

Dewey Casts Eye Toward Presidency

New York Governor Stands High in Public Estimation

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Washington.—Last week we looked at some of the contenders for the Republican presidential nomination. This week it is the New York governor's turn.

More than one person who has tried to talk about or write about Thomas Edmund Dewey has complained of the difficulty of this task. There doesn't seem to be any one place to begin or end.

Several simple declarative sentences can be written about the ambitious governor of the State of New York.

For instance, he is ambitious.

Everybody admits that, his friends approvingly, making it a sort of copy-book virtue; and Dewey has taken the copy-book to heart, not merely in regard to ambition, in general, but in attempting to justify a specific ambition, one we all heard some time or other in our youth: "every American boy has a chance to be president." Dewey has taken that seriously.

His enemies look upon Dewey's ambition as Brutus looked upon Caesar's.

I'm afraid that wasn't as simple or declarative a sentence as I intended. Let's try this again: Thomas Dewey is not a hail-fellow well-met. (I doubt if anybody will deny that.)

Thomas Dewey once was chosen as one of America's 25 best dressed men. I think anybody who has seen him will say that was a justifiable choice.

Thomas Dewey is a small man—in stature. (The jokesters have done the best they can with that joke but it's worn by now.) Standing in a small group with Dewey you aren't particularly conscious of his height—or lack of it. When he looks at you he can look hard enough to make you feel that you are almost seeing eye to eye, literally, I mean — not necessarily figuratively.

Tom Dewey is a hard worker; he is 45 and, like Taft, was a good student. When it comes to generalities — Dewey is more difficult to describe.

There is one thing, however, that emerges clearly when one examines Dewey's career. It follows a very definite curve which he undoubtedly plotted a long time ago and which will take the boy from Owosso, Mich., all the way into the White House if he is permitted to follow it.

Frequently he has had to pause in his upward course but he always manages to start over again where he left off, and continue in the same direction. He lost his first bids for the gubernatorial and presidential nomination in 1938 and 1940, respectively, but he tried again for the governorship in 1942, and was carried into office on a landslide that ended 20 years of Democratic control. That carried him along to the next milestone and he became automatic contender for the presidency in 1944. The revolt against the New Deal which put the Republicans back into power in New York wasn't strong enough to overcome the Roosevelt popularity so Dewey had to mark time until the next time—which is now.

However, there is no use leap-frogging the nomination, which is the issue at the moment. There is the usual controversy over the results of Dewey's western trip, which ended in August, but his managers, with confident optimism, announced on his return that his first-ballot strength at the convention would register at least 400 out of the 547 votes needed to nominate him.

Taft Might Hinder Dewey's Possibilities

However, the results of the more recent Taft journey might mean a double setback for Dewey if what is claimed is correct; namely, that Taft not only strengthened himself but strengthened Republican prospects, generally.

The reason for this is that the men who pull the strings in the Republican party have no great affection for Dewey. If they thought they were due for an easy victory they would be likely to push him aside regardless of his vote-getting ability. In other words, while the insiders want a man who can get the popular vote, they would rather have somebody whom they are entirely sure is their man, even if he isn't as popular — so long as he has edge enough to pull through.

While no formidable "stop Dewey" movement is evident — the fact that Taft tossed Warren of California a whole bowl of roses, took occasion to at least mention Stassen — and found no occasion to notice the existence of the governor of New

York—seemed to indicate that there might be some concerted effort in the future on the part of the serious contenders. And, of course, there are always the favorite sons whose supporters always hope against hope to get together in a "stop Dewey" effort.

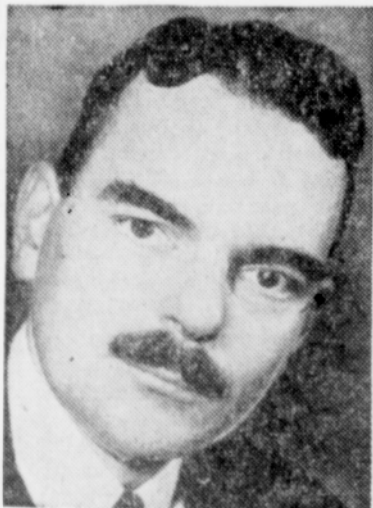
One thing about Dewey, however, is that he appears to be able to build as he goes. That is, up to the present, he has gained in velocity without having to reach too far back for his prestige.

Dewey's opponents point to what they call a "blank" record as governor. The Democrats say that about all he did was to cash in on a number of progressive steps taken by his predecessors clear back to Al Smith. While it is true that he has increased his political stature, moving steadily and steadfastly toward his goal — the White House — he has at the same time been accused by his opponents of leaning over backwards to avoid doing or saying anything that might prove an obstacle toward that goal.

This thought was put into concrete form in a recent resolution passed by the New York state Industrial Union council (the official CIO body which represents all the CIO unions of New York) at Saratoga Springs in September, which read: "We accuse Governor Dewey of permitting his personal ambition to take precedence over the best interests of the people of New York."

