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TRUMAN IS OUT

By CHARLES V. STANTON

President Truman will not seek renomination. His declaration that he is not a candidate to succeed himself was made Saturday night at a Jefferson-Jackson day rally in Washington. He said he did not feel it his duty to serve another four years in the White House.

We imagine a lot of other people feel the same about his "duty," and he probably would have found it rather difficult to return to office had he decided to be a candidate.

A man in close touch with the Washington scene predicted to us several months ago that Truman would not run again.

Despite any faults the President may have, said our informant, he supports some of the Mid-West political tradition. This tradition strongly opposes the third term. While Truman would not be running for a third term technically, his tenure would be only a few weeks short, which, actually, would make a third term.

Furthermore, said this Washington resident, Mrs. Truman has had her fill of Washington. She has been made particularly unhappy by the criticism heaped upon the President, the disgraceful acts of some of his associates, and the charges of graft and corruption placed against the administration.

Her feelings, we were told, carry much weight with the President.

Will Keynote Campaign

This Washington observer, who was talking off-the-record, held the theory that Truman would again be a candidate only if forced into a position which offered no alternative. One such circumstance would occur had he been cornered by his political enemies, leaving him no choice except to fight his way out.

Existing circumstances, however, are such that he can wage his best fight as an ex-president. He can best defend his own record and give strongest support to the party by freeing himself from the candidate role. He then will be able to lambast the Republicans from all angles, to use his popularity to support the party's nominee and platform, and to exhibit himself as the persecuted man, thereby appealing to the emotions of the American people who traditionally are sympathetic toward the underdog.

An intimation of the task the President proposes to undertake can be found in the address he delivered to the Democratic faithful at the Washington rally.

Unable to deny the exposures of graft and corruption in his own administration, he charged, in effect, that the Republicans are worse grafters than the Democrats. He dusted off the old record of the "Party of Special Privilege" and played it over again, as it has been played for the theme song of every campaign since 1932. He pictured the Democratic party charging forward under the spotless banner of the common "peepul," while the Republicans were portrayed as following a pink flag denoting aid to Communists.

It was a typical "give-em-hell-Harry" speech. We can expect to hear a lot more on the same note during the next few months.

Field Now Wide Open

It will be interesting now to observe the Democratic party's maneuvering for a "Stop Eisenhower" campaign.

There can be little question that stopping Eisenhower will be a double-barreled effort, shared between the Democrats and the Republican Old Guard. Republican Old Guards apparently are basing their hopes on manipulating a deadlock between Taft and Eisenhower and thus bringing a dark horse candidate into the nomination.

Undoubtedly Democratic strategy will be to pick the man who can best capitalize on the split between Republican conservatives and liberals.

Strategy from both sides will be aimed against Eisenhower who, cannily, is staying out of the fracas until the last moment.

Truman's declaration that he is no longer a candidate opens the field for the party aspirants to start jockeying for position. Possibility exists for a worse rift in the ranks of the Democrats than is now evident in the Republican party, particularly if the States' Rights issue gets mixed into the battle.

At all events, the observer who can keep his sense of humor alive and his blood pressure down, should find the next few months very interesting and entertaining.

Fulton Lewis Jr.



WASHINGTON REPORT

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WASHINGTON — I hate to keep nagging Mr. Truman about this, but he had a chance to come clean in the new book, "Mr. President."

Maybe I'm too hopeful, but I felt sure he would fill in the missing details regarding his oil stock operations in Kansas City during 1916 and 1917. He did list a number of his previous occupations, such as soda jerk. But I searched the book in vain for a reference to the \$300,000 skimming the President, along with three partners, handed Missouri residents in those years. It isn't likely that a stock promotion job of this size could slip a man's mind, especially when he's co-authoring a political biography.

William Hillman, the nominal author of the book, obviously holds Mr. Truman in total esteem, so even if the President is bashful about this financial coup it would appear only normal for Hillman to relish a recital of the details. There are a number of other omis-

sions, however, which I'll go into later, so maybe the oil stock promotion that netted a profit for the President — but not for any of the investors — is just another case of oversight.

Mr. Truman was secretary of the Morgan and Company Oil Investments Corporation of Kansas City, Missouri, and one of its most active salesmen. Dave Morgan, the President, is still active in Missouri oil developments, although it is difficult, in talking to him, to separate fact from fancy. He's downright loquacious about the 1916-17 oil stock killing, except when it comes to the details of what happened to the oil wells, oil land and refineries that were advertised as come-on bait for the suckers who invested their cash, tramping over half of Kansas, I still couldn't locate the refinery

The Triumph of Brains Over Brawn



With a twinkle in her eye, said a reader of this column in whose car I was a guest, driving to Eugene the other day: Your "bridge approach" over the railroad here at Comstock seems to have turned into a maintenance building. "Well, I could guess, couldn't I? I've made worse slips than that before now in the Mending Basket. I suppose if the Highway department were to get some of the logs cleared off and used, now being burned, there would be screams from the taxpayers that somebody was giving something for nothing. But it does seem a shame to have (what looks to this guesser) good sized logs just bulldozed into a heap and burned up. I do hate to see things wasted, don't you? A sawmill operator said the other day "We're sawing up anything big enough to make a 4x4." Seemed to me a lot of stuff being burned (what else can they do with it?) was big enough to make 4x4's and then some. Probably the worst of the construction will come just right for the summer tourists and won't they agonize over it — even as you and I in other states. Up in Washington there was a huge sign:

that was supposed to have been in production in Illinois, Kansas. "Mr. President," however, is only one reason I was reminded of Mr. Truman's oil dealings at this particular time. Ever since my tour of the Kansas and Missouri oil jungles, which survived the impact of the Morgan-Truman operations, I've had a fairly steady flow of worthless Morgan Company stock certificates coming into the office. Most of them are signed by the now President of the United States, or by other company officials who underwrote his signature stamp on the certificate.

