

Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"
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Nixon: "Kiss of Death"?

David Lawrence, who has been reporting national capital politics since the Woodrow Wilson era, interprets Eisenhower's comments on Nixon at his last press conference as dumping the vice president off the 1956 ticket. He writes that "anybody who has had the most meagre experience in politics can recognize the kiss of death when it is revealed to the naked eye."

Lawrence, a strong Nixon supporter himself, quotes from the record the "all-important question and answer" as follows:

"Mr. President, when you say, sir, you have suggested to Mr. Nixon that he chart out his course, is the implication of that, that if he elects to remain on the ticket you are content to have him as your running mate?"

"The President: Well, I am not going to be pushed into corners here and say—and right now, at this moment—say what I would do in a hypothetical question involving about five ifs. And I don't think you should expect me to."

"I do say this: I have no criticism of Vice-President Nixon to make, either as a man, an associate or as my running mate on the ticket."

Some interpreted the President's glowing references to Nixon as an endorsement of his renomination. The transcript doesn't justify such an interpretation. Eisenhower, not without a measure of embarrassment, (the "ifs" do not add up to five) sidestepped a definite commitment. That is why politicians wonder just where Nixon stands, as does Nixon himself.

Another Washington reporter, Roscoe Drummond of the N. Y. Herald-Tribune, thinks the President wants to keep the question of Nixon for vice president open both to give a longer test of his popularity, also to leave the door open for a redel if Eisenhower himself should conclude that he can't carry the load for another four years.

Still another newsmen who covers the Washington scene, Joseph C. Harsch of the Christian Science Monitor bureau, offers this explanation, that by leaving the decision as to a vice president open, Republicans keep the Democrats (as well as Nixon) guessing. This is called the strategy of the "moving vice presidential target."

Customers over the country can take their choice. Eventually, though, Eisenhower will have to go into a corner and make clear his own choice, whether to approve of Nixon as running-mate or not. Unless he does, the strong probability is that Nixon will be renominated, particularly since there is no campaign in sight for an alternate.

Engineers on Rogue River

Rep. Harris Ellsworth has introduced a bill calling on the corps of engineers to make a complete survey of the Rogue River basin and to coordinate a solution for its problems of flood control, fish and wildlife and soil conservation reclamation and recreation. This action is the consequence of the disastrous floods which have hit sections of the basin this past season.

The bureau of reclamation has spent years of study and thousands of dollars gathering data on the Rogue River basin. Its plans for multiple purpose development were blocked by the sports fishing interests. Maybe an approach by the corps of engineers will prove acceptable, after the past winter's experience, but to save time and money, it should have access to the reclamation bureau data.

Many GOP Politicians Watch for Nixon to Make Misstep in Vice Presidential Post

By JOSEPH AND STEWART
ALSO

WASHINGTON — The acres of newspaper that are being lavished on the political future of Vice President Richard Nixon are chiefly interesting as proof of the way the figure of President Eisenhower now dominates the political scene.

The first trial heat of the Democratic nomination race is at hand in New Hampshire; and it may be much more interesting than most people have expected. The leading Democratic contender, Adlai Stevenson, has been speaking frequently; and much of what he has been saying has been worth attention. The world horizon is positively black with chickens coming home to roost; and practically every one of the chickens looks more like a culture than a hen.

But what is the American nation discussing? With the Republican convention nearly five months away, the main topic of political discussion is the Republican Vice Presidential nomination, which is normally a hasty afterthought. In part, this obviously reflects the general but publicly unfashionable suspicion that a coronary thrombosis really does not resemble a rest-cure. But even more, this Vice Presidential discussion reflects the almost unanimous belief that the President, having made his great choice, is a shoo-in for re-election.

Precisely because a President who has had a heart attack is now as likely to be re-elected, his

choice of a running-mate is of course important. But that does not give real significance to the "will he, won't he, will he, won't he" speculation, like nothing so much as another song by the mock turtle, that has been going on for so long. The main facts of the situation are very plain indeed, if ordinarily reliable information can be trusted.

In the first place, the President likes and trusts Nixon, and would prefer him to any other running mate. But as Eisenhower has repeatedly said, he does not want to commit himself at this time. He will never exclude Nixon from the ranks of the potentially blessed; but he wants a free hand to bless other contenders if Nixon really begins to look like a serious handicap to the ticket.

It may be true that in order to insure having a perfectly free hand, the President offered the Vice President the Interior Department, which is now being vacated by Secretary Douglas McKay. He may even have suggested the Defense Department, which may later be vacated by Secretary Charles E. Wilson. But if the President did this, he quite certainly made his suggestion in a way that invited a rejection. Probably he wanted to end a White House argument, by putting himself in a position to say to the anti-Nixon Republicans:

"I've done everything about that problem I honorably can, and I can't and won't do anything further."

