

Well, the big decision will not come until tomorrow. Late this afternoon Congressman Joe Martin, permanent chairman of the convention, said that the balloting on the presidential nomination will start ~~tomorrow~~ tomorrow. This evening they'll have the nominating speeches. Each candidate having his name put forward, with a lot of favorable oratory.

All of which drags out the suspense and increases the tension. All day long the managers for General Eisenhower were booming with optimism. Senator Henry Cabot Lodge of Massachusetts -- stating that right now, General Eisenhower is within a few votes of the majority needed for the nomination, and claiming -- that he'll win out on the first ballot, ^{probably} ~~presumably~~, second ballot, for sure.

But, (Senator Taft is holding out grimly saying that his forces will stand ~~firm~~ firm, and that he'll win enough support to give him the nomination. But late reports picture something like a panic in the ranks of the Taft followers.) They -- seeking ways out of dilemma and a defeat. All -- a matter of wild rumors. One report says that backers of the Senator are thinking of a switch to Governor Warren of California as a compromise candidate.

Later on, an insistent buzz -- that delegates favoring Taft ~~are~~ were planning a mass move to General Douglas MacArthur. One rumor said that MacArthur will be put in nomination by Senator Bricker of Ohio, colleague of Senator Taft ~~for~~ ^{and} a strong political supporter. Still another wild one declared the ticket would be -- MacArthur and Bricker.

What there may be in these reports is ~~none~~ none too clear. The picture tonight is one of a ~~confident~~ ^{confident} Eisenhower, with signs of uncertainty on the Taft side.

MacArthur's staunchest supporters, by old Sam Gil, the chief, Joe Paw of Philadelphia, who was there with Admiral Banfield. Remember the Admiral was lost out in somewhat the same way as Mr. Arthur? Joe Paw told me that before MacArthur addressed the Convention, one of his associates told him that he would steppe the G.O.P. delegates, if he wanted to, with his power of oratory.

To which Douglas MacArthur responded: "What, I am going to avoid. I am not here at this Convention to do anything of the kind." Many of us who listened

MacARTHUR

While I was on the move back and forth around the Loop today, from headquarters to headquarters, I ran into a MacArthur crowd on LaSalle Street, all with pipes like the General smokes. They were getting in buses, on their way to the Convention Hall. Two hundred strong, they still have hopes of stampeding the Convention for MacArthur.

Shortly after I encountered them, I sat down at a table at the Blackstone to chat with one of MacArthur's staunchest supporters, my old Sun Oil ~~xxx~~ chief, Joe Pew of Philadelphia, who was there with Admiral Denfeld. Remember the Admiral who lost out in somewhat the same way as MacArthur? Joe Pew told me that before MacArthur addressed the Convention, one of his associates told him that he ~~xx~~ could stampede the G.O.P delegates, if he wanted to, with his power of oratory.

To which Douglas MacArthur responded: "That, I am going to avoid. I am not here at this Convention to do anything of the kind." Many of us who listened

MacARTHUR - 2

to the MacArthur keynote speech, were wondering why he was not making that kind of an appeal, to arouse the crowd. Why he was somewhat lacking in fervor? So here is the answer: He went there determined not to start a stampede for himself.

Note (insert somewhere in connection with MacArthur.

Here's the latest. Senator Taft says he has had a telephone talk with General MacArthur in New York. The Senator doesn't say what the conversation was about. Merely -- that, in this tense situation, he phoned MacArthur.

(For example, I heard one story, told in a back-slash way - about Senator Knowland of California, an unlikely vice-presidential candidate. First - there was a rivalry between Eisenhower and Knowland. Also - between Taft and Knowland. The California Senator - is popular with both sides. He's got the vote potential with either Taft or Ike. Or, maybe both. He's the answer for the possible vote at the Convention through those corridors, here in Chicago. And so on and so forth, all day long, they get a kind of conference, talking the matter, just through the... they say they have the last hope - the...)

FAVORITE SONS

Today brought a climax of those meetings behind the scenes, which are so typical of a national convention. Important figures, deep in conference - estimating the state of affairs, ^{or} ~~on~~ making deals. All - providing wonderful opportunities for the rumor and gossip factory.

