

Democratic Convention Opens Today With Main Interest in Vice President Race

CHICAGO, July 18—(AP)—A sudden surge of support for Sen. Harry Truman of Missouri placed him tonight in the top flight of compromise possibilities for the democratic vice-presidential nomination.

so far as public statements were concerned it continued to do so. **Deny Dropping Wallace** Asked about reports that they were looking favorably upon Truman as a second choice, CIO President Philip Murray and Sidney Hillman, political action chairman, told newsmen: "We're for Wallace."

The vice president, in fact, is on the way to the convention, which opens tomorrow, to try to stem a tide which was turning to some degree toward War Mobilization Director James F. Byrnes, Senate Majority Leader Alben W. Barkley and, belatedly, toward Truman.

Mississippi into the Byrd column, voting to cast its 22 votes for him. That made 46 Byrd votes, counting four from Florida.

along that he doesn't want the nomination and had so told the Missouri delegation. The Missourians, nevertheless, promised him their 32 votes at a caucus today.

in Washington for Chicago, Jake More, one of his managers here, said that Sen. Joseph Guffey of Pennsylvania had made a new survey which shows the vice president will get "in excess of 300 votes on the first ballot."

the president, that the final decision on his running mate rests with the convention. Mr. Roosevelt's statement on the vice presidency gave impetus also to efforts to drum up support for Byrnes and Barkley. Apparently these efforts were taking effect.

More, Iowa state chairman, sent Wallace a letter urging him to rush to Chicago and shake a few hands. He didn't mail it. He telephoned it to Washington. A telegram came back: "I shall be with you tomorrow morning. Thanks."

IT SEEMS TO ME
By Charles A. Sprague

What is this CIO political action committee? It is the political spearhead of the CIO unions which now claim a membership of some 3,500,000 persons.

This committee is a partial successor to "Labor's Non-partisan league" which John L. Lewis put together back in 1936 to promote the reelection of Franklin D. Roosevelt.

With the split in labor circles when the AF of L kicked out the CIO unions, this "non-partisan committee" went on the rocks. In 1940 John L. Lewis worked against Roosevelt and later took his United Mine workers out of the CIO.

Yanks Reach Nazis' Gothic Line in Italy

ROME, July 18—(AP)—American troops crashed through strongly held German positions today and swept three miles across open country into the town of Pontedera on the Arno river between Pisa and Florence.

Boy Drowned In Albany City Pool

ALBANY, July 18—Lloyd William Bradley, 8-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Allen Bradley, was drowned in the municipal pool about 6:30 tonight.

International Bank Takes Final Shape

BRETTON WOODS, N.H., July 18—(AP)—The proposed international bank for reconstruction and development took final shape today along lines described by a spokesman for the United Nations monetary conference as "so conservative it leans over backwards and touches its head on the floor."

STATESMAN FIRST AGAIN
The Oregon Statesman daily publishes news several hours fresher than any other morning newspaper circulating in Marion county—as further evinced by the clean "beat" in Tuesday's edition on the navy blast near Martinez, Calif.

The Oregon Statesman

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British Launch Big Offensive on Caen Plain; New Red Drive in South Threatens Lwow

Bradley's Men Capture St. Lo; Nazis Retreat

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE, Wednesday, July 19—(AP)—British and Canadian armored forces broke through the German line across the Orne river at the eastern end of the Normandy front Tuesday in a full-scale offensive which was rolling in dust southeastward across the Caen plain this morning with a power recalling the historic British assault at El Alamein.

On the American sector to the west, Lt. Gen. Omar N. Bradley's Doughboys captured the hillside hinge stronghold at St. Lo after an eight-day battle, forcing a German withdrawal of a mile to a mile and a half and threatening a crumbling of the Nazi positions westward all the way to the coast.

Using airpower instead of the artillery barrage for which he is famed, Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery opened the onslaught in the Caen area at dawn under cover of the greatest aerial bombardment since D-day—a crushing assault by 2,200 bombers of all kinds which pounded the enemy with 7,000 tons of explosives and moved along just ahead of powerful forces of tanks and infantrymen.

Boy Drowned In Albany City Pool
ALBANY, July 18—Lloyd William Bradley, 8-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Allen Bradley, was drowned in the municipal pool about 6:30 tonight.

The boy, who could not swim, was seen going to the pool with other children about 6 o'clock and the body was discovered in the nine-foot depth at 7 o'clock when Edna Mae Polymere, 12, stepped on it.