In these circumstances, in the second place, Nixon is quite plainly several laps ahead of all the other contenders for the Vice Presidential nomination at the present time. He has certainly been wounded by the President's failure to give him a final endorsement at this time. He is reported to reason, and reason

very logically too, that he is being penalized for bearing the brunt of the political battle at the President's request and on the President's behalf.

His personal position is also extremely delicate, perhaps even more delicate than in the doubtful period after the President was first taken ill. As these words are written, therefore, he is authoritatively reported to be considering an announcement that he too thinks the Republican Vice Presidential choice should be left open until convention time.

But the donors of Nixon's personal position do not in any way reduce his present lead in the race. He is the preferred choice of the President. He is the preferred choice of the Republican organizations in about three quarters of the states. He is the announced choice of the Republican National Chairman, the astute Len Hall, who does not speak without "clearing it with Sherm."

There are only two ways, therefore, that Nixon can be beaten. One way is for a solid phalanx of opposition to form in the Eastern wing of the Republican Party where anti-Nixon sentiment chiefly centers. But this way is blocked, at least for the present. There can be no anti-Nixon Eastern Phalanx without New York state; and Nixon is also the preferred choice of former Governor Thomas E. Dewey.

The other way to beat Nixon is for Nixon to beat himself. He may so mishandle himself as to cause the President to turn against him; or to cause the political polls to show that he really is a handicap to the ticket. But as long as Nixon handles himself as well as he has done in these last difficult months, the betting is on Nixon to win in the end.

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California and Water

The legislative assembly of California is in session again and one of the items due for consideration is water management. The California board has plenty of problems in restraining floods and curing water deficiency. This past year it has suffered more from excess of water than lack thereof. A bold plan has been projected for attacking its water problems. As shown to the legislature, it comprises 260 major dams and reservoirs, with aqueducts, tunnels, pumping stations, etc. The cost is estimated at around \$12-13 billion.

One project which has been under study for some time is on Feather river whose flooding did grave damage at its mouth around Marysville-Yuba City. The plan calls for canals and siphons to carry impounded waters to drier Southern California.

Necessity is still the mother of human action. Oliver Cromwell first displayed qualities of leadership on a local project to drain some marsh lands. The western states, alone and with federal aid, will succeed in harnessing waters for use and against their destructiveness in floods.

Margaret's Engaged

All the world loves a lover, and Margaret Truman, whose engagement has just been announced, will receive a grand chorus of congratulations. Popular Grace Kelly, star of the screen, snared a European prince, while Margaret, herself a professional on radio and television, has plighted her troth to a newspaperman, Clifton Daniel Jr., assistant foreign news editor of the New York Times.

While Margaret naturally was in the limelight as the daughter of a President, she bore herself with such poise and self-assurance as to win great favor for herself with the American public. Her career as a vocalist did not develop as she may have hoped for, but she made herself a place in television by her wit and good looks and composure.

She certainly succeeded in keeping her love-life well concealed, for not even the gossip columnists had spotted Daniel as her choice for a mate until news came of their visit at his parental home. The American public wishes for both liberal measures of wedded bliss.

A Capable Office

Oregon's filing spree of the last few weeks left all of us pretty much exhausted trying to keep up with things, but the one office which really has a right to be all tired out is that of the state elections bureau headed by Dave O'Hara.

O'Hara and his staff did yeoman's work keeping track of the candidacies; the switches and the multitudinous details which go into the efficient recording and presentation of the activities of hundreds of office-seekers; and the voluminous material, stories and pictures, which make up the forthcoming Voters' Pamphlet.

If past years are any criterion, it will be found that O'Hara's staff has made very few if any errors in the innumerable details which go into its work.

One of the well-remembered structures on the Southern Pacific railroad is its 13-mile-long wooden trestle across Great Salt Lake. It was constructed in 1904 to shorten the distance required in the line going around the northern shore of the lake. Now the SP is starting to replace this trestle with a rock fill. Cost is estimated at \$45,000,000. We'll miss the pictures of the old trestle silhouetted against the sunset.

Eugene got Diamond and Riverside in the big Bell telephone exchange identification drawing. The Register-Guard is a bit envious of Salem though, over the latter's designation as EMpire. It drools: "Already we're getting a reputation as the Emerald Empire, and we'd sure like to have that EMpire prefix ourselves."

MEDITERRANEAN FERMENT



Comes the Dawn
Conrad Franke

Well, one local political wheel went around over the weekend muttering, "I don't belong to any organized political party. I'm a Republican." ... Also probably muttering to themselves were the gal typists in the state elections bureau. They stayed on until 8:30 Friday night, typing up the long lists of some 164 last-minute candidates who filed that day. And after, the last name on the last page reporters found this typed notation: "This is the End. Thank the LORD!" ...



