

Most Of Nation's Political Smoke Rolls Daily Toward General Dwight Eisenhower

By RELMAN MORIN

NEW YORK — (AP) — There was a sudden burst of smoke, and possibly some fire, on the national political horizon today, and most of it was blowing in the direction of Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower.

The presidential conventions are still 12 months away. But politicians and neo-politicians suddenly began coming and going, rumors burgeoned from coast to coast, the smoke-filled hotel rooms were getting smokier and the pace of activity was picking up by the minute.

Whether this was merely another form of warm weather diversion, like channel swimming, or a portent of some concrete developments, was difficult to gauge.

In any case, it was pivoting mainly around Eisenhower. The question of his availability as a presidential candidate, and his chances of winning a nomination, were absorbing people of all ranks in most of the 48 states.

Two weeks ago, Herbert Brownell Jr., campaign manager in 1948 for Gov. Thomas E. Dewey, left New York, by automobile, on a long trip. He was headed for New Mexico, via the Carolinas and some other southern states.

Brownell's office declined to answer any questions about the trip.

The New York state Republican committee spokesman said the lawyer was on vacation.

But other prominent Republicans said Brownell's purpose was to sound out sentiment respecting Eisenhower in conferences with party chiefs along the whole route. They said they would be "very much surprised" if he did not stop to chat with some southern Democrats, among whom a strong anti-Truman movement appeared to be forming.

Still Political Enigma. To many Republicans, Eisenhower is still an unknown quantity. They claim not to know his position with respect to the basic issues of business and economics, which they consider even more important than foreign policy.

His announced supporters are busy explaining what, presumably, would be his position.

Eisenhower himself remained smiling and inscrutable in his N. A. T. O. headquarters in Paris. Meanwhile, at home, a report circulated all the way across the country. It claimed that when the general accepted the presi-

Truman Offers Comment On Top Political Topics

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Truman says he does not believe Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's duties in Europe will interfere with anything in 1952 if the general is interested in politics.

But, the President told a news conference, he thinks in any event General Eisenhower will put duty to his country first.

Two senators recently returned from Europe — one a Democrat and one a Republican — have suggested that Eisenhower's duties as supreme commander of Western European defense forces would keep him out of the field of possible presidential candidates next year.

Senator Murray (D-Mont), who says Mr. Truman should run again, came back from Europe to give that opinion in an interview. A similar view was expressed by Senator Brewster (R-Me.), who is generally regarded as backing Senator Taft of Ohio for the Republican presidential nomination.

Eisenhower has been nominated as a possible nominee by the Re-

publicans and also by the Democrats. He has never disclosed his political affiliation, if any.

A reporter said Bernard M. Baruch had expressed the view that those who are trying to get Eisenhower into politics are doing a disservice to the country.

Mr. Truman would not comment specifically on whether that constitutes a disservice. But, he said he agreed with Baruch that Eisenhower is doing a magnificent job in Europe.

And he said he hopes Eisenhower will continue to do that magnificent job as long as it is necessary.

Other Political Comment. In other political notes at the news conference:

1. A reporter said former Republican President Herbert Hoover had suggested that his party "expose, oppose, and propose" in its campaign against the Democrats.

With a grin, the president observed that he liked that last word, but added the Republicans haven't done that yet.

2. Mention was made that Dr. Daniel Poling, noted clergyman, has been nominated by the Republicans for mayor of Philadelphia. Mr. Truman was asked his reaction. The President replied that he is very fond of that good Baptist, Dr. Poling. But then he added he always has to be for the Democrats.

3. A reporter said there had been published speculation that Mr. Truman's appointment of two federal district judges in Illinois over the protests of Senator Douglas (D-Ill) involved possibly the President's 1952 intentions.

Mr. Truman said simply that he had appointed the judges in Illinois.

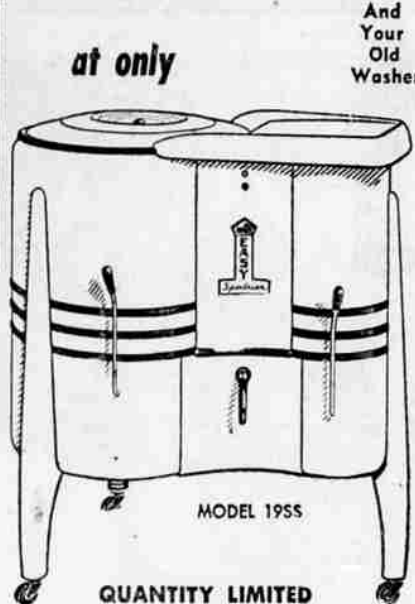
4. A reporter told the President that Senator Mundt (R-SD) had proposed an alliance between southern Democrats and northern Republicans who share the same views.

Mr. Truman said he had no comment; that he believed that was a question for Mundt and the Democrats, as he called them.

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