

L.T.-DELCO. Monday, August 13th, 1956

Back Live

(Chicago Convention)

Tonight, of course, I'm saying; "Good Evening Everybody!" from Chicago. With another National Convention under way, ~~with~~ all of us who are involved in presenting the news are here. Well, if not all, the invasion of news men is so great that you feel surely ~~xxxxxxx~~ no one stayed at home, anywhere, to handle local news.

There had been stories to the effect that the Conventions this year somehow would be different, that finally the men who are responsible for all the new miracles in this age of electronics, had convinced the politicians that things should be changed, drastically. So, <sup>A lot of us</sup> ~~I~~ went to this opening session of the Democratic Convention, wondering. And upon adjournment we came away <sup>saying</sup> /that, so far, there hadn't been much change.

( Oh, the City of Chicago has done some work on the traffic problem, more one way streets out to the big arena at the Stockyards. And, the seats on the floor, the chairs occupied by the delegates, they are a great improvement, upholstered theater chairs bolted to the floor. So comfortable that maybe the delegates won't be jumping up quite so much. All that solid ~~same~~ comfort may tend to quiet things down a bit. As the days go by we'll see. Perhaps there will be less of the old time parading and pandemonium. I wonder.)

There seemed to be just as much chaos on the platform as ever. Speakers droning along with no one listening, ~~while~~ <sup>went on</sup> while everybody/interview<sup>er</sup> everybody else.

Oh yes, ~~and~~ there is one tremendous improvement: air conditioning on a grand scale. So no longer will the humid air be kept in motion by the flutter of ~~thousands~~ thousands of cardboard and palm leaf fans. Like the old-time circus under canvas

the fan you wave ~~and~~ beat the lady in front of you over  
the fan at the political convention/ has gone forever.  
the head with-

But, the speeches, as of old on ~~the~~ opening day, as  
dull as ever.

( But who's going to get the nomination? I  
rode up in an elevator a moment ago with a crowd of  
delegates from Nebraska and North Dakota. The former  
all for Stevenson, and latter all for Harriman. One  
North Dakotan said to a Nebraskan Judge: "I got my  
education at your University of Nebraska." Said the  
Judge to the North Dakotan: "You ~~px~~ people always come  
to us to be educated." Looking at the Judge's Stevenson  
button, I broke in and said: "In this case will you  
be able to educate them in time?" Replied the Judge:  
"Oh, they'll all flop over, in short order". And he  
was serious about it.

That's the exciting question uppermost  
in the minds of all who are here at this convention.)

## CONVENTION - SOUTH

Actually the principal development out here in Chicago today - was the rather sudden formation of a southern bloc. With a policy of standing aloof in the Stevenson-Harriman battle. This was stated by the former Virginia Governor, John S. Battle, who addressed a caucus of the Virginia delegation as follows: "We will be in a strong position in negotiations with the people on the other side", said he, "if we refrain from taking a stand - or defer it for at least a day or two." By "The other side" - he meant the northern liberals who want a plank endorsing a Supreme Court decision, outlawing racial segregation in the schools.

So, it would appear that the Dixieland representatives have been quietly negotiating among themselves. This new unified stand - a quick result.

When Ex-President Truman endorsed Harriman, one supposition was that it would cause the South to rally

behind Stevenson. The Southerners hostile to both Truman and Harriman, as radical exponents of racial rights. But that expectation did not materialize.

Instead, Senator Lyndon Johnson of Texas declared himself a candidate in earnest - really seeking the nomination, which move was accompanied by the rally of Southern delegations - holding off with a policy of - "wait and see".

That is, Harriman, would put the Democrats on the offensive on the Communism issue, referring to the fact that Harriman is on record as having warned the Roosevelt administration of perfidy of Soviet Russia. So Harriman stands solidly anti-Communist.

Also he said he would attack President Eisenhower as having been deluded by the Soviet Reds. Believing back in war-time, that the Russians could be trusted.

Also - I'm hopeful right now in dealing with the Soviets.

## HARRIMAN - COMMUNISM

Governor Harriman today tossed the Communist issue into the middle of all this, making similar speeches before the Washington State and Arizona delegations, the New York Governor admitted - that the Democrats have been on the defensive in the matter of Communism. Which could, by the way, have been a dig at Adlai Stevenson, who was a mark for anti-Communist brickbats in the last election. Today Harriman said - that he, Harriman, would put the Democrats on the offensive on the Communism issue, referring to the fact that Harriman is on record as having warned the Roosevelt administration of perfidy of Soviet Russia. So Harriman stands solidly anti-Communist.

Also he said he would attack President Eisenhower as having been deluded by the Soviet Reds. Believing back in war-time, that the Russians could be trusted. Also - too hopeful right now in dealing with the Soviets.

A dispatch from London tells of plane loads of British soldiers - streaming through the sky bound for the Mediterranean. Called - the biggest air lift since the Berlin blockade, when the western sector of that huge city was provisioned week after week via the sky route.

Word from Western Germany - that the British are pulling out soldiers and equipment, as further reinforcement. Removed for the time being-- on their way to the Mediterranean.

This new build up of British military power in the area of the Suez Canal -- follows an Egyptian refusal to attend the London conference.

~~(Nasser countering -- with a UNX proposal for a broader world conference to "review" the Suez Canal situation -- without questioning Egypt's ownership of the great waterway. Nasser bitterly opposing any plan to internationalize the Canal. The London Conference -- intending to discuss the question of world control.)~~

Meanwhile, Egypt receives new backing from other Arab powers. The Council of the Arab League Meeting in Cairo adopted a resolution - that any aggression against Egypt will be considered aggression against all Arab states.

