

Aspirants Hint for G.O.P. Bid in '48

Ike Reluctant; Taft Works Hard for Party Nomination

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WASHINGTON.—Back before World War II started, I attended a party given by Mark Woods, (my present boss). One of the guests, with whom I had been associated on the Farm and Home Hour came to me and said: "I want you to meet my brother. He's a lieutenant colonel in the army, and I think he's going places."

So we went back and I shook hands with a pink-cheeked, personable soldier, exchanged a few words and drifted on. Shortly afterward (1939), I went to Europe, the war broke and the party was long forgotten.

Somewhat later, and often since, I have had occasion to remember the lieutenant colonel vividly.

I have just been looking at a graph drawn in 1945 by that same lieutenant colonel (after he was needed into it by a biographer). It shows his promotions from the time he was graduated from West Point in 1915.

In World War I, he reached a lieutenant colonelcy but after the armistice reverted to his "permanent" rank of captain. He soon was promoted to a major (boosts were slow in those days) and remained a major until 1936. From then until the time I met him at that party, he was a lieutenant colonel.

Two years passed and then things began to happen: Colonel in '41; upped to brigadier general the same year; major general in 1942; commanding general of the European theater of operation; then, in 1945, lieutenant general and commanding general, Allied forces in the European theater—now, president of Columbia university (or maybe something bigger) to be.

Milton Eisenhower was right when he said his brother was "going places." It is in the voluminous volume "My Three Years With Eisenhower" by Harry Butcher, his naval aide, that the chart appears. The graph shows at its peak the rank of four-star general. Butcher jokingly plotted the curve (down) after that point, to zero. Eisenhower immediately drew a fishing pole at the nadir, thus expressing his hopes.

Both were wrong. The government pinned a fifth star on him, and the fishing pole has been transmuted into a cap and gown, as symbol of his new rank when he switches bosses from Mars to Minerva.

But if certain boosters have their way, the line on the chart may move upward again.

I haven't heard what the general's deep-down plans are, but from what I hear, the fishing pole is still the final objective, and he doesn't necessarily mean fishing from a presidential yacht.

Meanwhile, brother Milton Eisenhower has "gone places," too. He's also a "president"—president of Kansas State college, and very happy there. It was rumored that if he should "choose" to take a post which had been suggested for him—back in the department of agriculture (as secretary this time), when and if Clinton Anderson moved elsewhere, and thus became a member of the Truman cabinet, it would mean that his brother was not considering a new job.

Senator Taft Personifies GOP

Of course, it is more fun generalizing about generals than it is to particularize about the prime contenders in the candidates' elephant race to come. But, no matter how much political dust some dark or even chestnut roan stirs up later, there are just two people the politicians have to consider now. They are Senator Taft of Ohio and Governor Dewey of New York.

I was standing with a group outside the executive offices of the White House, waiting for the presidential press and radio conference when a genial human cloud, much bigger than a man's hand, in fact almost twice as big as most men's bodies, appeared on the horizon. It was the politically astute and ardent Taftite, Rep. Clarence Brown of Ohio.

The boys ragged Brown a little about the Taft trip, but he wasn't a bit down-hearted. Said he: "We didn't expect to bring back a bunch of delegates, Taft made votes for the Republican party, and that means votes for Taft." (Despite Brown's optimism, some observers have felt that although Taft did make new friends, they weren't new votes, for they were already solid Republicans.)

Frankly, I don't understand Taft very well. There is no question about his intellect or his intellectual judgments. Nobody could ask for a greater demonstration of political skill on the legislative side than his

record in the last congress reveals. But that isn't all.

One of Taft's critics, fully cognizant of the Republican policy leader's achievements, said that his intellectual judgments "ran ahead of his practical application" of them. I suppose the critic meant that for all Taft's powers of reasoning, scholarship and tremendous ability to acquire knowledge and weigh facts, he sometimes appears to allow his hereditary viewpoint rather than his acquired conclusions to guide his course. Taft is naturally conservative—and sometimes, I am sure, he has been intellectually persuaded as to the validity of certain measures, but has been unable to support those measures fully because of this inborn conservatism.

To those who know Taft even more than casually, he is cool, rarely unbending, legalistic. He can prove himself, however, as even the least sympathetic newsmen on his recent trip admit, affable and approachable. Also, he has that on many occasions so useful acquisition, (especially when chaperoning a bob-tailed flush), the poker face. Even his smile, which if overworked, becomes a bit rubbery, doesn't always dispel this impression. Although he inherited from his father, William Howard Taft, a tremendous capacity for hard work and a conservative point of view, he lacks the robust geniality conveyed by the Elder Taft's smile and laugh.

Unfortunately, Robert Taft hasn't that risible faculty to relieve a certain aloof remoteness of manner and expression. He is by no means a glamour-boy, and he knows it. One time when Republicans and Democrats were gathered at some clambake in New England, and the railery became a little personal, Taft challenged the Democrats to a beauty contest. Senator Pepper, who knows he has no claim to pulchritude himself, immediately jumped up to say: "I'm paired with the senator from Ohio."

Taft has some sense of humor, even if he isn't famous for it. Perhaps he absorbed it from his witty wife. He stands six feet tall and he isn't stout, although somehow or other you seem to think of him that way. He is still young—only 58. (I'm sure that's young because it's exactly my age.)

As Representative Brown intimated, Taft's speeches on his western tour, almost entirely devoted to the glorification of the Republican party's record in the first session of the 80th congress, helped strengthen the party. In fact, Taft generally is



SENATOR TAFT

accepted as the personification of the Republican party—and well he might be—considering the manner in which he dominated the last session, maintaining the respect of the Democratic leaders which he always has had—if not their love and admiration, which he never has had.

