

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

A dispatch from London says that the Western diplomats now expect President Truman to go ahead with his plan to send a peace emissary to Moscow. The plan Secretary of State Marshall vetoed so emphatically.

The London dispatch recalls how, in one of his final campaign speeches, Mr. Truman said that the United States must try to convince Russia that we have no evil intentions. And that the normal diplomatic channels could not always succeed in doing this. The London spokesman says that the Western diplomats were of the opinion that if Mr. Truman had lost the election, he would have gone ahead with his plan, and sent someone to Moscow. Now that he is elected, they are sure he'll carry out his plan for a peace mission.

The word in London is that Mr. Truman's reelection is popular with the Western diplomats. They think it might have been difficult to get along with a

new man in the White House. That Mr. Dewey's election might have caused serious delay in negotiations.

One diplomat recalled Stalin's predication that Mr. Truman, whom Stalin branded as an instigator of a new war, would have the same fate as befell Mr. Churchill - repudiation by the people. "Well," said the diplomat with a chuckle, "this only goes to prove that even Stalin can be wrong."

## ELECTION NIGHT

( Our nation today may well salute the greatest political gladiator in American presidential history. The classic formula is this: to go in against great odds, wage a single-handed battle, keep on fighting when everybody else thinks it is hopeless, never yield an inch and then win out in the end. Which classic formula pretty much tells the story of President Truman in the election.)

Memory is fresh, the news having told us day after day in copious detail -- how Truman went out into the arena, and made it a personal hand-to-hand struggle. That is, he hit the trail across the country and back again, and then some more, talking to big crowds, little crowds, campaigning in great cities and at the whistle stops -- belligerent, scrappy, scathing, attacking, always attacking, hurling bitter phrases, angry retorts, flinging every charge in the political dictionary against the Republicans. He never let up, stumping the country in

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the knockdown drag-out tactics, familiar in the older tradition of American politics.

So what standards of comparison have we? In the middle of the last century this country had that wild and wooly, log cabin and hard cider presidential campaign, <sup>still remembered</sup> ~~which is known~~ by the slogan -- Tippecanoe and Tyler, too. But that electioneering uproar was staged, not by the candidate, but by the party -- the aged candidate, William Henry Harrison, playing but little part in the noisy ructions.

Then for a great political gladiator, <sup>of my youth,</sup> we go on to William Jennings Bryan, so famous for his many mighty efforts to be elected President. He campaigned across the country in resounding political warfare -- but he never won.

Another paladin of presidential campaigning was Theodore Roosevelt, belligerent, scrappy, fighting it out with few holds barred. But, the odds were in his favor -- when he carried the country against Bryan. Later, with the odds against him in Nineteen Twelve,

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he performed prodigies of electioneering, doing battle for the Lord at Armageddon -- but he lost.

So take what we have just seen:-- (President Truman, hardly wanted by his party. Democrats in a two-way split, Dixiecrat and Wallace. Lukewarm support from <sup>his</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>own</sup> political machine. So Harry Truman did it all by himself. That phrase may be a bit extreme, but it pretty well paints the picture of his apparently hopeless campaign, -- scrapping and ~~knocking~~ <sup>punching</sup> his way to a narrow victory -- the greatest upset in American political history.)

The Dewey campaign was the complete contrast. The New York Governor travelled just as far and wide as the President, the same kind of itinerary, big speeches in big ~~xxxxx~~ towns, rear platform appearances in little towns. But Dewey deliberately refrained from any suggestion of brass-knuckle campaigning. Both he and Governor Warren kept their end of the argument on a high level of conciliation, good feeling, and national harmony.

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Early this morning, at Dewey headquarters, it was remarked that the Governor was running so far behind expectations -- because he refused to get into a fight with his antagonist, would not close in for the rough and tumble of political in-fighting. It was remarked that Dewey could have done it, the old-time District Attorney drawing bills of indictment, and staging a savage prosecution of the Truman administration. Such today was the view of Dewey friends -- after they began to recover from their first astonishment over the election returns.

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( Looking back on it all, it would seem to me that Governor Dewey was the Number one victim of the polls and the experts.) Nearly all of us were deluded by those figures all the public opinion polls put forth -- showing an easy Dewey sweep. The political experts agreeing so unanimously. I, myself, made no prediction on this program.

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I never do, I leave prophesying to others and merely pass along the opinions of others. Which, I suppose, was a lucky thing. But I'd better not say too much about that, because if I had made a forecast, I'd have been as far wrong as all the rest. For I would have definitely and positively predicted the election of Dewey.

Well, we were all fooled. So consider the position of the New York Governor -- as the Number one victim of the polls and experts. (In the face of the universal verdict, he could only be convinced that victory was sure. So therefore he felt he could keep his political argument on a lofty plane and avoid anger and enmity, feuds and rancors -- such as might not be good for a Dewey' administration.) In a scrap you don't take off your own coat and tie if it looks as though your opponent is in a state of collapse, and even the Democratic leaders had predicted easy victory for Dewey.

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By a dignified campaign the two Governors also could escape commitments, too, the campaign promises, the specific pledges in detail -- which so often plague a President after he takes office. Hence the elevated, abstract tone of the Dewey campaign -- competing with the tough, hard-hitting tactics of Truman.

( Today I heard an elevator man give his comment. He was angry. He had voted for Governor Dewey, and said in tones of wrath: "He talked too high. He didn't talk to the little people." ) Perhaps that may be a revealing tip -- Dewey talking over the heads of the little people, while Truman was right among them, blasting away in the language of the common man. Which, by the way, is an excellent language to talk.

