

DELEGATIONS

R.T. - P. & G. Wednesday, July 9, 1952 (Chicago.)

The important Convention activities today were - behind the scenes. Once again, the delay caused by the fight over delegates in dispute, and there was a marking of time. The session today - filled in with speeches. The real business - behind the scenes.

One of the novel phases during this whole Republican campaign has been - candidates courting doubtful delegations. In addition to public speeches, both Senator Taft and General Eisenhower have devoted much time to personal meetings with delegates, trying to persuade them in private conversation. In fact, General Ike has made few public addresses - devoting much more time to those delegate meetings.

All of which was at a climax today, with emphasis on the biggest of the doubtful delegations. Which are - California, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Maryland.

For example, the California delegation, seventy strong, had a session with Senator Taft yesterday - and received the Senator's remarks with

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plenty of enthusiasm. Today, they were entertained by General Eisenhower - and responded with plenty of enthusiasm, to his remarks. The seventy Californians cheered and whistled, and there were shouts of " 'Atta Boy; Ike!"

For one thing - the General told how much of a Republican he is. Which reminds us that General MacArthur, night before last, drew a salvo of cheers by telling the Convention he had been a Republican all his life, and that his father had been a fervent supporter of Lincoln. So today, General Ike gave his own version of the same thing - answering criticism that he has been a Republican only recently, Johnny Come Lately.

To the Californians he proclaimed: "My roots are deep in Republicanism. As a small boy, in Dixon County, Kansas, we used to talk about a Democrat as we did about - the town drunk. That, unfortunately," added the General, "has changed a bit." Well, it sure has. If all the Democrats were town drunks - wouldn't it be intoxicating!

But, anyway, it's interesting - coming from two
Generals. Traditionally, military men are not
political - but now the two five-star Generals are
emphatic in proclaiming what ardent Republicans they
are. Appropriate, at a Republican Convention.

They decided to make a concession -- hoping to pacify the angry
protest from the side of General Iba. That is now upheld by
the Credentials Committee. But the indignations are -- that Iba
will make a fight on the convention floor demanding that their
entire Texas delegation be seated.

In fact, (the committee action in the case of Louisiana,
today, was an effort toward a compromise -- putting the Louisiana
delegates over to Eisenhower. But the supporters of the General
have been ^{de} _A ~~announcing~~ the notice of the fait accompli in the
South as -- final. So they are battling to the bitter end.)

Another late bit of news from the convention -- the
Californians will vote the Eisenhower way in the fight over the
Georgia delegation tonight by a majority of sixty to ten. As
stated by California Senator Fowler, who declares that many
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ADD DELEGATIONS

^{the}
Here's latest news. (The Credentials committee has
voted to give twenty-two Texas delegates to Taft, sixteen to
Eisenhower. This is in accordance with a compromise which Taft
offered -- and which was rejected by the Eisenhower forces.
Originally, of course, Taft claimed all the Texas delegates,) but
then decided to make a concession -- hoping to pacify the angry
protest from the side of General Ike. That is now upheld by
the Credentials Committee. But the intimations are -- that Ike
will make a fight on the convention floor demanding that their
entire Texas ~~delegation~~ delegation be seated.

In fact, (the committee action in the case of Louisiana,
today, was an effort toward a compromise -- handing the Louisiana
delegates over to Eisenhower. But the supporters of the General
have been ^{de}announcing the actions of the Taft ~~back~~ backers in the
South as -- fraud. So they are battling to the bitter end.)

Another late bit of news from the convention -- the
Californians will vote the Eisenhower way in the fight over the
Georgia delegates tonight by a majority of sixty to ten. So
stated by California Senator Knowland, who declares that sixty
of the delegation will support General Eisenhower in ~~his~~ voting

on the question of Georgia. Ten will support Senator Taft.

Presumably, they'll ~~do~~ do much the same in the case of Texas.

GOVERNOR FINE

The news wires today devoted no end of attention to Governor John Fine of Pennsylvania - noting everything he said, the inflection in his voice, the people he chatted with at the Convention, the slant of his eyebrows. ^PAll along, the Pennsylvania Governor has been the number one man of mystery, in the battle for the Republican nomination. He controls a large block of Pennsylvania votes, and the question has been - who would Governor Fine support? Taft or Eisenhower? For weeks he has been playing cdy and secretive - conferring with Taft, talking things over with Eisenhower. But, giving no definite indication, which one he would back at the Convention. He seemed to favor General Ike a bit - but that was vague.

