

L.T. - P&G. - MONDAY, MARCH 31, 1952

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Congressman Sam Rayburn, speaker of the house, declares himself out of the race. We didn't know he was in it. But he was - - briefly. Which is an example of a stream of dispatches, following (that weekend sensation - - President Truman declaring himself out.

The Democratic side of the Presidential picture is thrown into dizzy confusion.) Hitherto, the Republicans have provided the chief interest - - with Taft and Eisenhower leading in a lively race. (The Democrats ^{were} in a state of suspended animation, President Truman providing the suspense. But he ended that with a sudden bang - - and there's a Democratic scramble.)

One thing became evident immediately - - the rise of favorite sons.) Texas came out quickly with - - Rayburn, pride of the Lone Star State. But he is equally prompt - - in pulling out today. Today after a visit to the White House, newsmen queried him, and he said - - no, he would not be a candidate.

(Vice-President Barkley was asked - - but

he didn't say -- no. Wouldn't commit himself. The aged Vice-President is being boomed as Kentucky's favorite son. Michigan presents -- Governor Mennen Williams And Connecticut -- Senator Brian McMahon.

Illinois, of course, has Governor Adlai Stevenson, who continues to say he's not a candidate; but he hasn't said and doesn't say he wouldn't accept. Today he conferred with President Truman -- and, upon emerging from the White House, he admitted what we already knew that he is being urged by Democratic leaders to get into the race. President Truman is reported to be promising Stevenson his own support. But the Governor of Illinois would not comment on that.

The Truman decision of course makes things look better for the Democrats already in the race -- out in the open all along. Tonight Senator Kefauver of Tennessee and Governor Kerr of Oklahoma each predict victory for himself in the Nebraska Primary tomorrow. Nebraska, together with the Wisconsin Primary on the same day, marks the next headline of the voters going to the poles.

Senator Russell of Georgia, who went in as the Dixie Land candidate some weeks ago, insists that the Southerners are still going to have their say -- despite the withdrawal of President Truman, to whom they were so much opposed.

The President isn't saying anything, except that he'll be in there battling for the Democratic nominee. ^R Mrs. Truman is the silent First Lady. As usual. But daughter Margaret says that, next January, her parents will probably return to Missouri, and settle down quietly at the old home town of Independence.

Margaret Truman was asked about her singing career -- how would it be affected by her Father's retirement from the Presidency? She said it will make things -- "a bit easier." Explaining -- that she has been helped by being a President's daughter, but that this has also been a hindrance in her career. Maybe she means that people regard her more as the President's daughter than as a soprano in her own right -- the hindrance of which could be a matter for conversation. But, anyway -- when her Father ceases to be President,

Margaret Truman is going right on with her singing.

On the Republican side, the Attorney General of Minnesota states that General Eisenhower may get four of the Minnesota delegates to the G O P National Convention. On the face of it, Harold Stassen won all twenty-eight -- and that huge write-in vote for General Ike didn't seem to have any meaning, except as an expression of public opinion. But the ruling today was that, in the Minneapolis area, where Eisenhower got a majority, four delegates are declared -- not given to Stassen. They may go to General Ike at the State Convention. Minnesota law providing for a Convention as well as a Primary vote -- to make things complicated.

Stassen says he doesn't care, adding: "I plan to confer with my Minnesota delegates, and abide by their wishes."

Well, suppose that they should wish to vote for General Ike at the ~~Republican~~ Republican Convention? That might add still further to the complications.

ADD POLITICS

In the Senate, Senator Humphrey of Minnesota has introduced a bill to make ex-presidents of the United States - Senators-at-Large.

This would give them the full privileges of Senators, without the right to vote. Thus both Mr. Truman and former President Herbert Hoover would be seated in the Senate and receive a Senator's salary - twelve-thousand-five-hundred plus a two-thousand-five hundred dollar tax-free allowance.

(Attorney General McGrath says he may refuse to answer the financial questionnaire sent him by Newbold Morris. Which sounds -- rather startling.

Justice Morris, of course, heads the drive against corruption in government -- that famous housecleaning. Selected by President Truman, and put on the job by McGrath -- as an assistant to the Attorney General.)

The house-cleaner has been running into a lot of controversy, and now (there seems to be disagreement about -- those financial questionnaires. Which he announced he would send to all government officials -- for them to answer, stating their income, all their earnings.) Everybody but the President would get one -- which, of course, would include Attorney General McGrath, Morris's own superior officer.

(A financial questionnaire for the Attorney General was the more interesting, because of a charge made by Presidential candidate Harold Stassen -- who stated that, while in public office, McGrath has made millions.)

(But, McGrath, today, told a Congressional Committee -- he may refuse to answer the questionnaire. And -- may instruct the officials of his Department of Justice to refuse likewise. Which certainly sounds like a mix-up somewhere.

McGrath spoke of Newbold Morris today -- with little enthusiasm. Indicating -- he would oppose the appointment of Morris as head of the anti-corruption drive, if he had to do it all over again.) At one point he was asked about an announcement made by the house-cleaner, and replied tartly: "He makes so many announcements, I haven't been able to keep up with them."

In New York those steel talks are off. In a last minute decision, the "big six steel makers" cancelled their wage conference with C I O delegates this afternoon. A spokesman for U.S. Steel stating that the session has been postponed "temporarily -- pending further developments." However, Philip Murray, President of the C I O says he assumes the bargaining will begin ~~xxxxx~~ tomorrow, in an attempt to prevent the steel strike set for April eighth.