(For example, I heard one story, told in a hush-hush way - about Senator Knowland of California, as a likely vice-president candidate. That - there was dickering between Eisenhower and Knowland. Also - between Taft and Knowland. The California Senator - in bargains with both sides. He'd get the Veep assignment, with either Taft or Ike. Or, maybe both. That's the ~~gossip~~ way the gossip runs at the Convention Hall and through hotel corridors, here in Chicago.

(What we do know is that, all day long, there was a buzz of conferences, behind the scenes. Featuring favorite sons. They now have one last hope - the remaining possibility of a deadlock. Maybe neither

FAVORITE SONS - 2

Senator Taft nor General Ike will be able to get a majority, and the lightning may strike a favorite son. That's a possibility, but the favorite sons are also looking after their prospects - in case the lightning does not strike. Trying to get the best out of the situation - which is the old, old way.)

Bright and early this morning, favorite son Harold Stassen of Minnesota went into session with General Eisenhower, behind closed doors. The word was that they^d meet before breakfast, or at breakfast. About eight A.M., the news-hawks noted Stassen going into the Eisenhower hotel suite, and got word that the two were having breakfast together. What they said, we do not know - but you can bet it had a lot to do with the Minnesota delegation, which is pledged to Stassen.

The trail of the favorite son then went on to the hotel suite of Senator Taft, where there was a conference between Taft and Stassen. What they had to say we don't know - but the whole question of Stassen

as a candidate was tossed promptly into lively contradictions.

Word came along of discord in the Minnesota delegation. The floor leader of the group - calling on the favorite son to withdraw from the ~~race~~^{race}, and support Eisenhower.

"Minnesota should go to Eisenhower on the first ballot," said the number one man of the Minnesota delegation. "I think Stassen should withdraw right after his name is placed in nomination."

Stassen, meanwhile, was giving the newsmen an interview, in which he stated - he was still in the race, very much so. He said the way he figured it, both Taft and Eisenhower were, each of them, far short of the number of delegates it takes to nominate -- six hundred and four. He thought there might well be a deadlock, and said he thought he would make the kind of candidate that would unite the Party, heal the bitter Taft-Eisenhower feud, rally and harmonize the Republicans for victory.

WARREN - FOLLOW FAVORITE SONS

Governor Warren of California held a meeting, today, with the California delegation. First time he has seen them since the Convention began. The Governor has been in Chicago all the time, and he's the favorite son to whom the seventy-six Californians are pledged. But he hasn't been out to the Convention Hall, where they've been deliberating and voting. He has been sticking to his hotel, attending the Convention by television. But now, as the business of nominating was about to begin, he held a meeting with his delegation. He told them - he's still in the race. He said he thinks there may be a deadlock - and, on that basis, he's still running for the nomination.

One California delegate says he doesn't agree. He believes General Ike will be nominated, ^{maybe} ~~practically~~ on the first ballot - even without any California support.

However, the delegation ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ as a whole strings along with the Governor. Warren will

be placed in nomination by California Senator Knowland,
and he'll get the California votes on the first ballot.

that the Maryland delegation will vote - in his words
"almost unanimously for General Eisenhower on the first
ballot." This declaration was made after one of those
meetings behind the scenes today - Governor McKelvin
taking the delegation to call on General Ike.

Some Virginia delegates came along with the
Marylanders, and Governor Wolford invited the Virginia
National Committeeman, Frederickson Dutton, as
telling General Ike that "the whole Virginia
delegation would go for him on the first ballot."
which, however, at least one Virginia denies.
Saying - Note for Tall.

MARYLAND

~~but~~ There ^{is} one favorite son who has faded out completely. Today Governor McKeldin of Maryland said that the Maryland delegation will vote - in his words - "almost unanimously for General Eisenhower on the first ballot." This declaration was made after one of those meetings behind the scenes today - Governor McKeldin taking the delegation to call on General Ike.