This morning, Governor Fine announced - he would reveal his choice for president at a caucus of the Pennsylvania delegation this evening. The Pennsylvanians, all seventy of them, ~~are~~ to decide on how they'll vote in the battle of the contested delegations. They - to make their decision in the matter of the Georgia and

Texas delegations. Governor Fine - to look farther ahead and say who he'll support for president.

So that made the question keener than ever - which one would he declare for? And that's why the newsmen watched the Governor, looking for signs. They noted that he posed for pictures with Senator Duff of Pennsylvania, one of the top advisers of General Ike. Later, Senator Duff said to newsmen: "Do I look unhappy?" No, he didn't. The Senator, supporting Ike, was beaming.

Later on, the reporters observed Governor Fine took a chilly attitude toward a Pennsylvania delegate, who is a prominent supporter of Senator Taft. Still later, Fine walked across the Convention floor for a cordial chat with Governor Dewey of New York. Dewey - the original Eisenhower booster.

All these indications were interpreted in the obvious way, and then came a statement from another prominent Pennsylvanian, Joseph M. Pew, long a political power in his home state. Joe Pew favors General

MacArthur, and so he didn't speak as an Eisenhower enthusiast. He declared that Governor Fine, in the words of the dispatch - "has definitely decided to support General Eisenhower for the Republican presidential nomination."

To which he added: "Whether he is supporting him to stalemate the Convention, or because he thinks Eisenhower can win, I don't know. But," added Joe Pew, "I do know ~~that~~ he has made up his mind to support Eisenhower."

That should end the mystery. I've known Joe Pew for a long time, worked with him for years. One of the heads of the Sun Oil Company, which was my sponsor for so long. Joe Pew is rugged about the facts and, if he says anything definitely, that's it.

So we can take it for granted that Governor Fine of Pennsylvania is coming out for General Eisenhower - which will swing a sizeable block of Pennsylvania votes to the General.

CREDENTIALS

A few minutes from now, ~~the~~ the critical battle will begin - on the Convention floor. The Credentials Committee will present its report - and that will bring to a final issue the quarrels over delegations in dispute.

Today, the Credentials Committee, strongly controlled by Taft supporters, made a major concession to General Ike. They voted to give him all of the Louisiana delegation, thirteen. Louisiana - one of the Southern states in which the Republicans had an angry split, ~~transferred~~ ^{Selecting} two delegations, one for Taft - one for Eisenhower. [¶] The National Committee, dominated by the Ohio Senator, gave the ~~next~~ Louisiana delegation to Taft, ^{gave him ~~gave him~~} ~~together with~~ all the ~~other~~ Southern delegations in dispute. The Credentials Committee followed suit, ⁱⁿ one case after another. Georgia, for example, giving the Georgia delegation to Taft. [¶] Then - a sudden break in the case of Louisiana. Taft conceded ^{the} those thirteen delegates to General Ike, ^{So} there won't be any fight about that on the Convention floor. [¶] But

there promises to be a battle - over Georgia. And especially - Texas. Presumably, the Credentials Committee is recommending that the Taft supporters from the Lone Star State be confirmed - rejecting an Eisenhower slate from Texas. The Eisenhower backers have been saying all along: - they challenge this! Which promises - the liveliest kind of conflict. The Convention, itself, to decide about Georgia and Texas.

Previously, ^{today,} the California delegation had voted ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ to give powerful backing to the Eisenhower forces, in this Convention floor battle, soon to begin. Which made it look promising for General Ike, But the decision may be close - as they now enter the final phase of the conflict, ^{the phase that is} second only to the actual selection of a candidate.

TRUMAN

Harry Truman prophesies that Robert Taft will not be nominated! What does he know about? Mr. Truman told reporters today he is "afraid" his "favorite candidate", Senator Taft, will be defeated for the Republican presidential nomination. He also denounced as a darned lie "only he didn't say darned," allusions this afternoon at the Republican Convention in Chicago by Senator Joseph McCarthy to the existence of a "Truman Acheson-Lattimore" party. Mr. Truman made his observations on the Republican Convention at the Airport where he greeted Secretary of State Dean Acheson upon his return from a seventeen thousand mile trip to Europe and South America.

