

ADD CONVENTION

July 8, 1952 - Tues - Chicago

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Here's the latest. The Credentials Committee has handed Taft another present-voting to seat the Georgia delegation which favors the Senagor. By a vote of thirty to twenty-one, the Committee tossed out a pro-Eisenhower delegation. Making it Success Number Two for Taft in the proceedings today.

TAFT - DELEGATES

Taft lost a few votes of delegate strength today - four shifting from the Senator to General Ike. Two of these were Negro delegates, who said they disliked the stand that Taft was taking on the question of racial rights. So, they were going over to the * side of the General.

The other two were in the Arkansas delegation. Today, the Chairman stated that a couple of Taft supporters from Arkansas had changed their minds, and would vote for the nomination of General Ike.

So that makes a slight change in the line-up of delegates. A tabulation from the United Press gives five hundred and forty-three committed to Senator Taft. Four hundred and forty-seven - pledged to General Eisenhower.

All of which puts increasing emphasis on the delegations with favorite sons - like the seventy Californians, who are backing Governor Warren. In addition to the favorite son delegations, there are.

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one hundred and nine, uncommitted. Favorite sons and uncommitted - equal the balance of power.

The Eisenhower commanders are bubbling with confidence. But, on the basis of the figures, it looks like ^{we'll see} the closest kind of competition - when ^{starts voting on} the Convention ~~votes to pick~~ the ~~EM~~ candidate.

CONVENTION

The 2nd day generally is at a National

This was a day of oratory. - ~~at the~~ Convention.

Of course, the top flight oration was last night, when General Douglas MacArthur gave ^{his dramatic} ~~the~~ keynote speech.

Today, the Party spellbinders carried on - one speech

after another, from opening to adjournment. Tonight

brings a climax, with another ^{convention} ^{of long experience} ~~headliner~~ - former

President Herbert Hoover. What he will have to say will

be of ^{so much} ~~great~~ importance, ~~made dramatic by this~~

~~Convention~~ ^{As the} ^{no. 1} ~~elder~~ statesman of the G.O.P.,

~~Herbert Hoover~~ will make an effort for harmony, an end

to the feuds, ^{closing} of the ranks. Which is much

needed - the Taft-Eisenhower duel being what it is.

The plethora of oratory this afternoon was not

because the delegates yearned for eloquence. No, they

did not simply demand unlimited doses of that ^{ringing} ~~string~~

phraseology - how the Grand Old Party ^{will} ~~would~~ defeat the

foe, come November. The speeches were made and ~~ixixixix~~

listened to - because there wasn't much else to do.

A fill-in, on a day made idle by that battle over the

delegations in dispute.

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The controversy was before the Credentials Committee, which was on the job all day, deliberating, deciding. The Committee was to have made its report to the Convention some time this afternoon - but that was a vain hope. The announcement was that - more time was needed, in that bitter argument which has the Convention in a stalemate right now. ~~Presumably,~~ ^{The} delay in the Credentials Committee is holding up reports of other committees, including ^{the} one on the platform. And all - will have to go over, until tomorrow.

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The Eisenhower forces, ^{as foreseen,} took a set-back in that Credentials Committee: They had hoped they might persuade the group to agree with them - in refusing to seat sixty-eight Taft delegates from the Southern states. ~~But~~ ^{But} the Credentials Committee turned out to be as firmly in the control of the Ohio Senator ^{as} ~~and~~ other segments of the Party organization. First came - Florida. The Committee voted to seat sixteen delegates for Taft, one for Eisenhower, one uncommitted. Which upholds,

precisely, the decision made by the Republican National Committee - that stronghold of Taft control.

all of which surely
~~That~~ statement is a sign of what is to come - the Committee virtually certain to vote in favor of other Taft delegates in dispute. Including that biggest bone of all the contention - the Taft delegation from Texas.

Supporters of General Ike won a single concession from the Credentials Committee today - when they put through a motion to have radio and television at the Committee proceedings. The Eisenhower high command hailed this - as a victory for the American people, as well as for radio and T.V. Well, maybe so, but it didn't keep the Credentials Committee from giving Taft the decision on Florida - with more of the same to come.