Some Virginia delegates came along with the Marylanders, and Governor McKeldin quotes the Virginia National Committeeman, Theodore Roosevelt Dalton, as telling General Ike that - "the whole Virginia delegation would go for him on the first ballot." Which, however, at least one Virginian denies. Saying - he's for Taft.

MICHIGAN - FOLLOW MARYLAND

Michigan held a caucus today, and the report is that thirty-two out of forty-six will go to General Eisenhower on the first ballot. Senator Taft - fourteen. Which is exactly the way Michigan was divided last night - in that crucial vote on the Georgia delegation. The Michigan contribution to that triumph was - thirty-two votes.

~~This declaration denounces the Democrats for having "lost the peace." With having a program of national progress. The plan demands a large build-up of American air power, which accords with the ideas of Senator Taft - a program of defense by air power. But it also agrees with General Eisenhower, who believes in the balanced plan of land, sea and air power.~~

~~The declaration for "collective security" and the rejection of isolationism. But foreign aid should be reduced in the interests of economy, says the plan - which warns that we might squander our resources~~

PLATFORM

(The Republican platform presents no surprises, all its planks having been pretty well predicted in advance. The foreign policy plank is about what we heard it would be - a compromise designed to be acceptable both to Senator Taft and to General Ike.)
Whose chief differences are - in the field of foreign relations.

~~xxxx (Its ~~declaration~~ denounces the Democrats for having "lost the peace." With having - bungled a program of national armament. The plank demands a large build-up of American air power, which accords with the ideas of Senator Taft - a proponent of defense by air power. But it also agrees with General Eisenhower, who believes in the balanced plan of land, sea and air power.)~~

(The declaration ^{is} for - "collective security".
And - the rejection of isolationism. But foreign aid should be reduced in the interests of economy, says the plank - which warns that we might squander our resources

in foreign spending, until we're bankrupt. All -
phrased in such a careful way, as to win the acceptance
of General Taft and General Ike.)

On the domestic side, the New Deal and Fair
Deal are blasted - corruption in government assailed,
with calls for government economy. (The Taft-Hartley Law
is okayed, but there could be changes. "Such
amendments," declares the plank, "as time and experience
show to be desirable, which further protect the rights
of labor, management and the public.")

The plank, in addition, calls for one thing
with which we all agree - "more efficient and frequent"
mail delivery. Yes, we all want to get our letters
promptly, even if some of them are bills. So says the
plank - and you don't ^{often} ever hear a piece of timber do
so much talking. ~~But, in a political platform, the
planks are orators, proclaiming and declaring. Planks
that ~~sp~~ spent a deluge of words.~~ **P** There was one today
that gave promise of causing trouble. This one - on
^a the topic that sounds like something for a Democratic

Convention. You know how an issue splits the Democrats with noisy threats of another Southern secession, the Dixiecrats. Well, the Republicans also had that question of racial rights on their hands, and a Platform Committee has been hammering out a compromise plank.

A middle-of-the-road proposal - which, we hear, calls for civil rights, on a voluntary basis - not compulsory.

(~~This drew immediate protests from Negro delegates to the Convention, and one leader called the reported compromise - "ridiculous."~~) Today, the National

Association for the Advancement of Colored People, demanded a stronger Civil Rights declaration. Charging the carpenters of the plank with "duplicity and insincerity." And - calling for a fight on the Convention floor. Which, again, sounds like the Democrats - they being famous for Convention battles over the racial issue. As the last time, Nineteen Forty-Eight, when Dixiecrats walked out.

The Republicans, hitherto, have been immune from that kind of trouble - but, this year, there's a

→ difference. The G.O.P. has high hopes of making inroads in Southern states, and there's a question of satisfying both sides - the Negroes and the Southern Whites.

There was even talk that, if any declaration on racial rights was too strong, Southern delegates might walk out - for a Republican Dixiecrat secession. The G.O.P. would much rather leave that sort of thing to the ~~the~~ Democrats.

Well, this afternoon, the platform was adopted without any floor battle over the racial rights issue.