FOLLOW STEEL

Charles E. Wilson stepped down as Defense Mobilizer this afternoon, following his dispute with President Truman over the steel crisis. At a news conference, Wilson told reporters that "U.S. production has now swung the military balance against Russia." However, ~~Wilson~~^{He} refused comment on his row with President Truman.

KOREA - TRUCE

At Panmunjom, the issue of Russia as a neutral inspector of a Korean Armistice remains unsolved. At today's meeting, the Communists proposed that the question be referred to a higher level. Meaning, a sub-committee of the Truce delegation, instead of the Staff Officers who have been discussing it so far. We will give our reply to the proposal tomorrow.

Late word from Panmunjom. In the secret debate, the staff officers have decided to hold at least one more meeting on the question of armistice supervision before passing the issue to higher level.

ARMED FORCES

(The Senate today voted a forty-five dollar a month bonus for all service men on combat duty in Korea.) Then went on to approve a bill which would give all members of the Armed Forces an average increase in pay of five per cent. The House has already approved a similiar measure which would give a ten per cent increase. The Senate bill, approved by voice vote, must now go to a joint Senate-House Committee, which will work out a compromise.

ATOM BOMB (follow armed forces)

From Las Vegas comes word that another atom bomb will be detonated at Frenchmen's Flat proving grounds early tomorrow morning. Tonight Las Vegas is alive with rumors about these latest tests.

One speculation is that a bomb will be let off at a very high altitude to find out if an atomic guided missile could be used to blast an air-borne invading armada.

ITALY

(Italy reports on a - Revolution. That's what it was - to Italians. For the first time in history, they had to file income tax returns, and pay up - the way Americans do.) So how does it work out?

(Previously,) the levy on incomes had been in an old-fashioned way -- which would seem like a joke over here. The taxpayer didn't report his income to the government. It was up to the local tax collector to figure how much he should pay.)

All Italians joked about the procedure. The taxpayer would state the amount of his income, and the tax collector would think - the figure should be twice as much. Which was nearly always the case, ~~and there was justification for the cheating.~~ Because the taxpayer knew that, if he stated his correct income, the tax collector would double it - out of habit. So they bargained on that basis - and it was ^{the usual thing to try} ~~an honor~~ to fool the tax collector.

Then, last October, the government at Rome enacted legislation - American style - people having to

make income tax reports to the government. Today the first results came out - and what does the new tax revaluation show?

Well, for one thing, there are many fewer taxpayers. Exemptions allowed have reduced the number of people who pay anything at all. But the amount of money taken in - has increased sharply. Today, the Finance Minister announced that the revenue is fifteen per cent more than last year - under the old system. ~~xx~~ And - he expects a still more favorable return, as time goes on - and penalties are imposed.

~~The penalties, by the way, are not according to the American plan. In Italy, the joke always was - that, if you locked up everybody who cheated on income tax there wouldn't be enough jails to hold them. So they're not going that far. Anybody who fails to make a tax return, loses the right to obtain a passport or other government documents. If he makes a false declaration, the penalty is - a fine. ~~xxx~~ - No jail.~~

But Legislation is being prepared, ^{for that} ~~providing for~~

prison sentences - but not until two or three years from now. Put tax cheaters in jail? They'll have to get around to that gradually.

Friday night we heard about the nine men marooned on the Polar ice -- nearly eight hundred miles north of Point Barrow, the northernmost tip of Alaska. Members of a Navy scientific expedition making studies in the region of the Pole. Their plane forced down, and there they were -- in a spot that would have meant disaster for old-time explorers. But he said that they had ample provisions, emergency tents for shelter, and plenty of gasoline for fuel to keep warm. So the Navy was making leisurely preparations to take them out. No hurry -- more like a routine job.

Well, it happened today -- a dispatch from Point Barrow stating that a Patrol Bomber, equipped with sleds, flew North and landed near the marooned party. Not only picking them up safe and sound -- but transporting ten thousand pounds of scientific equipment

ARCTIC

This next -- is described as a rescue. But it seems hardly more than a routine transport job. That's the way Air Force and Navy planes are operating in the Arctic.

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Well, it happened today -- a dispatch from Point Barrow stating that a Patrol Bomber, equipped with skis, flew North and landed near the marooned party. Not only picking them up safe and sound -- but retrieving two thousand pounds of scientific equipment

they had along. Everything saved -- but the cracked
up plane.

A mere few years ago, it would have been a
heroic rescue. Or, maybe, impossible -- to save
survivors that near the North Pole. Today, for the
flyers up there -- it's all in a day's work.

MANEUVERS

Those war games in Texas are sure being made - realistic. The troops are maneuvering under rigorous, tough conditions of battle - and, in addition to the shot and shell, they ^are being assailed by sweet words in a voice of honey.

Today they heard -- feminine accents, wooing them with sugary talk of the girls at home, romance, gaiety. Much better, says the cooing seductress, than marching in the mud and the dust, under cannon fire and air bombs.

Ich weis nicht was sol es bedeuten,
It's the voice of -- the Lorelei. The Army has given that sentimental name of old legend -- to a Wac. She's on a propaganda job -- giving what are supposed to be enemy broadcasts. A war game version of -- Tokyo Rose, who used to warble Japanese radio propaganda to the G.I.s in the Pacific.

In Texas, the Army wants to show the soldiers everything the enemy can throw at them -- including the propaganda. ^{Nelson,} So, the G.I.s are hearing the voice of -- The Lorelei.