Dewey, himself, did wage a grass roots campaign in the Oregon primary -- when he had that knock down, drag out tussle with Harold Stassen, in the contest for the



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nomination. In Oregon, Dewey knew he had a do or die battle on his hands. He was battling against odds, and he did a stump-speaking job right down to earth -- with all the simplicities of every-day speech. But once he had the G.O.P. nomination, then the national campaign didn't look like there'd really be a battle at all. So he presented us with broad policy rather than attempt to demolish an opponent.

One of Governor Dewey's close friends, Lynn Sumner, told me today of a couple of farmers, solid substantial men of the soil, who went to the polls yesterday. They were asked -- who were they going to vote for? The two farmers answered -- Truman. They were asked -- why? To which they replied: "Things are fine for the farmers -- so why vote for a change?"

That may explain a good deal about one of the surprises of those election returns last night. (It was not

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astonishing for President Truman to carry the Labor vote; but when he carried the great farm states of the Middle West, Wisconsin, Ohio, Iowa, that was a tremendous surprise. I imagine that when the figures are analyzed they will show that the chief element in the Dewey defeat was the Republican failure to sweep the farm vote, traditionally Republican, the state<sup>s</sup> he had to have to win.) To which the answer may be that -- agricultural prices being what they are, the farmer was in no mood of discontent with the administration in Washington. The question echoing from the land of tall corn -- why vote for a change?

## VOTE

Here are the election figures as we have them tonight with the count still incomplete. President Truman has polled nearly twenty-two million votes. He has won twenty-eight states. Which gives him an electoral college vote of three hundred and four; thirty eight more than the minimum necessary to win, which is two hundred and sixty-six.

It is estimated that about forty-seven million Americans voted; and about forty-five million who should have, didn't. With no explanation as to why they stayed at home.

When Governor Dewey conceded the election to Mr Truman at a quarter past eleven this morning, the total popular vote counted up to then was forty million, seven hundred and eighty-three thousand, eight hundred and forty-six. Of these, Henry Wallace had polled a mere nine hundred and fifty-three thousand, six hundred and seventy-four -- only a fraction of what had been expected.

As the picture in the House is at present, the Democrats have two hundred and fifty-five candidates elected, with eight now leading at the polls. The Republicans one hundred and sixty-one, with ten leading. And if the Democrats win these eight races in which they are leading they will control the House by two hundred and sixty-three to one hundred and seventy-one. The votes are still coming in; for a final total which will have to wait until tomorrow.

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And here's a sidelight on what happens after an election. In Washington late this evening, a man was seen solemnly pushing another in a wheelbarrow round the White House. On his back was a sign: "I voted for Dewey". Just another of those election bets that have to be paid ~~off~~ off.

## EUROPE

What comment from the rest of the world? A London correspondent describes the capitals of Europe as electrified by the Democratic sweep. From Dublin to Vienna, from Oslo to Rome, the man-in-the-street hails Mr Truman's victory as that of a courageous fighter. The London newspapers are universally enthusiastic, they viewing the election result as a victory in the Roosevelt tradition. The London Stock Exchange made a quick revival, after business was brought to a standstill as the results poured in. Today all leading stocks moved up, except for a sharp downward trend in dollar holdings.

In Rome, the Vatican hailed the election as victory for the American people over isolationism.

In Spain, the news was received glumly. The Spanish newspapers had made up their front pages, announcing the election of Governor Dewey. These they had to hurriedly tear apart. And when they appeared on the streets, later than usual, the election result was a mere bulletin -- without

comment. The comment came from a prominent Spanish banker. "You see," said he to a U.P. correspondent. "this is what you get for holding free elections."

## CABINET

From Washington we hear that President Truman is expected to start his second term at the White House -- his first full term, by cleaning house. A reshuffling of his Cabinet, with changes in the posts of Secretary of State and Secretary of Defense. The two Cabinet Ministers who are expected to be among the first to go are Secretary of State George Marshall and Defense Secretary James Forrestal. And, perhaps Secretary of Interior Krug, and Commerce Secretary Sawyer.

The word is that Mr Truman has decided to purge his official family of those lukewarm supporters who contributed little or nothing to his campaign for reelection; those who preferred to remain on the sidelines. Next January twentieth will give him a perfect opportunity to make any Cabinet changes he wishes without too hard feelings. Because it is traditional for top government officials to submit their resignation as a matter of courtesy before the day of inauguration. Hence, the President will have the resignations

of all his present Cabinet and will be able to rebuild that group.

But why should Secretary of State Marshall leave at this crucial juncture in foreign affairs? It seems there have been differences of opinion over foreign policy that have strained the friendship between Mr Truman and General Marshall.

Mr Truman's plan to send Chief Justice Vinson to Moscow on that fabulous peace mission, is said to have been the final straw. Marshall overruled the President, and the conjecture is that in doing so he set the stage for his own resignation.



## RUSSIA

What are the Russians saying:-

Moscow is hailing the result of the American election as just another reactionary victory. The Kremlin apparently had expected a runaway victory for Governor Dewey.

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From Czechoslovakia, the same, a Czech Communist writer saying that as far as that country is concerned both Truman and Dewey are equally bad. The Prague Foreign Ministry, however, pays a surprising tribute to the Voice of America. It tells of every radio in the building; and almost every private radio in the city, being tuned in to American broadcasts -- everyone listening in to the Voice of America. From Budapest, Bucharest and Warsaw, says the Prague dispatch, it was the same story. Officials and private citizens were listening on the short wave, and jotting down the election results as they came over the air.

WORLD

In Paris today, Secretary of State Marshall and Soviet Delegate Vishinsky raised their hands in the U.N. General Assembly. Both supporting a resolution calling on the big powers to try once more and settle their differences. The resolution passed unanimously -- all fifty-six delegates approving. Vishinsky marking the rare occasion of his agreeing with the United States, by smiling broadly.

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And now here's Nelson who is always smiling broadly.