I don't mean to imply by this that Dewey counts too heavily on the CIO vote. Although he has created a considerable aura of progressivism about himself, some of his backers are very conservative and financially-powerful individuals.

There is one characteristic revealed in Dewey's career which may be forgotten as his record as an executive eclipses his achievement



THOMAS E. DEWEY
He's Ambitious.

as a prosecutor. It must be remembered that more than once he has sacrificed a highly lucrative position for the pure joy of criminal prosecution. First, when after making a good record on the staff of the United States district attorney, he postponed returning to private practice in order to prosecute Municipal Court Judge Hunstler, without pay, for the American Bar association; then, when he accepted the position as deputy district attorney at \$16,000 a year to go after Dutch Schultz, Lucky Luciano, et al.

He is quoted as saying once that he would rather prosecute criminals than eat.

VANISHING AMERICANISMS

Party Line Heading for Doom

That chatty, friendly institution, the rural party line, the force which has bound farm residents together into communities and spread more news than Walter Winchell, is getting ready to bid farewell to the American scene.

It's in the cards. The party line will be replaced, eventually, by the unsociable but efficient dial telephone exchange. That fact became apparent recently when a telephone and radio manufacturing firm announced development of a dial telephone exchange especially designed for the small community which has only 300 or 400 subscribers.

The new type of exchange, which will make dial phones economical for an operating company with as



HEARTS IN THE HIGHLANDS . . . Four kilted members of the royal Scots guard are shown performing the celebrated Highland fling with swords at the Silver Lining festival which was held at the "cockpit" in London's famous Hyde Park. Festival was a tribute to London's 50,000 voluntary workers in the national savings movement.

NEWS REVIEW

Rough on Reds: Byrnes; AFL Overrides Lewis

MEMOIRS: No Patience

James F. Byrnes, who, when he was secretary of state, was a veritable personification of "patience on a monument" in his dealings with Russia, stepped down from his pedestal and announced that it was time to start slugging.

In his published memoirs, "Speaking Frankly," Byrnes proposed that the U. S. reply to Russia's "obstructionism" on atomic energy and German peace treaty agreements with "better and more" atomic bombs and a decision to drive the Red army out of Germany, by force if necessary.

Exponents of the "get tough with Russia" policy now have a sturdy champion in the former secretary of state, who resigned that post only last January because of ill health.

Byrnes presented a 10-step "course of action" for restoring peace, basis of which must be the conclusion of a satisfactory German peace treaty. At the same time, he conceded that the plan of action conceivably could lead to World War III if Russia refused to co-operate.

First of all, said Byrnes, the U. S. should ask the Big Five to call a full-dress conference of all nations on Germany "early in 1948." If Russia refuses to participate or if she boycotts the conference, the other nations should proceed without her.

Then comes the stinger which Byrnes advocates. If Russia refuses to sign the treaty and likewise refuses to withdraw Red troops from western Germany, other nations should ask the U. N. security council to order her out. And if Russia vetoes the security council order, then the U. S. must drive her out of Germany by force.

However, Byrnes is firm in his belief that the U. S. probably will not have to resort to warfare. He thinks Russia will withdraw her troops from western Germany upon completion of a peace treaty.

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REFUGEES: From Soviets

Streams of refugees are reported to be coming through Russia's iron curtain to the southeastern coast of Sweden.

Reason for their flight, they say, is that the Baltic lands where they made their homes, now under control of the Soviet Union, are being combed by the Russians for men and women to be deported to Siberia.

A secret transportation route out of the Soviet zone manages to spirit the refugees to Sweden. Cost for such a journey — 2,500 German marks.

Exponents of the "community rotary exchange" boast that once the unit is installed it continues to operate for months untouched by human hands.

With this mechanical marvel at the helm, the party line will become as obsolete as Benjamin Franklin's kite. No longer will every phone on the line ring when someone puts in a call. The jangling on the wall will be heard only in the home of the person for whom the call is intended.

Final analysis reveals that the new dial exchange can do everything the old party line did, and can do it better. With one exception: It can't trace down the doctor in an emergency.

BELABOR: Lewis Downed

"On this issue I don't think the federation has a head. I think its neck has just grown up and haired over."

Thus spake John L. Lewis, he of the king-sized eyebrows, at the American Federation of Labor convention in San Francisco. The issue to which he so lustily referred was that of whether the AFL should vote to wipe out its 13 vice presidents, of which Lewis is one.

And despite Lewis' name-calling and hammy, mane-tossing histrionics, the AFL did vote to abolish its vice presidents in a move to make the entire federation eligible to use the national labor relations board under the Taft-Hartley law.

The action, which leaves only William Green, president, and George Meany, secretary-treasurer, as top federation officers, was taken in order to permit the AFL officers to sign non-Communist affidavits for AFL federal unions which have no national officers of their own. No union may have access to the facilities of the national labor relations board unless their officers sign the affidavits.

