

WHAT IS UR GUESS AS TO IDENTITY OF WINNER NEXT YEAR?

America's Greatest Political Scribe and Best Forecaster Eliminates Coolidge.

A RED HOT FREE FOR ALL

Our Guess at This Time is Johnson and Pinchot. McAdoo the Winner.

Everyone is keen to guess who is in the free-for-all presidential contest, which already is beginning in a preliminary way. President Harding's lamentable death changes the situation. The best political writer and forecaster of record, at Washington, D. C., is, almost by common consent, Mr. W. W. Jermaine, staff correspondent of the Seattle Times. He is impartial, unprejudiced, and usually guesses correctly. Read carefully what he says, if you want the true inwardness of the situation. With all due respect for Mr. Jermaine's opinions—and he is in the best position to judge the situation—the Western American will venture the prophecy, subject to change, that Hiram W. Johnson and Gifford Pinchot will be nominated on the Republican ticket, and that William Gibbs McAdoo will be elected President on the Democratic ticket. Evidently, he is the man whom the country needs, whose views are those of the vast majority, who is able to handle the great problems now pressing for solution, and who fits the national psychology.

BY W W JERMAINE—12 pt caps bf. Capital City Bureau, The Seattle Times 905-6 Colorado Building

WASHINGTON, Saturday, Aug. 4.—The death of President Harding will throw the Republican national convention wide open next June, and possibly result in the nomination of Senator Hiram W. Johnson, who, whatever may be thought about him in this respect, has at present a distinct advantage over everybody else. Fortunately for him, he has just returned from Europe, and is in a position to take any steps that may be necessary to place his candidacy in preliminary form.

Opposing him in the convention will perhaps be Senator Robert M. La Follette, who represents the extreme left of Republican liberalism. This week he sailed for Europe, to go over much of the ground that has been gone over by Johnson. It is safe to say he

would not have sailed had he known what was coming. Whether he will consider it advisable to disclose his candidacy, by immediately returning home, or by materially shortening his stay, remains to be seen.

Presidency Biggest Prize
The presidency is now the biggest prize in the world, and he has been ambitious to secure it for many years. Mr. Harding's death will give him the best opportunity he yet has had. It will also be his last. Johnson being on the ground, and doing his utmost to make the next few months count, La Follette may feel he ought to make short work of it in Europe.

With the national convention thrown wide open, radicalism will be stirred to its utmost. I very much doubt whether the Republican party will take a radical position; its history and precedents are against any such thing. It may, however, want to try to check the radical swing, and accommodate itself in other ways to the country's unrest. If it does, Johnson's stock will go up.

As between Johnson and La Follette, if it decides to move toward the liberal position, it will probably prefer Johnson. There is hardly a chance that it will take a position as extreme as that occupied by La Follette. If it turns toward liberalism, Johnson will be its limit. He has been cultivating the conservatives for a couple of years, and trying to place himself in a position where he could overcome their opposition to him growing out of what happened in 1912. This helps explain his strange silence in the Senate, and his general inactivity otherwise, since Mr. Harding became President.

Johnson Looms Large
Still assuming for the moment that the Republican party will not adhere rigidly to the conservative position it took under the latter's leadership, Johnson may have a formidable opponent in the convention in the person of Gov. Gifford Pinchot of Pennsylvania, also a Roosevelt protégé, who would not have been a candidate had Mr. Harding lived, but who will be free to assert himself now, should he desire to do so. He has worked political miracles in Pennsylvania in the last year, and shown himself to be a man of parts. He is the best known and one of the strongest governors in the country. The old Roosevelt following would have difficulty in choosing between him and Johnson.

Other liberal Republicans who may be candidates are Kenyon of Iowa, whom Mr. Harding placed on the federal bench, and who was, during the latter years of this senate service, the leader of the Progressives in that body; and Secretary Hoover, who was the main source of liberal influence in the Harding cabinet.

Harding's Winsome Personality
The Republican party would have been compelled to adhere to the conservative position had Mr. Harding lived. Now that he is gone, there is a possibility, as I have said, that it

may think it advisable to move to a position nearer the center of the confused and jarring Republican line.