High Chinese General Relieved of His Post
CHUNGKING, Wednesday, July 18—(AP)—Gen. Chen Sheng, China's vice war minister and one of the country's most famous generals, has been relieved of his post as governor of the province of Hupieh, it was announced today. No reason was given in the official statement, but it is known that Chen Cheng has been ill for some time.

Most Beef Steaks, Roasts Soon Will Become Point-Free

WASHINGTON, July 18—(AP)—Most of the beef steaks and roasts now available in butcher shops would become ration point-free under an order prepared by War Food Administrator Marvin Jones, it was learned today.

Two Years' Heat Record Set at 102

As temperature in official thermometers at the Salem airport mounted to 102 degrees Thursday, record heat since 1942 and nine degrees above that of Wednesday, swimming pool attendance dropped 400 from the season's maximum of Wednesday. Temperature topped, too, from the 3:30 maximum to 85 degrees at 5:30 and 68.5 at 8:30 p.m.

In 1942, top temperature reading was 104 degrees. Soda fountain business soared to new heights, although a hot dry wind which reduced the humidity accompanied the heat wave.

Hunger Overtakes Japs in Burma
SOUTHEAST ASIA COMMAND HEADQUARTERS, Kandy, Ceylon, July 18—(AP)—Battered Japanese troops fleeing southward through the Manipur hills after collapse of their invasion of eastern India have been overtaken by hunger and, with some at the "actual starvation point," are surrendering in increasing numbers.

Low Humidity Shuts Down Logging in State
PORTLAND, Ore., July 18—(AP)—Logging operations throughout the state were shut down today when humidity went into a dive as temperatures mounted. State law prohibits logging when the humidity reading is 20 per cent or less, because of the high fire hazard.

Brazilian Troops Reach Italy Ready to Fight
NAPLES, July 16—(Delayed AP)—While a doughboy band played "Onward Christian Soldiers" and "Roll Out the Barrel," the first strong contingent of any South American troops to reach an overseas war zone landed in Naples harbor today. They were Brazilians.

Body of Hubert Johns Recovered Tuesday
The body of Hubert M. (Ike) Johns rose from the depths of the Willamette river near the boat-housing shortly before 10 o'clock Tuesday night. Johns was drowned Saturday night after a boat in which he and a party of friends were riding overturned.

Ousted



Tojo Relieved Of His Army Chief Position

Tokyo, announced yesterday that Premier Gen. Hideki Tojo had been relieved as chief of the army general staff in the second sweeping shakeup of Japan's high command in two days in the face of what Tojo himself called "an unprecedentedly great national crisis."

Crack Train Leaves Rails
DALHART, Tex., July 18—(AP)—Twelve coaches and sleeping cars of the Rock Island railroad's Golden State Limited plunged off the tracks five miles from Dalhart at 11 o'clock tonight after the locomotive and two cars had cleared what early investigation disclosed was a split rail.

US Warships Pound Guam
US PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS, Pearl Harbor, July 18—(AP)—American warships, including battleships, dardened Guam's defenses Sunday by steaming within close range to loose their salvos for the second consecutive day on that American island lost to Japan in the first week of the war.

Explosion Death Toll Near 350

Two Freighters, Town Wrecked In Great Blast
PORT CHICAGO, Calif., July 18—(AP)—An explosion of two naval ammunition ships in the worst disaster of its kind in the nation's history left a toll of dead approaching 350 today as rescue workers poked through the rubble in search of more bodies.

The twin blasts late last night, shaking 14 counties and felt 80 miles away, shattered the town of 1,500 and wrecked the two freighters, the 10,000-ton Quinsault Victory and the 7,500-ton E. A. Bryant. The ships were loading ammunition at the Port Chicago naval ammunition supply depot, on an arm of San Francisco bay some 35 miles northeast of San Francisco.

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Soviets Crack Nazi Defenses Around Town

LONDON, Wednesday, July 19—(AP)—Red armies of the south in a powerful new offensive have cracked strong German defenses around the great bastion of Lwow in old Poland for three-day gains of 31 miles of the frontier from which the Germans attacked the soviet union, Moscow announced last night.

Greatest Allied Air Offensive Blasts Germans
LONDON, Wednesday, July 19—(AP)—Eight thousand allied warplanes swarming over Europe in the greatest combined air offensive in history yesterday unloaded at least 10,000 tons of explosives on Hitler's fortress, most of them in a 75-mile square area around Caen to pave the way for Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery's smash-through on the Orne river front.

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Youthful Victim Gets Aid

A youthful victim of the explosion at the Port Chicago, Calif., naval ammunition depot gets first aid from an American Legionnaire. An estimated several hundred persons were killed and injured, two ships were destroyed. (Associated Press photo.)

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