The President, who apparently has been following the Republican Convention closely on his television set, was chatting with friends at the airport a few minutes before Acheson returned. "I'm worried," he said with mock gravity, "it looks like my candidate is going to get beat."

Mr. Truman has several time in press conferences identified Senator Taft as his favorite G.O.P. presidential possibility. Meaning the one he thinks would be easiest for the Democrats to beat.

Later reporters again asked how his favorite candidate seemed to be doing. "I'm afraid he'll get beat." Mr. Truman repeated with a smile.

A reporter also asked the President what he thought of McCarthy's charges at the Convention today against the Truman Acheson Lattimore party. "I don't know anything about it", the President said, "but if McCarthy did it, it's a blankety blank like!" said Harry S. Truman.

HOOVER

(Here's an odd bit of detail - one of those prosey facts that might seem to have no place in an episode of high drama and profound feeling. It states that the thermometer in the Convention Hall rose five degrees - from seventy-five to eighty. That happened during (the tremendous ovation for Ex-President Herbert Hoover - the greatest ovation at the Convention thus far.) The cheering crowd burned enough energy to push the mercury up - five degrees. Which may be a prosey fact, but it's a telltale sign of how our only living Ex-President stirred the Convention.

The drama was all the greater, because Herbert Hoover stirred - a tremendous denial. What he said was rejected by the crowd, with shouts of -"No!" Herbert Hoover, at seventy-eight, began by noting that he had addressed five Republican conventions, and supposed this would be - the last. ^{As most of you heard} That brought a roar of denial, pandemonium shouts ^{of} "No! No!" After an address of remarkable vigor, he concluded on that same note, making it even more sententious. These words:

"From the inexorable course of nature," declared Herbert Hoover, "this is likely to be the last time I will have the honor of attending your conventions."

Once again, a frenzy of shouts - "No! No!"

So that's how it was that the greatest outbreak, at the Convention thus far, featured - a denial.

And - as told the recommendation was made by television

experts. They took into consideration the elaborate

needs of T.V. and radio, together with general and

press. Actually, the amphitheatre in the Stockyards

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about letting people in, making greater precautions.

PRESS RELATIONS

There's a good deal of wonder why the national conventions of the two major political parties are being held in the Stockyards. Which certainly is not a neighborhood of stately elegance, or perfumed fragrance. I've been asking around about - the why and wherefore. And - am told the recommendation was made by ^{the} television experts. They took into consideration the elaborate needs of T.V. and radio, together with newsreel and press. Actually, the amphitheatre in the Stockyards is not as large as the giant Chicago ^{stadium} ~~auditorium~~, where ^{previous} ~~the~~ conventions were held, ~~the last time~~. It doesn't seat nearly as many people. But the Stockyards amphitheatre has a lot more space outside the actual hall, more room all around it - for technical equipment, television and radio booths. So that makes it ^{far better} ~~more up to date~~ for all the ^{ultra} modern equipment.)

But the smaller seating capacity makes it a tougher job for handling the crowds that attend, more crowded and pushy - and they've got to be more strict about letting people in, using greater precautions,

checking credentials. Which makes it tough on the force of ushers, required to see that unauthorized people do not get in and grab seats. So they tossed out ^{me} Governor Dewey's elder son, Tom, who managed to get hold of a press badge, and was trying to act like a veteran reporter. Also - some authentic dignitaries have had trouble getting in, much to their indignation.

Thus complaints among newsmen, who growl about confusion and mix-ups -- inevitable under the circumstances. Their remarks include the familiar squawk - that the Republicans don't handle the publicity relations as well as the Democrats. Probably they don't - the Democrats having more of the genial Irish politician, who in a troubled situation, knows how to smooth things over with a smile and a bit of blarney.

This morning, at breakfast, I ran across a couple of old newsreel colleagues, Movietone Cameramen with whom I worked for years - Montemuro of Chicago, and Jack Painter of New York. They were grumbling because a prominent Republican figure had sloughed them off -

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When all they wanted to do was make some newsreel pictures of him.

Jack Painter remarked with a saturnine face - that he'd better be careful. Or hereafter, when they make picture of him, they might over-expose their film - or put him out of focus!

And now as I say s-l-u-t-m I see a CBS announcer sitting across the table who is not out of focus - meaning you, Ed Scott.