

Monday, August 26, 1968

DEMOCRATS

A "draft-Kennedy-for-President" headquarters has opened its doors in Chicago. However the Democrats appear ready to nominate Hubert Humphrey as they open their thirty-fifth national convention. A spokesman for Senator Ted Kennedy says he has asked that his name not be placed before the convention. His press secretary - says the Senator phoned former Ohio Governor DiSalle with this request - but DiSalle was reported as saying he would continue to campaign for the Senator's nomination.

Party National Chairman John M. Bailey has announced that first, the convention will take up the contentious matter of seating disputed state delegations tonight after the ceremonial welcoming speeches. The credentials of the Texas, Georgia, Alabama and North Carolina delegations are being challenged - most on grounds of racial discrimination.

Tomorrow night, the second night of the convention, a bitter floor fight is expected over rules changes and the party platform - especially the highly controversial plank on the Vietnam war.

Platform writers have already tentatively approved a plank backing up the Johnson administration policy on the war - and rejecting all demands of the war critics.

The leaders of the two most powerful state delegations -- Jesse Unruh of California and Chicago Mayor Richard Daley of Illinois -- are keeping their preferences for President to themselves. Both, however, deny they are part of a "draft-Kennedy" ~~also~~ move. Senator McCarthy -- fighting to withhold ballots from Humphrey on the first ballot - spent more than an hour today with the California delegation. Humphrey rode from hotel to hotel

*urging state delegations and union officials to give him
a chance to defeat Richard Nixon, the Republican nominee,
in November.*

CZECH

Communist sources in Moscow ^{tonite} are quoted ~~tonight~~ as saying that the Soviet Union has agreed to recognize the liberal regime of Alexander Dubcek in Czechoslovakia. The Russians, also, are reported to have agreed to withdraw their troops from Czech soil - but this ^{to} ~~would~~ be only a "gradual" withdrawal. The accord reportedly, was reached after four days of closely guarded meetings in the Kremlin ~~at Moscow~~ - between Czech officials and leaders of the Soviet Communist party -- although the Free Czechoslovakia radio claims the talks have not ended and are still going on.

^{TP} ~~on~~ In refusing to bring an immediate end to the military occupation of Czechoslovakia, the Russians reportedly insist ~~ed~~ that the two-hundred-thousand ~~are~~ Warsaw Pact troops remain ~~in~~ on Czech soil temporarily -- to see that the terms of any agreement are carried out. Also, the Soviets are said to be demanding that some Russian troops be stationed ⁾ ~~at the Czech-German border~~ on the Czech-West German border as military observers.

Meanwhile, the situation in Prague is becoming increasingly tense by the hour. Soviet troops are reported ~~to be~~ more nervous than ever as they patrol the streets where hundreds of thousands of Czech ~~citizens~~ ^S are ~~still~~ staging protest demonstrations, ^{these} including a noisy fifteen minute general strike in Prague's main square, with the Russians replying to taunts and jeers with warning bursts of machine-gun fire. ~~Soviet commanders are sending reinforcements and more tanks into the city.~~ As dusk fell and the fate of the nation hung in the balance, ^{with} the Soviet troops ~~are~~ ~~were~~ fingering their automatic ~~weapons~~ weapons and ~~constantly~~ scanning the ~~surrounding~~ rooftops, as if awaiting sniper fire.

The citizens of Czechoslovakia are making it clear - they want nothing short of a complete withdrawal of occupying forces from their country.

At the United Nations in New York - U S diplomatic sources say the United ~~States~~ States will refuse

to condone any - quote - "ratification of rape" of
Czechoslovakia, regardless of the official Czechoslovak
reaction to the talks in Moscow. The comment came after
the Security Council - at the request of Czech Foreign
Minister Jiri Hajek - agreed to postpone the council's
debate on the crisis, pending the outcome of the Moscow
talks.

MIDEAST

Jordan and Israel filed complaints with the United Nations today -- each accusing the other of bombarding villages along the border over the weekend. The two sides ~~battled~~ battled with tank, artillery and mortar fire for several hours along a twenty-mile front.

VIETNAM

American army infantry - supported by low-flying fighter-bombers - fought a close-quarters battle with North Vietnamese troops today. The fighting - which raged from mid-afternoon into the night - took place on a rubber plantation near the Cambodian border ^{some} ~~about~~ ~~two~~ eighty miles north of Saigon. American military commanders call it a Communist effort to divert defense forces from Saigon.

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Monmouth In Paris, the chief spokesman for North Vietnam at the deadlock peace negotiations, directed an appeal to the American people, asking them to force their government to end the war. Some observers ^{assume this to be} ~~said it was apparently~~ an attempt to stimulate sentiment against the war at the Democratic ~~National~~ Convention, as it opens in Chicago.

EISENHOWER

The condition of former President ~~Dwight~~

Eisenhower remains critical, ~~tonight.~~ ^{The latest} ~~A~~ medical bulletin -

issued ~~today~~ at Walter Reed ~~Army Hospital~~ -- noted an

increase in the seventy-seven year old General's heart

irritability. -- ~~although~~ ^{But} he was ^{said to be} resting comfortably.

RACE

Two electric-powered automobiles are speeding across the continental United States in opposite directions tonight - in a race to Pasadena, ~~LA~~ California, at one end, and Cambridge, Massachusetts, at the other. One car - powered by twenty batteries - started from the California Institute of Technology campus - the other - left the M I T campus in Cambridge. Each car has a crew of three, ~~who will~~ ^{these to} alternate at the wheel in the thirty-five hundred mile trip across the continent - stopping only for battery recharging and repairs. The winning car will be the one that reaches the opposite campus first.

1/2 And now speeding to the microphone - John Schaffer.

YIPPIES

To return to

~~also to~~ Chicago, the yippies have appealed

for a United Nations observer to keep watch on their Yippie

which they expect to have troubles with the police during convention. ~~week~~. The

as you know are Yippies ~~by~~ bearded and beaded members of the so-called

youth international party. Today they wired U S Secretary-General

U-Thant, charging that law and order had broken down in

Chicago. An estimated twenty-six thousand regular army

troops, national guardsmen, federal agents and police

are in or near the city ~~at~~ to keep order during the

convention proceedings, Yippies or no Yippies.

And ~~a~~ - until tomorrow -