EDUCATION GOES HIGHER

Danger Seen in Rising Fees

That great old American institution of "working your way through college," which oftentimes is a critical ordeal for the serious student, is showing signs of vanishing completely, and many young seekers-after-truth soon may find it impossible to get through college if they are not blessed with higher-income families to help them out.

A director of the office of education has expressed the fear that the rising cost of a college education soon would keep large numbers of able students outside the campus gates.

Effects of steadily mounting fees in the country's institutions of higher learning already would have

SPECIAL SESSION—OF SURGERY . . . In case you've never seen a surgery amphitheater, either as a patient or a spectator, take a look at this picture. Members of the U. S. chapter of the International College of Surgeons, which held its convention in Chicago, are shown here watching the removal of three-fourths of a man's stomach.

NEWS REVIEW

Food Plan Opens Shakily; Comintern Brings Jitters

SIX MONTHS How Long No Meat?

Amid a certain amount of weeping and wailing and less gnashing of teeth than usual, President Truman's program involving meatless Tuesdays and eggless Thursdays lumbered tentatively through its first week.

Even the most ardent optimist could not call this phase of the food conservation drive to help Europe an instantaneous success; however, it might improve with time.

And it was in the handwriting on the wall that there would be considerable time, for administration experts predicted that the days of voluntary self-denial would last for at least six months.

President Truman himself has set the dates for the interim emergency aid to Europe campaign—from December 1 to March 31—although that time limit was imposed specifically for the raising of 880 million dollars in cash. Regarding the food conservation aspect, Charles Luckman, head of the citizens food committee, said "Our only idea is to do the job until it is done. No time schedule has been set."

Secretary of Agriculture Clinton Anderson was a little more definite. He pointed out that conservation to save grain might be necessary until the winter wheat crop, now being planted, begins to come in next June and July. Then he offered a faint hope with a hollow ring:

"Meatless days are not in the picture indefinitely," he said.

The Eating Public

Public opinion, it developed, was far from united on a solid front behind the food conservation plan.

Restaurant operators said their customers were grouching about meatless and eggless days.

Millions of Americans resented the suggestion of a voluntary meatless Tuesday since they already are going without meat four or five days a week because they can't afford to buy it oftener than that.

The poultry industry pointed out that if every one of the 140 million residents of the U. S. were to eat one less egg a week, the government would have to buy 600 million dozen eggs under the law requiring government support of parity prices; and the government already holds in storage several million cases of surplus eggs purchased to support farm prices.

SECURITY RISKS:

No Peace of Mind

Communism, particularly since the revival of the Comintern in nine European countries, is taking its toll in the U. S. by undermining the American peace of mind.

That obvious fact has been given added significance by the state department's disclosure that summary dismissal faces state department employees who are "habitual or close" associates of persons even "believed to be" Communists.

In plain language, that is a reversal of a fundamental principle of Anglo-American law—that a man is

judged innocent until he is proved guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

In fact, the state department, in a "security principles" document recently made public, says specifically that if there is a "reasonable doubt" about a worker's loyalty the "department will be given the benefit of the doubt and the person will be deemed a security risk."

While idealists could quibble at length about abridgment of "constitutional rights," few would deny that the state department simply was playing it safe in the face of a manifest danger.

SOLD GOLD: Second Time

Badly bent economically, although not yet quite broke, Great Britain, in the latest phase of her desperate quest for dollars, has sold 120 million dollars worth of gold to the U. S. in exchange for an equal amount of ironmen.

It was the second such sale from Britain's now dwindling gold reserve. Early in September 80 million dollars worth of gold was sold to the U. S.

The September gold sale came after the 400-million-dollar balance of Britain's dollar loan from America was frozen by British-American agreement when Britain declared she no longer could honor the loan's convertibility clause requiring her to provide dollars in exchange for pounds sterling on demand to any nation she traded with.

?? Current Events ??

Here are five questions based on recent happenings in the news. Five correct answers and you're eligible to appear on "Information Please"; four and you're still plenty good; three isn't half bad; two, better luck next time; one, subscribe to a newspaper.

1. Five nations recently were refused membership in the U. N. Name them.
2. At an international wireless congress, claims by the Soviet Union that a Russian named Popov invented the wireless were disputed. Who usually is credited as the inventor?
3. General MacArthur has ruled that Emperor Hirohito's crest shall not appear on postage stamps. After what flower is the crest designed?
4. In delaying a shipment of sugar from Verdun to Germany, one Communist French deputy said: "At Verdun, they shall not pass." On what occasion was that phrase first used?
5. Maj. Gen. Harry H. Vaughan has advocated that the two civilian components of the army merge with the army. What are those components?

ANSWERS

1. Italy, Finland, Hungary, Rumania and Bulgaria.
2. Guglielmo Marconi, an Italian.
3. The chrysanthemum.
4. It was used by Marshal Henri Petain in February, 1918, when the Germans were outside Verdun.
5. The Organized Reserves of the army and National Guard.

Boy Helped Solve Problem Of Bridging Niagara Falls

When the first bridge over Niagara Falls was planned in 1843, the problem of getting a cable from the American to the Canadian side was solved by offering \$5 to the first person who could make a kite carry a string across the 800-foot chasm.

After this had been accomplished by a boy, the string was used to pull over a small steel cable which, for several years, enabled persons to go back and forth, two at a time, in a little wire basket.

The original steel suspension bridge thrown across the river just below the American falls had a span of 820 feet, and was long considered to be a feat of engineering.



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