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SMEARING F.D.R.

Four years ago Franklin Roosevelt, after clearing it with Sydney, selected Harry Truman as his running mate on the democratic ticket. Other possible choices were Henry Wallace and James F. Byrnes. They were rejected, Wallace because he would weaken the ticket in the south and the border states and Byrnes because he was unpopular with labor. Truman got the nod from Roosevelt because the president believed that the man from Missouri would bring votes to the party.

In our American political system such a selection of a candidate for the vice-presidency is the customary thing. The nominee is chosen not because he is regarded as best fitted to become president if a vacancy occurs. He gets on the ticket because it is believed that he will help bring victory.

So it was with Harry Truman and if the thinking that led to his selection was sound then it is equally sound to assert that Roosevelt's election in 1944 was due in some degree to Truman. Roosevelt, in either words, felt that he could not win with anyone. Accordingly, he made the choice with an eye out for the main chance.

All this being so the recent effort of the late president's oldest son, James, to prevent Truman's nomination for the presidency in his own right seems particularly ungrateful and politically indecent. It was James's father who was responsible for Truman and Truman helped elect James's father. In trying to ditch Truman James not only weakens the democratic party but smears his father's judgment.

THE EISENHOWER SYLLOGISM

The books on logic now have available a new syllogism to include among their examples of this form of reasoning. It develops out of Eisenhower's statement of last Friday that he would not accept the democratic nomination for the presidency in which occurred the sentence, "My decision . . . is based upon my sincere conviction as to the best interest of our country." It would run something like this:

"It is agreed that proposals to nominate me for the presidency grow out of the fact that Truman is not the man to win over Dewey."

"The best interests of the country forbid my acceptance of the nomination and so Truman will be named."

"I want Dewey to win."

A couple of weeks ago President Truman was reported believing that Governor Dewey would be the toughest opponent the republican party could put up against him. As things now stand the man that many democrats think cannot win is up against the candidate he thinks he will have a hard time to beat. That's satisfactory.

Washington Column

By Peter Edson

The great riddle as the democratic convention opens is how to close it. Shall President Truman be brought up here from Washington to thrill the revolting ranks of his party with one of his now-famous off-the-cuff demonstrations of his dynamic personality, and send the rebels home re-united to do and die for the ticket of Truman and Blank? Roosevelt did that in 1936, with a gasp in the stadium next to convention hall.

Those in charge of this convention for Truman—principally J. Howard McGrath the national chairman and Sergeant at arms Leslie Biddle—apparently haven't made up their minds on this momentous question.

The alternative to having the president make his acceptance speech in Philadelphia is to have him go back to Independence, Mo., and be formally notified of his nomination there. You can imagine the scene:

The president would casually announce that he was going home for a few days' rest. He would be sitting on the porch in his shirt sleeves and slippers, and with his television make-up on. When all of a sudden, who should come down the street but a committee of distinguished dems.

The band would wheel up and render a few bars of Beethoven's Fifth—you know, dit, dit, dit, daa—the old war-time V for Victory.

One of the delegation would then step forward and read a piece, saying that at a recent spontaneous gathering of disinterested and unbiased public citizens in the City of Brotherly Love, it had been unanimously decided to run Judge Truman for the presidency. Surprise, surprise, surprise.

Nobody would be prepared for this event—except for 1,000 newspapermen, photographers, the newsreels, the radio spicers and recorder and all the democrats within a day's driving distance of Independence.

Judge Truman, blushing modestly, would then deliver a few impromptu remarks—carefully prepared in advance by his ghost-writers to make sure he dedicated the spot to the right guy this time—meaning to himself.

The supposed advantages to this program are that it would add a homey, down in old Mo. touch to what is starting out as a pretty sordid and soggy convention. Also, it would give the delegates time in which to go home and patch up their wounds and feud-shattered friendships.

The objection to this program is that it would be an open confession that the president didn't dare face an unfriendly reception from all the disappointed and discredited people who tried to stop him.

This includes A.D.A. leaders Leon Henderson and Walter Humphrey; Jimmy Roosevelt of California; southern Senators Claude Pepper, Lister Hill, John Sparkman and Olin Johnston; southern Governors J. Strom Thurmond, Fielding Wright and William Tuck; city bosses Jake Arvey of Chicago and Frank Hague of Jersey City.