All - throwing the Convention schedule into confusion. They ^{had} ~~are~~ expected to wind up Thursday night - but are sure ^{now} to go on through Friday, maybe longer. As of right now, the hope is to begin the balloting for a

nominee - on Wednesday night. ^{and} They ^{still} might finish it
in a hurry, ^{by} ~~and~~ ^{ing} select the candidate in a few ballots.

But there's a likelihood that the balloting, on that
most important question of all, will be decided on

^{Thursday.}
~~Friday.~~ After which, the vice-presidential candidate
will have to be chosen.

MacARTHUR ADDRESS

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At this time last evening, I had an idea that I might be a bit embarrassed on this program tonight - the way a false prophet is embarrassed. I ventured to make a guess about the keynote speech to be given by General Douglas MacArthur a few hours later. My surmise was that, while he would attack the Administration, all along the line of domestic and foreign policy, he would not assail President Truman personally, would not mention his name in the keynote assault. Well, you know how it is with a prophet - he's usually wrong. So I thought I might ~~not~~ be red in the face tonight.

But the reasoning turned out okay. I figured on the fact that General MacArthur, though he did not wear uniform last night, ^{is not completely} ~~has not~~ retired from active duty. So - as a matter of military propriety, he would not criticize his Commander-in-Chief - not by name. Would not blast away at - Truman. Well, he didn't mention the name of Truman once - hurling his cannonade at that impersonal entity - the Administration. The powerful criticism of Truman was there, of course - but, by implication.

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Which, in a way, helped to keep the keynote speech on an upper level of - generalities. The broad meaning was there - with plenty of anti-administration thunder. But no naming of names, and not much that was detailed or specific. Not in the vein of personal assault and vituperation.

All of which recalled, in a way, ^{another} ~~that rather~~ famous accusation - renowned in history as a bill of bitter particulars. French Novelist Emile Zola - in the Dreyfuss case. His famous diatribe - "J'Accuse." Which was in a style something like this:

"I accuse the President of the Republic of being a liar and of committing perjury. I accuse the Minister of War of falsifying documents and of being a forger. I accuse, I accuse" - in repeated refrain, with specific charges in venomous detail.

Actually, I don't ~~remember~~ remember precisely what's in that historic - "J'Accuse." But it went something like that.

Rough-and-tumble in ^{the} fighting - and, in this

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country, is there anyone who excels at that sort of political free-for-all? Well, some of us might remember the Nineteen Forty-Eight presidential campaign. Remember how he gave 'em - old Harry?

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But General Douglas MacArthur was on a higher plane - and we could only wish that the American voters would climb up onto that higher plane.

U.N.

At the United Nations today, the American delegation introduced a resolution of censure against Soviet Russia - for those charges of germ warfare. We asked the Security Council to brand those preposterous accusations as - "without substance, and false."

Well, it's a good idea. That bacteriological nonsense is "without substance, and false" all right. Idiomatic, in fact. But the resolution won't get anywhere, just going 4 no place at all. Or rather - it's running right into a Soviet veto.

The American delegate, proposing the resolution, was followed by Soviet Representative Malik. Who took twenty minutes to say that he would not participate in deliberations on the resolution, and would vote against it. ~~Mr~~ Meaning, Soviet veto. If a majority on the Security Council should pass it, as is sure to happen - the Red veto-vote will kill it.

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JAPAN

Japan reports a bad Communist riot, with a mob of Reds on a rampage, at Nagoya, the third largest city in Japan. A thousand Reds clashed with forces of police, and a three and a half hour battle was on. Nagoya, by the way, has a turn of reminiscence. I recall it in the Jimmy Doolittle story, one of the first places sighted by the Doolittle raiders in the first bombing of Tokyo.

FRANCE

And now, folks, here's the big political headline - announcing the crucial vote. The winner - Pinay. In the French National Assembly, today, Premier Antoine Pinay won a vote of confidence on the last big issue facing his government - a question of economic policy.

