

FDR's Widow, Truman Hold Magic Wands

(Many also on page 1.)
CHICAGO (AP) — The two people who hold first mortgages on the affections of most of the Democrats have waved magic wands over this convention and changed it completely.

Harry Truman did it in his way on Saturday.

And Sunday Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt — eternally youthful, flashing her wondrously sumptuous smile, decked out in orchids and an incredible hat — worked her own special brand of magic. She supports Adlai Stevenson for the nomination.

Truman came out Saturday for Gov. Averell Harriman of New York.

How much influence either the former President or the widow of a President will have on the delegates is debatable.

Some people here feel that Truman, particularly, may have pulled quite a covey of votes over to Harriman's column. Others doubt this.

Real Excitement

In any case, the combined effect of the appearances of Truman and Mrs. Roosevelt has been to breathe some life, drama, and real excitement into the convention. Until they came on the scene, it had looked like a pretty cut-and-dried affair. That is, Stevenson on an early ballot.

Both Truman and Mrs. Roosevelt called press conferences.

Truman's was big, brightly-lit and brawling. And he served up his news in a way that made you think of drums and the flourish of trumpets. It was immensely effective.

Mrs. Roosevelt came into one of the large private rooms of the Hilton Hotel. There was no hubbub. She simply stepped up on a dais and talked, quietly. Then she answered questions.

And in her quiet way, she was just as effective as Truman. She started right off by smilingly sticking the needle into Truman and Harriman. The former President said he liked a fighter and knew Harriman would be a fighter.

Lack of Fighting
"It seems to me," said Mrs. Roosevelt, "that there was a rather conspicuous lack of fighting in the primaries." Harriman entered none. Stevenson participated in several. Mrs. Roosevelt said she was particularly impressed by what he had done in the California primary.

"I am old," she said, still gently needling Truman. "Of course, Mr. Truman is much younger than I." (He is 72. She will be 72 in October. "But any way we two are the people who perhaps can remember furthest back in the party.")

When question time came, she asked Mrs. Anna Rosenberg, former assistant secretary of defense, to repeat the questions for her. She said, quite simply, "I am deaf."

By that time, the room was completely filled with several hundred people. The stairs leading to it were jammed and a policeman was guarding the door. The lobby space below was packed tight with people waiting to get a glimpse of her.

Her Second Choice
She was asked if she has a second choice in case the convention deadlocks. She said she does not have one. And again, she took the opportunity for some quiet fun with Truman.

"Mr. Truman may have had some thoughts of a stalemate. His state has a favorite son and I think that possibly was in the back of his mind."

A wave of laughter swept the room and she looked pleased, mischievous, like a naughty little girl.

The next question was about President Eisenhower's decision to run in spite of his heart attack and intestinal operation.

Instantly, the smile vanished from her face. Firmly, very firmly, she replied:

"That's his decision and I don't think anyone else has a right to comment."

Twice, she mentioned President Roosevelt. Both times, she referred to him simply as "my husband."

She said she had known Harriman all his life. "My husband used to take him on camping trips," she said.

A far away look came into her eyes.

British Give Slight Notice To Democrats

LONDON (AP) — Preliminaries of the Democratic Party Convention in Chicago stirred up only a small ripple of interest Sunday among ordinary Europeans.

There was not much about it in the newspapers and little discussion of American politics among citizens.

To the man-in-the-street in France, Germany, the low countries, and Italy the excitement in Chicago is not as interesting as a good international football match. There is a little more concern in Britain, where American policy is very important. But American political processes are regarded by Europeans generally as somewhat baffling.

European governmental leaders watch the slightest turn in American policy, and any shift in leaders, intently. But the interest does not seep down to the people, who are confused by the detail of the long process of choosing a President of the United States.

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