopping Dewey. The choice, in that event, would work itself out - <sup>would</sup> ~~will~~ be decided by convention developments.

The plan they formed is to hold firm for two ballots - they think that two ballots will do the trick. They predict that Dewey will have about four hundred votes, his maximum.

That is, if they can stop him with <sup>on two</sup> ~~two~~ ballots. Their contention is that if he doesn't win on the second, he is through. In <sup>the</sup> ~~tht~~ case, the forces of the coalition will take control - and battle it out among themselves for the nomination.

( The Stop-Dewey conference was vigorous this afternoon, in denouncing the Dewey tactics, what they call - "blitz tactics." ) They complained about Dewey claims of delegates who favor him and about promises being made at Dewey headquarters. They say there's an attempt to stampede the delegates at the Convention, and that a lot of delegates

resent - the Dewey blitz. They say they <sup>are</sup> ~~are~~ for an open convention, delegates free to choose - without any blitz.

So that's how the matter stands tonight, the contending forces lined up in opposition, Dewey and Stop-Dewey, the band-wagon blitz versus a unified opposition.

## DEWEY FOLLOW STOP-DEWEY

And now let's look at that blitz band-wagon, as it went rolling along today. It started like a political juggernaut yesterday, when Senator Ed Martin, the Pennsylvania favorite son, dropped his own status of candidate, and declared for Dewey - announcing that he would place the name of the New York Governor before the Convention.

That was followed today, by Governor Kem of Missouri, who declared himself for Dewey. Missouri, all along, has bulked large as one of the states on the fence, and today's Missouri declaration added its speed to the band-wagon, ~~that is~~ accused of blitzing the Convention. Dewey Manager Brownell announced the expectation that the New York Governor would have most of the Missouri votes.

New Jersey came next, throwing its weight behind the band-wagon. New Jersey is a favorite-son state, committed to vote for Governor Alfred E. Driscoll - who today declared himself for Dewey - another favorite-son presidential candidate going over to the New York Governor. That is - almost

~~immediately.~~ The New Jersey delegation, with thirty-five votes, will go ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ to Governor Driscoll on the first ballot - and then will switch. The Governor stated today that he ~~had~~ released <sup>ing</sup> the delegation, after the first ballot; and <sup>from</sup> ~~stated~~ <sup>then on his</sup> that, ~~thereupon, he would vote~~ for Dewey. It has been known

all along that a large part of the Jersey delegation was in favor of the Governor of the state just across the Hudson; and so the belief is now that the large majority of the

delegates, after the first ballot, will join their favorite son in <sup>the</sup> swinging to Dewey. <sup>TP And Massachusetts went to the N.Y. Gov. today -- that is a majority of the Mass. delegates.</sup>

It was announced today that the Indiana state

delegation had called a caucus <sup>for</sup> at five P.M., ~~Eastern Daylight Time~~ - a caucus about what to do on the first ballot. The

Indiana ~~Indiana~~ delegates are ~~pledged~~ to their own Indiana favorite son, Congressman Halleck. But now they <sup>were trying</sup> ~~tried~~ to decide

whether or not ~~it might not be wise~~ to drop the favorite-son idea, and try to pick a winner on the first ballot. We hear that the delegation of twenty-nine has a strong Dewey

majority, nineteen for the New York Governor, nine for Senator Taft, and one for Stassen. The news dispatch this afternoon pictured the majority as wanting to cast ballots for their favorite on the very first roll call, the idea being that they want to be in on the victory, if Dewey by any chance should be nominated on the first ballot.

~~Other favorite sons in the running are Senator Baldwin of Connecticut, and Senator Saltonstall of Massachusetts - both of which states decided to stand pat - at least for the first couple of ballots.~~

~~The Rhode Island delegates voted today, and decided to continue their support of Speaker Joe Martin.~~

~~All these represent question marks, as the Dewey band-wagon moves along, and a coalition tries to stop that rolling blitz.~~



CONVENTION NOTES

This has been the most hectic day so far ~~by far.~~

Looking back over these hours of rumor and counter rumor here are a few random reflections and notes:

*5/24/48*  
Governor Carlson of Kansas, in the lobby of the Hotel Barclay telling me that the Kansas delegation, when it comes to the showdown, ~~probably~~ will go all-out for Dewey. He spoke of how Kansas had been one hundred percent for Dewey eight years ago, and again four years ago. ~~He~~ <sup>now there</sup> admitted that, ~~there~~ <sup>is</sup> some dissention. But, he said he couldn't see how the dissenters could avoid getting on the bandwagon when they see that Dewey is going to be the choice of the Convention.

