

Governors Emerge as 1956 Presidential Possibilities

BOLTON LANDING, N.Y. (AP)—Three Democrats and half a dozen Republicans claimed the political spotlight Wednesday as the nation's governors prepared to wind up their 46th annual conference with a call for a conference with President Eisenhower on a vast new road-building program.

Although politics officially is taboo here, Governors Robert B. Meyner of New Jersey, G. Mennen Williams of Michigan and Frank J. Lausche of Ohio appeared to be advancing to the forefront in a Democratic parade of potential 1956 presidential candidates.

Republican governors, who often furnish that party's nominee, hid themselves under a blanket assumption that President Eisenhower is going to be a candidate again.

NOT ADVERSE

But some of them lifted the corners of the coverlet to make it known privately that they would not be adverse to being

considered favorably if the President should decide not to run again.

In the vanguard of these was GOP Gov. William G. Stratton of Illinois, who turned away direct questions about his future aspirations but obviously wasn't very put out at those who asked.

The biggest unsettled political question of the conference, however, concerned a man who twice has been the Republican presidential nominee and whose friends think he would like to have a third shot at the grand prize—Gov. Thomas E. Dewey of New York.

Dewey has been an affable host to this conference—and nothing more. He said flatly he won't talk about the possibility that he might run for a fourth term as governor of New York in November.

Among those who know him best, Dewey was pictured as not finally decided. His friends said he doesn't want to run and would like to retire to private law practice, believing that the presiden-

tial lightning is as likely to strike him there as in elective office.

STATE TICKET

On the other hand, there are those close to him who believe that in the end his name will be found on the state ticket in November. He might be opposed by Rep. Franklin D. Roosevelt Jr. or Mayor Robert F. Wagner Jr. of New York, credited here with being among the most likely Democratic nominees.

The outnumbered Democrats among the governors have been getting the most political attention at this conference—which publicly has concerned itself primarily with a long-range and somewhat confusing debate with Eisenhower over whether the states or federal government are to build a proposed new transcontinental system of highways.

Meyner, who represents a fresh approach among Northern Democrats who might be considered for the party's 1956 presidential nomination, is a new star peering out of the political fog.

Lausche is the great enigma of the Democratic puzzle. Other Democrats say he never acts like a presidential candidate and seems to have no interest. But he represents a state that has mothered presidents in the past and isn't overlooked in the forecasts.

FAVORITE SON

Followers of Williams don't try to conceal their hopes that the Michigan governor can win a new term in his home state and thus make himself available as a favorite son candidate, for whatever that is worth in the 1956 convention.

Pushing their way from the wings into the Republican limelight are some governors whose long-range prospects seem somewhat better than average to their supporters.

Governors Theodore R. McKelvin Jr. of Maryland, Dan Thornton of Colorado, John Lodge of Connecticut, Goodwin J. Knight of California and Walter J. Kohler of Wisconsin are among these.

Van Fleet Returns

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Gen. James A. Van Fleet, President Eisenhower's special envoy, returned from his mission to the Orient Tuesday night and immediately left for Los Angeles, where he will meet Mrs. Van Fleet and then continue on to Washington.



TWISTER FELS TV TOWER—A twister during a sudden windstorm in Mobile, Ala., hit a 435-foot tower behind the WALA-TV building in the downtown section and toppled it to the ground. It fell between two rows of cars in a parking lot—the only direction it could have fallen without crashing into a building. Several cars were damaged but no one was injured. The 85-foot television antenna on top of the 350-tower proper weighs 4½ tons. The tornado also tore off several roofs and blew out windows.

Group Hits Crime In Children's TV

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The National Assn. for Better Radio and Television reported Wednesday that crime themes have become more dominant this year than ever before in television programs for children.

"Murder, torture, sadism, morbid suspense and other fear and tension inducing elements are saturating children's minds and physical senses to a degree never before experienced by any generation," the association said in its fourth annual report on children's radio and television programs.

"Television, more than any other medium, is responsible for this crime deluge."

DOMINANT THEME

"Programs which use crime as their basic story theme have always dominated children's TV programming, but at first these crime programs were mostly inherited from the theatrical film industry. Today, crime programs for children are being produced specifically for television in a volume approximately four times greater than in 1951."

"During the period of our 1954 survey, 29 children's crime programs (20 different series) produced on film for TV were being televised each week by the seven stations in Los Angeles. In 1951 there were five such series; in 1952 there were nine; and in 1953 there were 15. This crime programming is preserved on film for distribution and redistribution throughout the United States and other countries."