Mr. Harding's claim to renomination rested very largely upon his presidential record, which the party would not have dared to repudiate, even had it desired to do so. Since the Civil War no President elected by the people ever has been denied a renomination. Hayes said early that he did not want one and there would have been no denial in this case. In addition to his record, which is far better than anybody believed it would be possible to make, considering the unsettled state of public thought, Mr. Harding had a strong hold on the country because of his winsome personality, his transparent honesty and kindness and constant desire to keep the political peace.

McKinley for Model
Among public men in this city his fine personal traits made a strong appeal. Those who opposed him as President, respected and loved him as a man. I do not recall a President in 25 years who had so many warm personal friends among the members of both houses of Congress. They knew precisely where he stood, and while they did not always agree with him, they respected opinions that had not been warped by ulterior motives of any kind. In other words, he had moral fiber and moral courage, and a way of standing up for what he believed was right that disarmed personal antagonisms and at the same time commanded confidence and respect.

McKinley was avowedly his model, and he was more nearly like McKinley on the personal side than McKinley was like any of the other Presidents, unless it was Lincoln.

There will be conservative candidates for next year's nomination, and among them I think first of Senator Watson of Indiana, who has long thought that he was of presidential caliber. Secretary Hughes also comes to mind, a conservative on all the great domestic issues of the day, even if he has believed that American duty as well as interest demanded that we take a livelier part in world settlements than we have been willing to take thus far.

It may be that there will be almost a dozen candidates before the convention. It will be a presidential free-for-all, and nobody will be barred.

READ CAREFULLY NOW. FROM HERE TO THE END

Can any Republican be elected next year? It is doubtful. Mr. Harding certainly would have been defeated, as things have been going for the last year, and yet his renomination was inevitable. If a liberal should be nominated—somebody of the Hiram Johnson type—he would poll a large vote; but it is by no means certain that he would win. The people will have to do a lot of steeper thinking than they have been capable of since 1919 before they are willing to give any political party a second quadrennial endorsement, hand-running.

It will be noticed that by inference I have excluded President Coolidge from consideration. Only four vice-presidents have held the presidency through election—John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, a generation prior to the formation of political parties as we now know them, and Van Buren and Roosevelt. I doubt whether Mr. Coolidge is a candidate for the nomination next year; if he is, he will be defeated.

He is a conservative of the ultra type, and of a stern and unyielding nature. In Mr. Harding's place for the last two and a half years, he would have been less tractable and tactful than Mr. Harding was. He has a keen, logical and shrewd mind, over which sympathy, good fellow-

ship and the other things which brighten and sweeten human intercourse have almost no influence. He is the extreme of New Englandism in thought and speech, and one can easily understand that the Puritans of the old days were such men as he is. Even among his own people he is regarded as something of a mental and psychological curiosity, a clear case of reversion to type.

Coolidge Is All Brains
He is all brains, is cool and calculating, with few human sympathies or tender emotions; while Mr. Harding, perhaps with less intellectual capacity—certainly with less culture—was all sympathy and emotion, wearing his life out trying to smooth the rough places, personal and political, for those with whom he came in contact.

In temperament, habits of thought and manner of speech, they have been as far apart as the poles, and if Mr. Harding, with all his lovable qualities, could not get results from Congress, it is fair to assume that Mr. Coolidge will be unable to do so.

I do not mean to disparage him; far from it. I am simply trying to tell Western readers what manner of man he is. In his favor it is to be said that he is honest and upright, a man of high moral purpose, God-fearing and sincere in all his dealings. Of ability he has more than the average man's share. In public life in Massachusetts he gave such a fine account of himself—among his own people—that he was nominated for Vice-President. In that office he has borne himself with modesty and propriety. Having a gift for public speaking and the making of telling epigrams, he has been one of the Harding administration's most convincing supporters on the stump.

But he seems to lack the qualities that are essential to White House success, especially in these unsettled and troubled times, and for that reason Washington looks forward to next winter and spring with even more uncertainty than it had been doing, while Mr. Harding was alive.

Rigid as Granite Hills

As indicating one of the differences between the two, Mr. Coolidge would have handled the coal and railroad strikes of last year very much more vigorously than Mr. Harding did, and he would have done it regardless of the consequences to himself. He doesn't know much about compromise, or about getting along with people who radically differ from him, and is deficient in imagination. He analyzes a proposition, makes up his mind which is the right side, and thereafter is as rigid as the New England granite hills.

A policy of that kind is not the best policy for the country in times like these, and the American people owe Mr. Harding more than they yet know anything about for his skill in seeing affairs from the other man's position, and accommodating himself to difficult situations. The first half of his administration was not a time for the strong arm, whatever Mr. Coolidge may make of the other half of it.