The latest batch is the fanciest yet. It contains a purchase contract in addition to an oil stock certificate for 10 shares and 10 five-dollar receipts of payment. Four of the receipts are unmistakably signed by Mr. Truman. L. E. Bartholomew of Nemaha, Nebraska, who owns them, considers them rare collector items. I agree. They are dated between January and March of 1917. The President's signatures are clear and precise, with a little less flair than the current penmanship he uses for state documents.

Mr. Bartholomew would like to get his \$50 out of the oil stock, although he prefers to retain possession of the receipts. His views are similar to the dozens of others in Missouri who hit and are now writing me about the chances of getting some of their cash returned, with interest. Chances are slim, especially now that it has been made clear that despite his co-authorship of "Mr. President," Mr. Truman is not sharing in the profits.

I want to get back to the oil stock purchase contract, however, since it is the first one I've seen. It is signed by a George T. Wilson on behalf of the Truman-Morgan Corporation. Wilson lists himself as a salesman. Up to now I had thought that the President was the corporation's only salesman. He was certainly its most active one, however, as several acquaintances whom he stopped on the street corners in Kansas City in 1917 and urged to invest now recall.

The purchase contract is binding. It offered suckers a bargain by paying for the stock certificates in cash and saving 5 per cent. Under the time payment deal, five shares could be obtained with \$5 cash down and \$5 a month payments for the next four months. Heavy spenders were urged to pick up 200 shares with \$200 cash down

laws. I don't think situations like that can be or should be handled BY LAW, which involves force. I think they can be better handled by education, human tolerance and fair-mindedness. That method takes longer, but it will work better in the end. I think situations like this one involving Nishioka will keep recurring, and each recrudescence will bring ill will and hard feeling that will INFLAME race prejudices instead of ending them.

But— There is the Oregon F.E.P. act. It is a law. It is on the books.

As long as it is the LAW OF OREGON, it should be enforced. No one in Oregon should be allowed to LOOK THE OTHER WAY while it is being violated.

If, under Oregon's F.E.P. act, Nishioka is entitled to the job he applied for and qualified for he ought to be given the job and, if need be, he should be given a body-guard of Oregon state troopers to see to it that his rights under the law are not interfered with.

As I see it, A LAW IS A LAW. When we tolerate the practice of looking the other way while laws are being violated, WE TEAR DOWN RESPECT FOR LAW. We build up in the minds of the people, particularly the younger generation, DISRESPECT for law. If a law isn't a good law, if it was put on the books merely as a pious gesture and so by common consent isn't strictly enforced, we should insist that it be repealed.

Goodness knows, Oregon's disrespect for the laws prohibiting gambling are setting an example that is bad enough. Let's not ADD to the list.

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missing something. It's interesting. At a recent session (it was in 1951, as I recall it) the Oregon Legislature enacted a fair employment practices law. The law prohibits discrimination by employers because of race or religion.

That is to say, if you have a job open and if a Jap or a Chinaman or a Hindu or a Hottentot or an Eskimo applies for it and qualifies for it, you can't refuse to employ him because of his race or his color or his creed.

Well— A while back Sagie Nishioka, a Japanese-American war veteran (who was wounded in France, among other things) took an Oregon civil service examination for a job with the Oregon income tax division. He placed first — but another man was hired for the job.

Thereupon State Labor Commissioner W. E. Kimsey accused the state tax commission of violating Oregon's new F.E.P. law. State Tax Commissioner Ray Smith replied that it isn't so, that the state civil service board certified three applicants (including Nishioka, who had placed first in the examination) and that "an attempt was made to choose the person best suited."

But Kimsey says Smith and Jason Lee (Lee is the state tax commission personnel officer) "told a member of my staff that Nishioka was not hired because of his race."

So there the matter stands. Nishioka says he is going to fight for the job.

Personally, I don't believe in these fair employment practices

Defense Accord May Bring Ike For Campaign

PARIS (AP) — Gen. Eisenhower stands a good chance of seeing the six-nation European Army treaty signed and ready for ratification before the Maytime departure he is generally expected to take from his job as supreme allied commander.

Experts predicted Wednesday the voluminous treaty creating the international force will be complete by mid-April.

Shortly after, the foreign and defense ministers of France, West Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg are expected to sign it.

That would just about complete the top priorities of Eisenhower's second "crusade in Europe."

Most of the general's associates believe he will go home in the last two weeks of May to the political role awaiting him as a candidate for the Republican presidential nomination.

These associates speculate Eisenhower may send his request next week to President Truman for relief from his mission as top Atlantic Pact military commander. The president already has said the general can come home whenever he wants.

Eisenhower always has regarded the idea of a European Army, with national forces controlled by a central international command, as the best plan for getting Germans back into uniform to help defend their own soil against the threat of Communist aggression.

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