You may not have heard of this bit of news - buried by the political excitements ~~here~~ in Chicago. But it is more important than anything at the Convention here today.

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It means that Premier Pinay stays firmly in power through the rest of the summer - that astonishing, little known industrialist, who came out of the political nowhere, ^{who} But _^ has been able to give France the nearest thing to a stable ministry that France has had since the end of the Second World War. Time and again, he has demanded a vote of confidence - or he'd quit. Today, as the National Assembly takes time out until autumn, Pinay came to the climax of a final test - and won it.

BASEBALL

In the all-star game today, the winner was - the Weather Man. The contest between the two major leagues was washed out. After five innings. Just enough - to make it a legal ball game. The National League won by a score of three to two. The margin of victory consisted of home-runs by Jackie Robinson, of the Brooklyn Dodgers, and ~~Hank~~^{Hank} Sauer of the Chicago Cubs. But it was wet going all along. It was raining all morning, and the game was held up for twenty-two minutes, because of a ~~stunt~~ downpour. Then, there were five innings, and the clouds opened on Philadelphia. So the National League beat the American League. But the Weather Man beat them both.

CONVENTION - SIDELIGHTS

Here are a couple of Convention sidelights.

They have to do with those brilliant - television lights.

These, glaring from overhead, have been getting into the eyes of delegates. And so, today, scores appeared, wearing eye-shades. But - political eye-shades.

Marked - with the name - Taft. Supporters of the Ohio Senator taking advantage of the lighting situation - to put in a boost for their candidate.

But the brilliance of illumination was shining in the eyes of Eisenhower supporters and Taft enthusiasts alike. So, shortly after the appearance of the Taft eye-shades, came - the Eisenhower straw hats. Scores of delegates wearing summer-time straw lids, with red, white and blue band. And - on top, three letters of the alphabet, I-K-E. The General's nickname, blazoned on the flat-top of straw hats - is a sight for the galleries to see - *And to see via TV.*

Another sight, for those who get there early, consists of - arm-bands, and changing colors. Which is an illustration of the trouble they have in keeping ^{out} ~~up~~ - gate-crashers.

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The Assistant Sergeants-at-Arms, who control the crowds, wear colored arm-bands. There are one hundred and ninety of them - and what's to keep gate-crashers from putting on arm-bands, and getting in as Sergeants-at-Arms? Which would ~~enable~~ enable them to let all their pals in?

The answer - the color of the arm-bands is changed every day. Nobody knows in advance what the color will be, and that stops the would-be gate-crashers. Every morning, the Sergeants-at-Arms assemble, one hundred and ninety strong, in the Convention Hall, for what is called - "The changing of the arm bands." They get a different color. Today, for example - a brilliant green, with gold lettering.

The gate-crashers being what they are, the Convention has to have that morning ceremony - The changing of the arm-bands.

CONVENTION PERFUME

Over in Europe, the newspapers are paying close attention to the Republican Convention - as naturally they would. Europeans like Ike - see ^{ing} in him a number one advocate of the policy of American aid for the defense of Western Europe.

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Foreign reporters, by the battalion, are here in Chicago, covering the big political circus - and they are a bit puzzled by our American highjinks, as foreigners always are.

The French newspapers, for example, comment with some bewilderment on what they consider - a "confused festival." They also take notice of - the atmosphere. The air - surrounding Convention Hall, the Chicago stockyards.

Leave it to the French to find a tactful way of expressing it - with finesse. Today, one Parisian newspaper put it in these words: " 'Chicago' is an Indian word meaning - strong, powerful. It is said the city was named because of the odor of wild garlic near the river - and," concludes the Parisian paper, "Chicago

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still merits its name." Saying it with French politeness
strong, powerful, the odor of wild garlic. Well,
actually, the effluvium from the stockyards is a lot
stronger and more powerful than any garlic, wild or tame.

14 Whiffs of it are wafted thru the window
here at my side as I say S-L-U-T-M.