One politico apparently not afraid of the past is Lew Wallace, of Portland, Demo candidate for governor. According to his campaign statement, Lew is not a man to hide his past defeats under a bushel of political hay. He comes up with a sterling quote from the late former governor Pierce who reportedly once told Lew not to worry about defeat, because he, Pierce, had been defeated for the state senate and was later elected governor. Then Lew asks potential backers to remember the down-but-not-out political record of Abraham Lincoln who, he notes failed in business at 31, was twice defeated for the Legislature, twice defeated for the Senate and for Congress and once defeated for the vice-presidency and for several other jobs but was finally elected President. So, if you're uneasy about those candidates who boast long strings of glittering victories, Lew is your man ...

Causing some lifted eyebrows in the newsroom the other day was this headline in a local paper: "State Police To Discard Breeches In Hot Weather." At first blush most of us figured this might be another expose of things not as they should be—maybe with the grand jury getting at the seat of the problem. But, beneath the headline the story explained that this summer officers would only abandon their polished boots and heavy breeches in exchange for trousers and shoes ...

Another newsy item is the one noting that Margaret Truman is going to marry a newspaper man. A two-party press man, we assume. Or anyway, not a music critic ...

Meier & Frank employees had a field day when their boss, Gerry Frank, was pictured in the latest issue of Life in a story on the nation's eligible batch of bachelors. They plastered his office with copies of the magazine. And because he was quoted in the article as saying his favorite activities were golfing, swimming and riding, they festooned his office furniture with clubs, bathing suits and spurs ... Golfing, swimming and riding? No indoor sports? ...

Two Big Astoria Canneries Close

ASTORIA — Astoria's two major fish canneries are closed temporarily.

The Columbia River Packers Assn. plant suspended operations Saturday for three weeks to make repairs to machinery and buildings.

The Van Camp cannery, closed because of lack of fish, said opera-

tions would be resumed March 26 when 800 tons of tuna are scheduled to arrive.

POWER RATIONED

SANTIAGO, Chile — The government has ordered electric power rationing in Santiago and Valparaiso. The shortage is caused by an industrial boom.

GRIN AND BEAR IT By Lichty



"Comrade-agent in U.S. reports he is declaring economic war on Capitalists ... Is missing payments and dodging bill collectors!"

Time Flies

FROM STATESMAN FILES

10 Years Ago

Mar. 13, 1946

Dignitaries of bench and bar in Oregon gathered to honor Supreme Court Justice Percy R. Kelly and to help him celebrate the 35th anniversary of the beginning of his service as a judge. Judge Kelly went to the Supreme Court following the death of Justice Thomas McBride.

A series of earthquakes centering in the arid Mojave desert near Inyokern, started earth and rock slides that broke the Los Angeles aqueduct.

The Salem high Clarion, judged best all-around high school newspaper in Oregon, has received the Arnold Bennett Hall cup, George Turnbull, acting dean in the University school of journalism at Eugene, announced.

25 Years Ago

Mar. 13, 1931

Lured by stories of fabulous wealth locked in the ship's safes, Curtis Brothers, Portland and Seattle house movers, are preparing to salvage the passenger steamer Islander, which sank in Stevens passage, Alaska, in 1901, with a loss of 73 lives.

Shooting over Lake Oneida, N. Y., at a rate of 75 miles per hour, the new rocket-aid, invented and piloted by Harry W. Bull, Syracuse university student, went through a successful test. The pilot's mother helped him build the sled.

Salem was chosen as the regular meeting place for salesmen's convention of the National Thrift Corporation of America, when Oregon representatives convened here.

40 Years Ago

Mar. 13, 1916

Salem is fast becoming the loganberry juice center of the world, just as Westfield, N.Y., is the great grape juice center. This week the first series of posters, which will be sent to all parts of the globe to advertise the loganberry, will be placed on view in Salem.

The Grabenhorst country home was the scene of a happy occasion, it being the sixtieth wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Grabenhorst. The im-

Justice Douglas Arrives for Last Rites of Brother

YAKIMA — Justice William O. Douglas of the Supreme Court of the United States arrived here by plane Monday afternoon from Washington to attend the funeral of his brother, Arthur Douglas. The funeral will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday in Shaw and Sons Chapel here. Burial will be in Tahoma Cemetery. The 33-year-old Arthur Douglas, who was president of the Statler Hotel chain until a year ago, died at Rutland, Vt., last Friday.

Justice Douglas was accompanied by his wife and daughter. He said he will return to Washington tomorrow afternoon.

mediate family arranged an informal "at home" to surprise the honored couple.

From the Flares & Flickers column—Meyer's store fashion show with Salem girls as models ought to prove to be quite a drawing card at the Oregon theatre this week.

KEEP COPIES OF YOUR Personal Documents?



HERCULES LETTER VAULT
It would be a good idea ... if you value them. Just one small fire can easily destroy original documents that are hard to replace—things like property titles, bonds, insurance policies, tax records, cherished letters. But a better idea still is to keep papers of this type in a Thermo-Kel insulated Hercules Letter Vault. This Mailink-built unit gives you certified protection as well as filing convenience. And it's inexpensive, too!

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