L.T. SIDELIGHTS

Would you like to know what has been going on behind the scenes today, here in Chicago? That's the sort of thing we all want to know as a rule, and it's the kind of thing that's not too easy to get. I know the first two days of this Convention, how difficult I found it to really uncover what was going on, in hotel rooms, and wherever delegates, politicians and big-wigs ~~get~~ get together, off the Convention floor. But it was a lot easier today. At any Convention, there are men who work behind the scenes, while others meet the milling crowds and take care of that end of it.

Well, to boil it down, the behind-the-scenes work today was all focused on one thing:- in the Eisenhower camp they actually feel they have a chance to win on the first ballot. So they are working furiously to that end. Working how? Why working on individual delegates to win them over. When the tide begins to turn, we all know how delegates behave. They don't want to be left in the lurch. Even if they

are not exactly ready to jump on the bandwagon, some of them can be pushed on. And that's what the boys behind the scenes are doing right at this moment.

How did the Eisenhower people feel they could do it? Well, here are their figures. I found Herb Brownell of New York, with his coat off, sitting quietly with two or three of his associates, and they have it figured out that it can be done on the first ballot. Brownell, of course, is closely associated with Governor Dewey.

I found Governor Dewey in another part of town, all alone in a quiet corner room of a hotel, studying the arithmetic, and he has it figured that, at this moment, General Eisenhower has five hundred and seventy delegates for certain.

National Committeeman Bob Burroughs from Massachusetts got out his pencil and showed me how Eisenhower now has five hundred and seventy-five.

Dewey, Brownell, Burroughs, and most of ~~them~~

their associates feel they can pick up the remaining necessary thirty odd, and get it over in a hurry, either on the first or second ballot.

Governor Dewey looks tired. He has been putting up a tremendous fight for Ike, holding his New York delegation in line, and working on delegates from all over the country. In fact, he looks more weary than he did at the last Convention when he was a candidate, weary because he is really in there slugging.

As Mrs. Will Hays, wife of a former Chairman of the Republican National Committee, remarked to me at the Blackstone Hotel a little ~~xxx~~ while ago: "Why didn't Dewey fight as hard for himself as he's fighting now for Eisenhower?"

When will the delegations begin to break away? So far as California is concerned, Governor Warren told us a little while ago that he intends to hold his delegates just as long as he can.

Things are very quiet around the Stassen

headquarters, with former Governor ~~Sixxxxx~~ Stassen saying that he is holding himself in readiness to go out to the Convention whenever he is called. That, of course, means that Mr. Stassen has a speech up his sleeve.

You should see the Eisenhower headquarters today, the floor of the Blackstone where the General himself is staying! Up until this morning, you could go over there at almost any hour, and things were fairly quiet, no crush. But all day today the General has been swamped with visitors. He has been seeing delegation after delegation -- not only delegations to the Convention, but delegations of veterans' organizations, delegations from cities and towns. Just for the fun of it, I got in line with one delegation, in which I saw a number of friends. This was a ~~xxxxxxx~~ group from Bronxville.

The head of this group was Wanda Bixler, with a large box of white orchids for Mamie. The General and his lady always seem to be in good humor.

And this afternoon they were in rare form, looking completely rested, although they have shaken hands and talked to people since early this morning, since the bandwagon really began to roll. And it surely is rolling!

Ike talked to the Bronxville group about how, when he was President of Columbia, he went out to Bronxville and looked around for a house, thought they might buy a home there. But he said he found that prices were a little too steep for him.

Mrs. Eisenhower said she had been watching me last night on T.V., and I immediately recalled some words of high praise that I had had for Senator Taft. So I asked her if any of my remarks were out of order? To which she laughingly replied: "Oh, that would be impossible, for , you're my boy!" The indirect meaning of which was that we are both from Colorado and Denver, and - well, you know how that is.

I asked the General what he was doing last night at the crucial moment of the Convention, during that vote on the Georgia delegation? That probably was the deciding moment,

or so it looks now. He put his hand up to his mouth and in an aside, that the others couldn't hear, he said: "I was sound asleep." And then he added: "That's an old trick I learned in the Army -- get some rest, sleep, when you yourself can't do anything about what's happening." If he becomes President, I hope he can continue to do it that way. It's a wise statesman who knows when to sleep. And, SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.