In hotel rooms and corridors today, in more quiet moments, there was much talk about last night's speech by former President Hoover and unanimous agreement that it was the best speech made so far at the Convention, <sup>by</sup> a wide margin. Everyone with the feeling that our Number One elder Statesman, ~~is~~ is far above party politics. Young and old alike were impressed by the things he said -- and by the <sup>Hoover</sup> ovation, ~~made~~ <sup>got.</sup>

And while speaking about the former President, his two modest and able sons, Allen and Herbert Junior are here. During the stirring ovation for Mr. Hoover, before he spoke, tears were streaming down the face of the one son whom I happened to be near. And there were many tears in the Convention Hall.

Today I asked <sup>our only living ex -</sup> ~~Former~~ President Hoover if he was bothered by the lights, those intense television ~~high~~ lights and the lights used by the other photographers, that have caused so many of us to wear dark glasses during the sessions. Mr. Hoover replied that yes he was bothered by them but no more so than <sup>at</sup> another G O P Convention way back in Nineteen Twenty. At that time he said he asked a man who seemed to be in charge -- they were kleig lights then -- if he could turn them off; that the heat was overpowering. The man told him he couldn't and then he added to Mr. Hoover that there was no doubt about the intensity of the heat from them "because" said he, "you can even start a forest fire with these lights."

In his rooms at the Bellevue Stratford the ex-President held open house today, ~~and a~~ <sup>a</sup> steady stream of his old friends and warm admirers ~~came and went~~ <sup>coming and going</sup> with his sons ushering them in and out. President Hoover was in a ~~xx~~ relaxed and reminiscent mood, ~~quite~~ evidently getting vast enjoyment out of it all.

Speaking of the so-called Dewey Blitz, or as Henry Luce of TIME AND LIFE expressed it <sup>to me:-</sup> "the on-rush of the Dewey Panzer ~~Division~~ <sup>Division!</sup> Mr. Hoover said that the Dewey timing seemed to be perfect. I asked him whether he thought the favorite sons and heads of ~~the~~ various state delegations would be able to hold their delegates in line. He said ~~that he~~ he doubted it. That after all, the delegate who is a farmer, or a small town merchant, or lawyer, is hard to control when a bandwagon really gets under way. He doesn't want to go home and have to tell his neighbors that his vote didn't count, that he missed the boat. So, he wants to get on the bandwagon. And observers, generally, here in Philadelphia are of the opinion tonight that the Dewey bandwagon is rolling in such a ~~xx~~ <sup>way</sup> that it can't be stopped.

A few ~~more~~ random notes: I ran into the Tennessee delegation. They had just come from a ~~session~~ session with Governor

*Lesson into the Tenn. del - shortly after*  
Dewey. ~~They~~ seemed to have impressed them enormously. And one of

the Tennessee delegates said to his companions. "Boys, this may be the time to walk, but I think I'll jump on and ride!"

A lumberman from Arkansas, a man with enormous hands and a ruddy weather-beaten face, as ~~we sat wearily~~ ~~on the marble~~ ~~stairs~~ ~~at the Bellevue~~, said that he thought the turning point in Dewey's political fortunes so far as this campaign was concerned was the Oregon debate with Stassen. He said that made a vast impression from coast to coast, ~~the~~ Dewey's mastery over his opponent.

On all sides you hear another comment, from delegates. That in the New York Governor they no longer see any traces of the mannerisms of the District Attorney. Most of you will remember how it used to be said, so often, that Dewey was too harsh, too much like steel, too much the District Attorney. Now people who meet him think he has run away from that -- all of which makes it so much easier for him to win friends.

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And some impressions from the Taft headquarters, at the Benjamin Franklin:- Congressman Clarence Brown, the Taft Manager,

sparring with the boys, while several hundred reporters waited for the Senator <sup>late</sup> this afternoon. The two hundred and fifty pound Congressman spoke of his own weariness and lack of sleep. Nearly everyone looks bleary-eyed today. To hear Taft Manager Brown, you would think that Dewey had been losing ground, with his man steadily gaining.