Lewis previously had adamantly refused to sign the non-Communist affidavit on the grounds that he would be making a concession to the Taft-Hartley law, much reviled by labor.

REPARATIONS: Germany Pays

European aid took a different turn with an announced plan by British and American military governments to dismantle 682 German industrial and war plants in their two zones for reparations.

Purpose of the move, slated to be carried out as swiftly as possible, is to expedite European economic recovery. Most of the factories are metal, chemical and electrical engineering, shipbuilding and power plants.

The announcement points up the problem, still not fully solved, of whether completely to destroy Germany's war potential by cancelling out her industrial strength, or to rebuild the German industry for peaceful production.

Obviously realizing the possible adverse effects which the dismantling of the plants might have upon the German people, the U. S. and Britain issued a joint statement emphasizing that they would consider suggestions from the Germans for substitution of equivalent individual plants.



WHILE watching a various assortment of pitchers and so-called pitchers give up 68 walks through the world series, one begins to wonder what has become of baseball's real pitchers.

Watching Burt Shotton vainly trying to find one pitcher who could go five innings — just one pitcher in seven games — one begins to wonder again if the art of pitching isn't really lost.

From the stars we have known from the old days of real pitchers, we learned that a good pitcher needs just three things — a fast ball, a curve ball and control. Today, pitchers are looking to a slider, a knuckle ball, a screw ball, a sailer — almost everything except control.

Imagine a Dodger pitching staff that hasn't a pitcher who can travel five innings. The Yankees were only a little better off. They had a fellow named Shea and a relief pitcher named Page. These took care of three of the four games the Yankees won.

The only pitcher the Dodgers had was a big, husky fellow known as Hugh Casey. Casey was the Dodger pitching staff. The Dodgers needed him in only six of their seven games.

We'll name a few great pitchers for you, if you've forgotten their names — Cy Young, Walter Johnson, Christy Mathewson, Chief Bender, Eddie Plank, Grover Cleveland Alexander, Addie Joss, Ed Walsh, Smokey Joe Wood, Carl Hubbell, Lefty Grove, Dizzy Dean — these are just a few.

Walsh used a spitter and Hubbell used a screw ball. The others had the three ingredients we have mentioned. Matty picked up his fade-away after he hurt his arm and lost part of his speed.

They Had Control

Most of these pitchers could work in 45 or 50 games. Ed Walsh worked in 66 games in 1908, winning 40 and saving 12 others. Jack Chesbro belongs in this list. He won 41 games for the Yankees in 1904.

Above everything else, they knew where the pitch was going — or at least within an inch or so of the spot. Alexander could pitch into a tin cup.

I was thinking of these old-timers while watching such pitchers as Branca, Barney, Gregg and others shut their eyes while trying to keep the ball in the same lot. Home plate? Home plate might as well have been in another city.

Bob Feller was a much better pitcher than he is today when he banked on a fast ball, a fair curve and control.

The two best pitchers we had starting this season were Feller and Newhouse. Together they won 37 games and dropped 28 during 1947. This is certainly no record to rave about.

Dizzy Dean was the best pitcher I've seen in many years. Dizzy depended on speed, a curve, change of pace and control. He won 58 games in two years—before his arm went bad, due largely to post-season exhibition games.

One of the best pitchers I ever saw is barely known or remembered today. His name was Addie Joss of Cleveland. Joss was 6 feet 3. He had a fast ball, a curve ball and control. Addie pitched eight one-hit games.

He worked in the greatest pitching duel of all time—or at least it was close. This was against Ed Walsh, late in the season of 1908.

Aim Is Vague

In this game, Joss pitched nine perfect innings. No White Sox reached first base. Ed Walsh, the loser, struck out 15 Indians and allowed one hit, as I recall it. Joss might well have had five or six no-hit games.

Most of the pitchers that come along today haven't the slightest idea of what control means. They rear back and give you all they have, with no particular target in mind. When in trouble, they go to a slider, a sinker, a sailer, a knuckle ball or some other degenerate form of pitching that wears out the arm, and certainly doesn't help to get the ball over the plate.

"Every time I bat against Alexander," Johnny Evers told me years ago, "I want to throw my bat away. He never gives me a ball I can hit. He could drive a nail with a pitch. First it's low and inside—but over. I move back and it's low and outside. But still over a corner."

If you recall the details, Alexander won only 94 ball games from 1915 through 1917. He won 28 games as a rookie with the futile Phillies, and he started and finished practically every game.

Yet Shotton couldn't dig up a single pitcher who could finish five innings. Fortunately for Shotton, Bucky Harris was in about the same shape. The number of pitchers used in this last series was a disgrace to the art and science of pitching.

Bright Colors of Autumn In Leaves During Summer

Most of the color which leaves display in autumn in such variety is there in the leaf all the time—but we don't see it till fall. There are three colors in a green leaf: green, yellow and red. But the green is so strong in the summer that that's all we see; then, when fall comes the green color disappears and we see the red and yellow. Frost has little or nothing to do with it.



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