

Monday, August 5, 1968

MIAMI BEACH

No doubt you have been listening to or looking at the Miami Beach drama. Chairman Ray Bliss gavelling the Republican National Convention into session - at ten o'clock this morning. Then after the usual flurry of opening speeches - the Florida governor's welcome of course, then adjournment till this evening.

Bliss telling his fellow Republicans: "We have made history; this is the first time in my memory" said he "that we started on time and ended on time." Warning further that the same will hold true - for tonight's session which will feature telephone greetings from former President Eisenhower - and the big one - the Keynote by Governor Evans of the State of Washington.

The political infighting goes on hot and heavy. Rockefeller and Reagan forces striving to prevent a first-ballot victory for Nixon. Governor Rockefeller insisting

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publicly "it's still a ball game." As you no doubt have heard Governor Agnew of Maryland has just swung his delegation to Nixon, which may just about set up the nomination for the former Vice President who arrived at Miami this evening.

REAGON

As you have been told over and over, this is a year of surprises. The Governor of California the latest to make the remark. Today, at long last, Ronald Reagan announcing himself as an active candidate for President. He said he did so at the urging of his own eighty-six member California delegation. Then he added one of the understatements of the year: Said he: "This is a season of political surprises."

As you would expect there was much discussion as to who may be number two on the ticket. Some were saying Rockefeller. Others were urging the G O P to draft one of their elder statesmen, former Governor Thomas E. Dewey. Also, the usual names, Percy of Illinois, Hatfield of Oregon and so on.

Rockefeller laughed it off. Said he, I could have run for Vice President with Mr. Nixon eight years ago. Then he added: "I am not made of standby equipment," which is for the listener to interpret.

PITTSBURGH

On the steel price front - a major victory for the Johnson administration. With Republic Steel - the nation's third largest producer - bowing to government pressure today. Becoming the first big steel maker - to agree to a roll-back of last week's across the board price increases. A move that could force competitors to do likewise.

SWATOW

Massacre in Red China. Reports

were
reaching Hong Kong -- *λ* telling today of the ~~act~~ slaughter
of an estimated one thousand persons; during a bloody
battle between rival Red Guard groups - in the southern
China
~~area~~ *λ* city of Swatow.

The victims said to be chiefly members
of the "Red Flag" Red Guards - a pro-maoist wing of the
Chinese youth organization. Their attackers identified
as "east wind" Red Guards -- supposedly backed by
Red Army troops. The "East Winds" apparently set
off by the murder of a deputy political commissar
- allegedly by ^{the} "red flags."

FOREST OF DARKNESS

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Vietnam's forbidding U Minh - literally, "Forest of Darkness" - one of the world's most treacherous pieces of terrain. A sea of mud in the Mekong Delta -- inhabited ~~is~~ chiefly by biting ants, giant leeches, bamboo vipers. Also, the scene today - of a bloody battle.

U S intelligence getting wind of a high-level Viet Cong parley -- near the village of Vi Thanh. With American troops wading through chest-deep swamps - to spring a surprise attack. In the end - nineteen of the enemy were killed; another fifty suspects - taken captive.

Earlier, Brigadier General Franklin Davis was slightly wounded - in a related action nearby. A red rocket - slamming into his river assault craft. However, the General returning to action after emergency treatment - dismissing the incident as "an occupational hazard."

UNITED NATIONS

The United Nations Security Council ~~was~~
summoned into emergency session today in New York. ~~This~~
~~At~~ the urging of Jordan - also, Israel. A direct result
of that Israeli weekend jet attack ~~on~~ on alleged Arab
terrorist bases inside Jordan.

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Jordan calling the incident - a "new
treacherous aggression." Israel complaining, in turn,
of continuing and "persistent attacks" - by "Arab
terrorists."

ADDIS ABABA

At Addis Ababa, ~~in~~ Ethiopia - the start today of a five-nation mediation meeting - sponsored by the organization of African unity. Aimed at settling through negotiation - that bitter war between Nigeria and breakaway Biafra.

Simultaneously the Texas White House sending a special message - to Emperor Haile Selassie of the host nation. L B J pledging "a major relief effort" - to starving thousands in the war area. *The President saying* ~~stating~~ that "relief supplies are already nearby" - ready for speedy delivery -- as soon as the two sides settle their differences.

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WAYNE

~~Surprise~~ winner of the first standing ovation at this year's Republican Comention -- western movie star John Wayne. ^{John} ~~For~~ a brief talk today ~~he~~ ^{he} ~~told~~ ~~for~~ his answer to a fellow actor ~~if~~ who had asked him the kind of life he wanted for his ~~young~~ young daughter. Said John Wayne!—

"I told him I wanted for my daughter - what most parents want for their children. I want to see that she gets a good start - that she has the values we knew ~~as~~ as kids -- values an articulate few are saying are old fashioned. I want her to be grateful - as I am - grateful for every day of my life here in the United States of ~~the~~ America. I want her to respect all those - who have to defend their country. "

John Wayne concluding: "I guess that's all I want for my girl - and that's all I want for my country. " ^{And s-l-u-t-m.}