



NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS

By PAUL MALLON

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SENATOR TAFT ASSUMING REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP

WASHINGTON.—Ohio's Sen. Robert Taft assumed runaway Republican congressional leadership the later days of the session. It was his OPA bill which passed the senate; his fight held up President Truman's draft-striker plan and somewhat modified the Case bill. The appointment of Carroll Reece as party chairman left him smiling and happy. Action on the firing line has given him the domestic leadership, no matter how the positions are distributed nominally. But too many positions remain to be taken to mark him more than a leading candidate for '48 now.

Behind him the primaries have brought up Republican Governor Warren, who assured his election by winning both tickets easily in California. Warren seems likely to get the largest proportion of the Pacific states to the next convention. He has taken no stand on international questions known widely; he espoused social security bills in the legislature; and is as free as Taft is committed. But mark him no more than a likely compromise yet.

The Nebraska primary hurt Minnesota's ex-Governor Stassen, who will have another chance in the backing of a nominee (Ex-Governor Thye, a strong vote-getter) against Senator Shipstead, in July. To say Nebraska represented an isolationist victory would be to assume too much. The largest paper in that state has been attempting to prove isolationism had little to do with it. However that may be, both internationalism and isolationism seem dead in the East and Central states. Greater events are controlling our actions and destiny. Russia is the only truly isolationist nation still left.

BRICKER ALSO POSSIBILITY

Ohio's ex-Governor Bricker is expected to be elected to the senate, which will place him in line for the Republican nomination on what will be charged to be a conservative ticket. However, I suspect he and Taft have a friendly working agreement, or could get one, so neither would step on the other's toes. Consequently Ohio will present either Taft or Bricker, whose record as senator will largely determine his future.

Quieter than all the rest has been New York's Governor Dewey. He says he is not likely to be chosen, and too many Republicans believe him at this writing. He has not functioned as leader of his party since his defeat for the presidency. Senator Vandenberg leads Republicans internationally, as strongly as Taft domestically (he was renominated in Michigan).

It is idle to talk of '48 then. What is at hand is a congressional election in November, and in this, it appears a refreshed Republican leadership is rising to the top, both out of the primaries and congressional steps.

The primaries are in for nearly all the big states (Pennsylvania, Michigan, Ohio, California) and I recall only Indiana's Republican Senator Willis being defeated for renomination, and exceptionally few house members. Willis got himself into a fight with his state organization, and, as the convention out there was not controlled by him, he had to go back to news editing, which may be a relief. But the significant thing is this: practically all of congress was renominated.

Of course you must say organizations largely control primaries and conventions, and the "ins" are usually the organization, whatever it is. Yet in few previous years of my time have primaries meant so little.

SAME OLD REVOLUTIONISTS

There are some of our people, not many, who believed the old line that the Russians are somehow different than their government. They are not. They have no chance to be different. They live under one-man rule, under censorship, dictatorship, self-censorship and public attack. Whatever beliefs their government feeds them, they take. There are no others. Only one British official has suggested the possibility of revolution. Others all agree that the Stalin dictatorship is firmly established.

What right had we to expect anything different than we are getting? The Russian system had preached world revolution for 27 years. In that time it has practiced communism, socialism and capitalism in a variety of adaptations and phases for its farms and factories. It has no affirmative principles excepting only revolution. It will tear down anything existing, and then try to adapt a program (as in France where five communist deputies are installed in the Bidault cabinet, yet there is no communism). We knew all these things.

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