PROGRAMS RATED

Based on surveys made by an evaluation committee, the association listed children's TV programs as considered excellent, good, fair, poor, objectionable, and most objectionable. Listed as excellent were: Adventures of Blinkey, Campu: Farmers, Contest Carnival, Ding Dong School, Kukla, Fran and Ollie, Little School House, Mr. Wizard, Super Circus, The Princess, Who Knows This? Winky Dink and You, Youth Takes a Stand, Youth Wants to Know and Zoo Parade.

Listed as "most objectionable" were Captain Midnight, Captain Video, Dick Tracy, Eastside Kids and Ramar of the Jungle.

Firm to Ask Decision Study

Northwest Gas Market Sought

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Federal Power Commission will be asked Friday to reconsider the decision by which it authorized Pacific Northwest Pipeline Corp. to deliver natural gas to Oregon and Washington, it was learned Wednesday.

Sources close to Westcoast Transmission Co., which also sought the right to serve the Northwest market, said Westcoast's petition asking a rehearing would be filed on the final business day before the expiration of the 30-day period provided for such appeals.

Inasmuch as the 30-day period expires on Sunday, commission rules technically would permit such filings through Monday, however.

LONGEST HEARING

Pacific and Westcoast, along with Trans-Northwest and Northwest Natural Gas Companies, fought for the Northwest market for more than two years in the longest natural gas hearing ever held before a commission examiner.

The commission climaxed that hearing last month by approving the application of Pacific to serve the area with gas from the San Juan fields of New Mexico and Colorado.

It rejected the application of Westcoast because the company's Canadian source of supply, in Northern Alberta and British Columbia, would be under Canadian jurisdiction.

The commission questioned the feasibility of the Trans-Northwest proposal to serve Eastern Washington markets, also with Canadian gas, and rejected Northwest Natural because the company had been unable to obtain Canadian export authority.

PETITION LIMITED

Westcoast sources said purpose of delaying the filing of a petition for re-consideration was to determine that nothing had been overlooked. Should the commission deny the petition, the company would be limited in an appeal to the courts to the reasons set forth in its petition.

In addition to Westcoast, it is probable similar petitions for reconsideration will be filed by Southern California interests, who want the San Juan gas reserved for them, and by the National Coal Assn., United Mine Workers Union and other intervenors opposing any extension of natural gas service. None, however, has disclosed its plans in this connection.

Youth's Belt Stops Bullet

CORPUS CHRISTI, Tex. (AP)—Octavio Flores, 19, was feeling pretty chipper Wednesday and very much relieved.

Flores and Lupe Perez, 17, were wrestling Tuesday when Perez playfully pointed a .32 revolver he thought was unloaded at Octavio and pulled the trigger.

The pistol belched smoke and flame and Flores crumpled to the ground holding his stomach and gasping.

But all the doctor did at a local hospital did about it was place a small strip of adhesive tape on the youth's abdomen and tell him to go home.

A Navy-style web belt stopped the bullet from point-blank range. The slug was found between Flores' belt and his khaki trousers. Flores had a sorely bruised mid-section.

McKay Says Adlai's Eugene Statements 'Distorted' Facts

PORTLAND (AP)—Interior Secretary Douglas McKay said Tuesday night some statements Adlai Stevenson made at Eugene last Saturday criticizing the Eisenhower administration's natural resources program were a "distortion" of fact.

He referred to the 1952 Democratic presidential nominee's speech at a statewide Democratic rally.

McKay, a former Oregon governor, said of Stevenson's address: "He just doesn't know what he's talking about. I think the speech he read was written by the local boys. It makes me tired, the way they always think there's something hidden under the bed." McKay was referring to Oregon Democratic leaders in his "local boys" phrase.

At Eugene Stevenson criticized President Eisenhower for ordering the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) to purchase power from private utility companies rather than from the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). McKay defended the President in the matter.

"TVA has exhausted its hydroelectric potential," he said. "It wants to build steam plants. But Congress has put its foot down on the steam plant program."

"The power needed by the AEC can be obtained more cheaply from private utilities than by TVA construction of steam plants—and the private utilities pay taxes, too."

McKay denied several other Stevenson charges, including one that the Bureau of Land Management, the Forest Service, the National Park Service and other federal agencies are having their

organizations "consolidated into ineffectiveness."

"I don't know what his yardstick of efficiency is," McKay said. "If he means by comparison with the last administration, I don't think these agencies would be called ineffective now."

McKay commented on the Stevenson speech in an interview at the airport here after his arrival from the East. He then left for his Salem home where he will stay until Friday, when he will leave for Alaska to make an official inspection tour.

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