Adlai Accuses Kefauver of 'False Charge'

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sen. Estes Kefauver has made a campaign issue of Adlai Stevenson's 1951 veto of a pension bill while he was governor of Illinois. And Stevenson has accused Kefauver supporters of circulating "scurrilous literature" against him.

The pension issue could have considerable impact on the outcome of the Florida Democratic presidential primary next Tuesday and the California primary June 5 —both important pre-convention tests of the relative strength of Kefauver and Stevenson with the voters. Both states have sizable populations of retired persons.

At the same time, Howard Pyle, one of President Eisenhower's assistants, ran into a strong protest from Walter Reuther, president of the United Auto Workers, for saying in unemployment-beset Detroit that "the right to suffer is one of the joys of a free economy." Last night, Pyle got out a statement apologizing for the remark, made to newsmen on Monday.

Cordiality Drops

As the Florida primary drew closer, the rival candidates for the Democratic presidential nomination shed the cordiality that marked their joint appearance last Monday night on a radio-TV discussion of campaign issues.

At Cocoa, Fla., Kefauver said in a street corner talk that "as governor, Mr. Stevenson vetoed a bill that would have raised old age assistance by 10 per cent." Soon afterward, Kefauver added, the Illinois Public Aid Commission cut pensions by 10 per cent.

Stevenson's Florida campaign chairman, Rep. Robert Sikes, said the pension bill Stevenson rejected wouldn't have provided "one single cent more' for Illinois old age assistance recipients. Sikes said Stevenson had been forced to veto pension and other bills because the Republican legislature provided no money to finance them.

Pensions Praised

In Jacksonville, Stevenson said that during his administration as governor, Illinois old age pensions were boosted by 18 per cent.

"Frankly," he added, "I am a little resentful of critical and scurrilous literature being circulated by Kefauver supporters, perhaps without the knowledge of the senator . . ."

Stevenson said this material was distributed "widely" in California and now is showing up in Florida. Sikes accused Kefauver forces of handing out pamphlets which he said contain "distortions, untruths and half-truths" about the 1951 pension bill veto.

Senators Say Adlai Near Nomination

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sen. Sparkman (D-Ala) said Thursday primary victories in Florida and California would "absolutely cinch" the Democratic presidential nomination for Adlai Stevenson.

Sparkman is backing the former Illinois governor whose running mate he was in 1952. He declined to speculate on the outcome of Stevenson's contests with Sen. Estes Kefauver of Tennessee in their two remaining primary contests.

But Sen. Smathers (D-Fla) said in a separate interview "it looks to me like Stevenson has the lead in Florida and probably will maintain that lead."

The Florida presidential primary will be held Tuesday; California's is a week later.

Smathers, who has made no public commitment, said Stevenson appears to be the stronger in what looks like "a reasonably close race" in Florida.

Sparkman contended that regardless of the outcome in Florida and California, "Gov. Stevenson's trend is definitely upward," and he added:

"When the convention opens, he will be so far out in front that he will be nominated no later than the fourth ballot.

"Victories in Florida and California would absolutely cinch the nomination for him."

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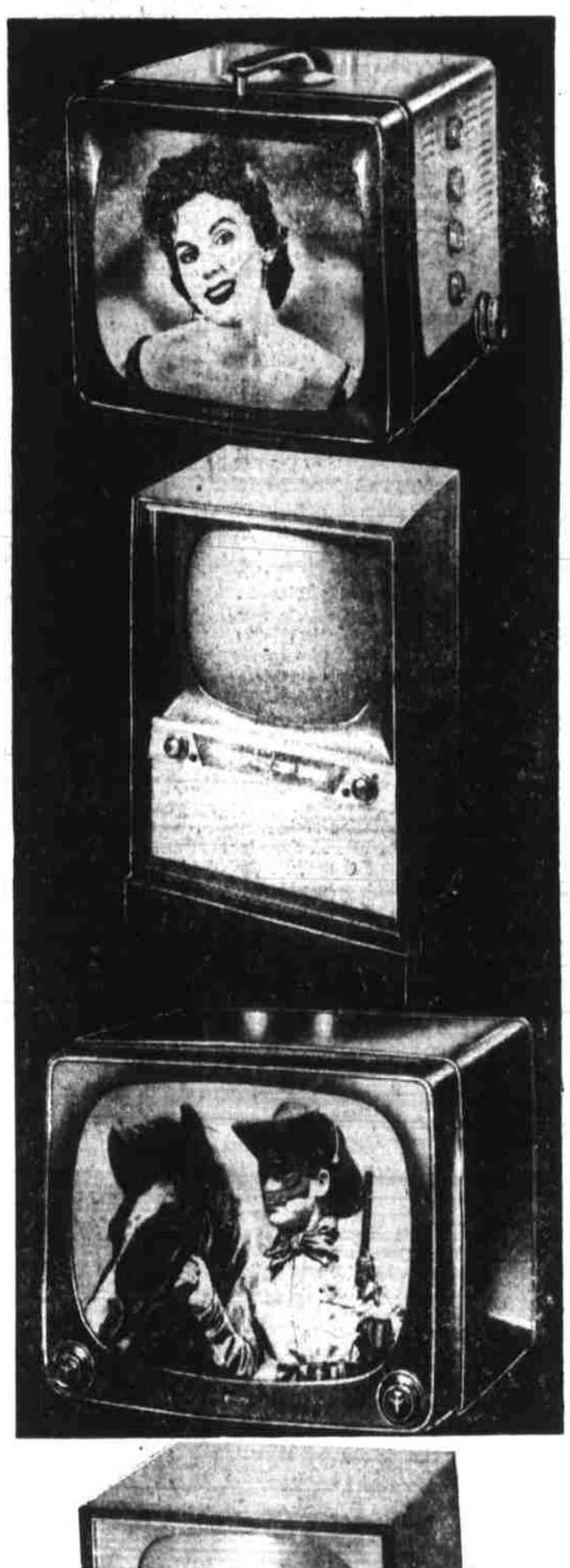

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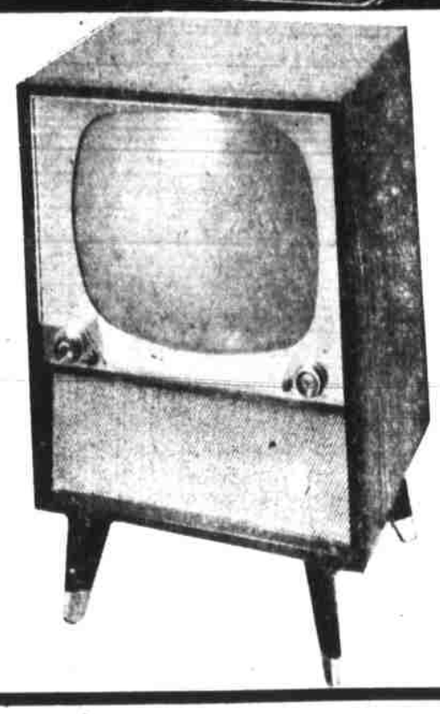

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