Senator Taft rushing in late to the press conference, just ~~in~~ a little while ago, telling us that ~~in his opinion~~ the Dewey Blitz has been stopped. That ~~Dewey~~ Dewey can't reach more than four hundred votes on the second or third ballots. That in his opinion California will stay with Warren indefinitely. That he believes ~~that~~ no candidate has anything like a majority. And that he, Senator Robert Taft, this evening feels very much encouraged and expects as he put it, "to be nominated in due time!"

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Coming out I ran into Alice Roosevelt Longworth, daughter of the great T.R. She seems as young and vivacious as ever. ~~By~~ Adding a little extra zip to the Taft Headquarters, where there was far less optimism in the air than at the Dewey

headquarters. The New York Governor's floor at the ~~Bellevue~~ <sup>Bellevue</sup> is sur-charged with electricity and enthusiasm.

A moment ago I ran into Rolf Kaltenborn, son of the veteran news analyst H.V. Rolf is running for Congress in Florida, in the Sixth District. He shook his head rather ~~unhappily~~ sadly and said that although he has his Ph.D. in politics from Harvard, and taught at Yale, here at the Convention, as well as in his own campaign in Florida, he has found that he knows only from A to B in practical politics. A modest and most attractive man who will go far.

Although I am a lot older ~~am~~ than young Rolf and have been to a good ~~number~~ many national conventions now, at this stage of the proceedings, I feel the same way, that ~~am~~ I only know from A to B .

## ALPHABET

The affair of the alphabet took another turn today - when Alabama asserted its right of taking first action, according to the a-b-c's. As we heard yesterday, the Alabama delegation was split, seven for Dewey and seven for Taft - and intended to pass, when called upon as the first state.

But today Alabama changed its mind, and decided to speak up. In other words, the split in the delegation has been broken, and Alabama has gone over to the side of Governor Dewey, he now having a majority. So tonight Alabama will yield to Pennsylvania, so that Senator Martin of the Pennsylvania delegation may place the name of Tom Dewey before the Convention.

## PAGES

In my time on the radio, I once or twice had that trouble - which is a nightmare; that of getting the pages mixed up. A time or two, something has happened, and my notes got scrambled. This really puts a fellow in a fog.

(At the big Convention Hall here in Philadelphia, the heat of the ~~stage~~ lights is such that cross-currents of air are set up - and these hit the stand on which a speaker is reading from the pages of his address. - ~~and you know what can happen when wind hits pages.~~ It happened twice today - one time to Senator Kane of Washington. But he was lucky, because the wind hit the pages he had already read, <sup>had</sup> and <sup>put</sup> aside. It was disconcerting to see a flock of sheets of paper go flying on the breeze, but ~~it was~~ no catastrophe <sup>for him.</sup>

The catastrophe happened to Ralph Becker, head of the Young Republicans - an orator full of youth and fire. With his pages in front of him, he was at a climax of eloquence - when the <sup>heat waves the hot wind</sup> ~~pages~~ hit. Pages went flying. He was on page four of his address, and the wind carried away - four,



five, six and seven.

Ralph Becker ~~did the right thing.~~ Instead of trying to ~~stumble on,~~ he went right after the <sup>pages</sup> flying pages - taking a dive, retrieving them one after another. One page flew all the way to <sup>Michigan -- I mean the delegates,</sup> ~~the section marked Michigan,~~ But he finally got all four, and returned to the rostrum, where a new kind of trouble hit him. He couldn't find his place, <sup>— where he'd left off.</sup> By a bad oversight, he had forgotten to number the pages, and couldn't tell which one he had been reading. Moreover, he couldn't get them in the right order without considerable study.

You know how it is when pages without numbers get mixed up and you try to unscramble them, ~~and get them back into right order.~~ But at length he announced: "Thank you fellow delegates," and went ahead. ~~However,~~ He still doesn't know whether he read those pages in the right order. But it was a good speech, <sup>Many a speech would</sup> just the same. ~~Sometimes a speech can~~ be better, if you read it backwards. <sup>How about giving us yours</sup> ~~the pages in different order~~ backwards, Nelson?