Where all of these people and

their followers are going from here is a mystery. They represent a lot of ancient prejudices and phobias about states' rights, civil rights, liberalism, Catholicism and every other ism. The die-hard fanatics who hold their varied beliefs have been threatening to walk out of the democratic party for years. This time they rave so much and so loud they'll either have to take their walk or keep their peace forever more. The only man who can pull all these pieces of humpty-dumpty together again is the party's candidate for the presidency. What this convention needs is a big lift. When this was suggested to Chairman McGrath he asked, "What do you mean. Have the president come up here for the opening?"

Others Say . . .

FUNNY BUSINESS

(Klamath Herald and News)

An Associated Press story telling how a number of Idaho cities are enriching their coffers by taking a 50-50 split from slot machine operations has caused a flurry of interest here. Several persons, including a city official or two, have suggested that maybe something of the kind could be done here.

That makes us laugh. Any such realistic approach to the slot machine problem in Oregon always runs up against legal and emotional barriers.

Klamath's representative Henry Semon knows all about that. He sponsored a bill in the legislature to tax slot machines. If they are going to run, he said, a big chunk of the profits should go into the public treasury. The bill didn't get anywhere.

Mr. Semon also observed that race horse bookies were very active in the state (including Klamath Falls). He got a bill passed taxing them. The governor vetoed it.

Whenever there is such an honest attempt to get for the public some of the cash that flows through slot machines, there is immediate opposition from two contrasting sources: the good people who are opposed to gambling, and the other people who are profiting from the present set-up without having to divvy up with anybody.

Furthermore, there is a constitutional provision in Oregon which has been consistently interpreted as prohibiting slot machines, which are in effect a mechanical lottery. The way it works out in Oregon, this provision doesn't prohibit slot machines, but prohibits the collection

Honor Carrier



Joanne DeCarufel, 13-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon DeCarufel, won The Bulletin's Honor Carrier award for the month of June.

Joanne has been a "little merchant" Bulletin carrier for the past nine months, and has worked up to the honor rating by establishing an excellent record in service, collections and bookkeeping, according to Les Schwab, circulation manager.

Joanne has been given the \$20 cash award that goes with the honor rating.

of state or local taxes from slot machines. It's just that funny a business.

Since Mr. Semon's vain attempts at the last session of the legislature to get tax money from this potentially lucrative source, slot machines have been running high, wide and handsome in Oregon. The money is rolling through them, but state and local government, get nothing from them. To add to the confusion, the federal government steps in and grabs a nice license fee from the machines which state and local governments do not recognize as existing.

If Oregon cities would like to

get money from the slots, as is done in Idaho, an amendment should be offered to the state constitution which would make slot machines legal. This amendment would draw the opposition of church groups, slot machine racketeers, and a lot of people who will put their nickels in the illegal machines but don't think they ought to be legalized. If the amendment could be passed in spite of this heterogeneous opposition, steps could then be taken to siphon off a good chunk of slot machine profits for state and local treasuries.

Portland Prices In New Climb

Portland, Ore., July 13 (AP) — Prices were up on all fronts today along the Portland commodity market.

The price of eggs went up one cent a dozen.

The two top grades of butter rose another cent to a retail price of 88 cents for grades A and AA.

Steers sold at a record \$34.25 per hundred pounds yesterday at the North Portland stock yards. The previous high price was \$34.

Spring lambs jumped to \$27 and hogs continued to sell at last week's peak of \$32.

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Prowler Finds Cash Put on Ice By Tavernman

Jefferson, Ore., July 13 (AP) — A tavern owner here put his money "on ice" at closing time, but the Marion county sheriff's force was looking for it today. Sheriff Denver Young said a burglar entered the town tavern early Monday morning and took \$850 in cash from the establishment's walk-in ice box, where the proprietor said he put it for safe keeping.

More than 3,000,000 air shipments weighing 46,694,986 pounds were handled on domestic air lines last year, an increase of 16.3 per cent over 1945.

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