Lacking in Magnetism

The American people admire traits of this kind, when they are displayed under the restraining influence of sound judgment. It remains to be seen whether Mr. Coolidge has that judgment. Even if he has, he will not draw public men to him. Nobody will care anything for him on the personal side for he is not a man who can awaken friendships and inspire enthusiasm. He is not in sympathy with the radicalism of the Middle West nor with the development of the blue power in Congress. He is a graduate of the Lodge school of politics, and I doubt whether he could get the delegates from any section of the country, outside of New England, if a candidate for the nomination next year. He surely could not do it now.

Besides, the political scepter passed from New England many years ago, with the shifting of the center of population, and will not return. That section does not think like the rest of the country on public questions; and its public men grow up in an environment that makes them unsympathetic with the aspirations of the teeming millions beyond the Alleghenies where the political scepter now is.

There Is No Boss Today

Andrew Jackson dictated the nomination of Van Buren, for he was the political boss of his day. There is no political boss at this time, in either party. Roosevelt succeeded to the presidency on the death of his chief, as Mr. Coolidge has done, and was elected President in 1904. But there has been but one Roosevelt. Mr. Coolidge bears not the slightest resemblance to him.

The Harding policies will be continued, to some extent, as the McKinley policies were continued, but the difference between the two vice-presidents and between the times will make Mr. Coolidge's task much more difficult than Mr. Roosevelt's was. The world was then at peace; now there is no peace. Party ties were

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strong; now they are weaker than since parties were first formed in this country. The voters were then divided into two well-defined groups; now there are half a dozen different kinds of Republicans, all rampant and eager for the fray, and several of the major groups are pretty evenly balanced in strength. If Roosevelt were succeeding, McKinley at this time, his task would be infinitely more difficult than it was.

Coolidge on World Court
Mr. Coolidge will not be as ardent in his advocacy of the world court as Mr. Harding was. He may give it his formal indorsement, but it is to be doubted whether he will fight for it as Mr. Harding would have done. His New England training will stand in the way. The majority of the New England senators at this time are openly hostile to the court, and their people support them.

Mr. Coolidge, it is believed, will not oppose a soldiers' bonus. He will put the ship subsidy bill into the discard. Foreign relations will be conducted more after the Lodge rather than after the Hughes plan, not because Lodge will dictate, but because the two men think alike on that question. Mr. Coolidge may try to carry out the Harding policies, but I doubt if he does it very vigorously.

He also wants the Harding cabinet to remain with him. It will, at least for the present. Ultimately, it is believed, Attorney-General Daugherty, who was appointed by Mr. Harding for personal reasons, will resign. He has wanted to do so for a number of months. It is at least an even chance that Secretaries Hughes and Hoover will quit in due time. They obviously will if they have presidential aspirations. The rest don't count for much politically, and may stay.

Understands Public Affairs.
It will be easier for Mr. Coolidge to keep within range of the Harding policies because he has been an unofficial member of the Harding cabinet, attending all its meetings and participating in all its discussions. No other vice-president has had that training, the value of which will now impress itself upon the American people. He is the first vice-president to succeed to the presidency with a full

understanding of public affairs from the cabinet standpoint. I hope he is not to be the last.

It is also fortunate, both for himself and for the country, that four months will elapse before he will be called upon to take up the cudgels with a refractory Congress. He can add immeasurably to his stock of knowledge in that time.

I don't look for him to do anything brilliant, but I do look for him to keep his promise, to be just, to think before he acts or speaks, to give attention to all the duties of his exalted station. And, to be perfectly coldblooded about it all, moved entirely by his intellect, and not by such feelings as he may have.

Be peace loving, but do not suffer abuse; be patient but secure what justly belongs to you; work for the right and if necessary fight for it.

REASON FOR WHITE SUPREMACY.
There are 700,000,000 more colored people than white in the world today. Fifty million red men. One hundred fifty million black. Four hundred fifty million brown. Five hundred million yellow. Fifty million mongrels.

The explanation of contempt for law is the reasonable hope of getting away with it.

SMILE!
"Sing a song of laughter, Pocket full of smiles, What the world is after Beats all other wiles. Life's too short for grumpiness, Spend your little while Looking for the beautiful— Wearing a smile."

"As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he."