In London delegations from invited countries are arriving. Today two plane loads of Russian diplomats landed at the London airport. Twenty-four countries will be represented - out of the twenty-six invited. Egypt refusing and Greece, reluctant. Athens angered by the quarrel over Cyprus.

From Washington comes word - that Secretary of State Dulles will go to the London conference - with solid by - partisan backing. Following the meeting at the White House yesterday, when top ranking leaders of Congress were consulted. Democrats as well as Republicans - conferring with the President and Secretary of State. The President - outlining the policy this

country will pursue on the subject of Suez.

In Chicago, the Democratic leader in the Senate, Lyndon Johnson of Texas, was asked about yesterday's conference, which he attended - taking time out from Convention politics. He replied that the administration

would have to assume full responsibility in the Suez

negotiations. As for bi-partisanship, he remarked -

that "politics ends at the water's edge."

## PLANE

Britain made a fine showing in the air today -- when a ninety-three passenger turbo-jet airliner whizzed its way from Montreal to New York in just one hour. Previously, the giant plane, the ~~Etex~~ Bristol Britannia, had flown across the Atlantic from London to Montreal in ten-hours-and-forty-four minutes.

And there was flashing speed -- over the Pacific. A U.S. jet bomber winging from Hawaii to Long Beach, California -- at more than six hundred miles an hour. Just a routine flight -- the B-66 jet bomber returning from the ~~Atomic~~ tests ~~in~~ which were staged at Eniwetok in the far Pacific.

## HURRICANE

The East Coast of Florida -- on hurricane alert. The tropical howler called Betsy -- moving on a northwesterly course after blasting the Bahamas with winds up to one-hundred-and-twenty-five miles an hour. The Weather Bureau warns that, if the hurricane continues the way it is travelling -- it will hit the Florida mainland some time tomorrow afternoon.

The center eye of the storm -- that quiet area in the middle, should pass over the island of San Salvador about now. ~~The~~<sup>is</sup> island - where Columbus landed.

## ROBBERY

Here's a riddle -- why is the Democratic Convention like the wedding in Monaco? Answer - a news/dispatch telling of a jewel robbery. Remember how at the marriage of Prince Ranier and actress Grace Kelly -- thieves looted the jewels of prominent wedding guests? Well, the victim in Chicago is former Senator Benton of Connecticut -- a delegate to the Convention. Senator and Mrs. Benton report -- the disappearance of sixteen thousand dollars worth of jewelry from their hotel room. The thief -- getting away with a sapphire ring, two pairs of ear rings, an antique gold necklace, together with other gems.

So, that's why the Democratic Convention is like the wedding in Monaco.

## **KEYNOTE**

Tonight's keynote -- a real trumpet call, and bugle blast. Governor Clement of Tennessee -- known for the spread eagle type of oratory, <sup>to</sup> raise the rafters and bring down the house. His oration tonight -- a stem winder. Excoriating the Republicans as -- a party of "privilege and pillage". The history of the Eisenhower administration, "a sordid record of broken ~~xxx~~ promises and <sup>un-</sup>redeemed pledges." The key noter calling on the American people in his words: "To rise up as one man and smite down these money changers." All-out condemnation for President Eisenhower and what Governor Clement calls his millionaire cabinet.

Tennessee

Well, the/Governor must mean -- there are good millionaires and bad millionaires. The good millionaires for example including -- Candidate Adlai Stevenson, who we hear is wealthy. And candidate Stuart Symington -- a prominent industrialist. Candidate for the Vice Presidency Senator John Kennedy an heir to a great Boston banking fortune. Senator Lehman of

of New York a millionaire banker. And of course,  
Candidate Averell Harriman, the heir to one of the  
greatest American fortunes. Multi-Multi-Millionaire.  
Able, probably - to buy out the whole Eisenhower  
cabinet. Or, maybe Governor Clement means -- it takes  
a millionaire to catch a millionaire.

## SLIPS OF SPEECH

I don't know so much about the hits and runs, on this first day of the Convention -- but there were three errors. Slips of speech, that is. Adlai Stevenson -- victim of two. This morning, the candidate appeared on a television show and received a hearty greeting from the TV interviewer. Who called out: "Thank you very much for coming down - Governor Harriman."

"The name" replied Adlai "is Stevenson."

Later -- another TV slip of speech.

The commentator was interviewing Senator Humphrey of Minnesota, but Stevenson was also there, and -- got another greeting.

"Hello Senator" said the interviewer.

Adlai might have remarked that he's an ex-Governor. But he got the salutation -- as Senator Stevenson. Slip of speech number three befell Stevenson's arch rival -- Governor Harriman. But he also was the perpetrator of the faux pas.

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Harriman was addressing a caucus of the Washington State delegation, and proclaimed fervently:

"I'm delighted that President Eisenhower, my old boss, said I was qualified for this job." There was a roar of laughter. Harriman - puzzled. Not realizing that he had said anything funny -- until somebody -- leaned over and whispered to him. Slightly embarrassing. What he ~~xx~~ meant was Truman, but what he said was Eisenhower. Just another slip of speech. →

ADD SLIP OF SPEECH

The comedy of errors extended even to the solemn ceremony of - singing the Star Spangled Banner. Television singer Johnny Desmond was given the assignment -- and, at the opening of the Convention, he raised his resonant baritone voice. But - got the words wrong. Instead of singing "O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming", he chanted "Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there". But, adds, Johnny Desmond, "I don't think anybody caught it."

Wrong you are, Johnny, my secretary caught it, as she listened on television. *Now Henry?*