

Martin Is Likely GOP Dark Horse

Contest Between Taft, Dewey Decisive in Republican Race

By BAUKHAGE
News Analyst and Commentator.

As this is written, the crystal ball gazers say that the 5' 8" black-moustached governor of the Empire State is going to be the next President of the United States. Some people will question this, and three, six or more months from now, even my private crystal-gazers may revise their predictions.

But the Dewey following is confident, even in the face of the latest Roper poll, which shows that Harold Stassen is the only Republican (now that Eisenhower is out) who could win four out of the six major geographical regions of the country from Mr. Truman! The poll says Stassen leads everywhere but in the solid South.

Suppose the solid South should split from the Democratic party, as they indicated they might in order to rebuke the President for his so-called "anti-southern" civil rights message which recommended anti-lynch, anti-poll-tax, fair practices legislation, which is labeled "pro-Negro" by many southern critics? Well, suppose that, and as of the date of this



BAUKHAGE

poll (February 5), Stassen has it.

Still the old-timers stick to their prediction of Dewey, which they make with tears in their eyes, instead of smoke from the smoke-filled room where decisions are supposed to be made.

I wish that you people could have attended that over-crowded luncheon at the National Press club when Gen. Dwight Eisenhower spoke and introduced his successor, Gen. Omar Bradley, as chief of staff.

It was a good talk, and you probably read the report of it. You also probably have read the report of the question and answer period which General Eisenhower permitted, and which was one of the best news conferences—that's what it turned out to be—that I ever have attended. Members who couldn't get in were standing up, cackling ears, 12 to 15 deep outside the entrances to the dining room.

Naturally some questions dealt with the Eisenhower withdrawal statement issued late in January. The night after the Eisenhower withdrawal, which most Republicans and Democrats considered as final, I happened to be with two die-hard, right-wing Republicans, who wouldn't even admit they were as happy as they were. They kept saying, why couldn't he have said that much earlier if he meant it, and anyhow he has left a loophole so he can run, if not now, in 1952.

I couldn't see that. I knew a lot of Republicans thought Eisenhower's letter was an 'absolutely honest statement, dictated by the reasoning of an honest man, untrained in politics, it is true, but speaking from his heart.

There isn't space to repeat Eisenhower's long statement in which he said, among other things:

"I am not available for and could not accept nomination for high political office. . . . My decision . . . is definite and positive."

"The necessary and wise subordination of the military to civil power will be best sustained . . . when lifelong professional soldiers . . . abstain from seeking high political office. . . . I would regard it as an unparalleled tragedy for our country if ever should come the day when military commanders might be selected with an eye to their future potentialities in the political field."

General Sherman said: "I will not run if nominated and will not serve if elected."

But what motivated Sherman . . . and Eisenhower?

The sincere belief expressed in Eisenhower's statement that a man of purely military training wasn't equipped for the job? (That statement, as you know, was thrown back at Eisenhower as a sideswipe at Gen. Douglas MacArthur, who has emphatically NOT said that he didn't choose to run.)

I have spoken of the Eisenhower family at some length before in this column. I do not claim to be more than an acquaintance. But, as I said, when General Eisenhower's statement came over the wire, I was firmly convinced that there wasn't any equivocation in it. And I am glad that the press and their friends heard Eisenhower answer the questions as he did, giving back steel for steel on every throw.

There was a big sigh of relief, of course, when the Republican and Democratic leaders knew Eisenhower was out. I felt the same way, but for a different reason. My reason for being glad that Eisenhower isn't going to be President—as he would have been on any ticket if he had run—is the same reason he put forth. I have tremendous respect for him, personally, professionally. I am not a professional soldier, but my experience as a wartime soldier is reinforced by an indirect impression of military thought which goes back for many generations in my

own family and is kept alive with close personal contacts in the armed services. I simply say this to the voter:

You may have a tremendous respect for a man's military record, but that doesn't mean you'd call him in if your child had appendicitis. Politics is just as much of a profession as medicine or the law.

We need a trained leader in this particular kind of leading. Maybe we will get one. Maybe we won't.

Speaker Joe Martin Universally Popular

Stassen has certain qualities of leadership with which he seems to have impressed the people interviewed by the Roper pollers. But unless Stassen could "sweep the primaries"—I'm frankly quoting my chief crystal-gazer—he hasn't a chance at this writing. There doesn't seem to be a chance of his sweeping the primaries, and anyhow there aren't many states which have adopted this device, which it was thought could beat the "smoke-filled room."

Now, the man who is going to be nominated is the man who wins in the Taft-Dewey contest (always, as of NOW). That doesn't mean it will be Taft or Dewey. But it does mean that it will be the man who, although he hasn't enough votes on this prelin, can pick up enough independent votes in later contests to see him through. At the present writing, it looks as if there were enough of those "changeable" votes to nominate Dewey.

If it's neither Dewey nor Stassen, the wise guys in Washington say it will be none other than Speaker Joe Martin, who never insulted anybody and has more friends in and out of Washington than a winner in a crap game when everyone else is broke. Without ever pulling any rough stuff, Joe Martin has put more people under willing obligation to him than any man I know in congress.

For example—when the Taft-Hartley fight was at its hottest, a certain Republican congressman came to Joe and said: "I'm sorry, Joe, I've got to bolt. My constituency doesn't want this bill." Joe didn't argue. He simply said: "Don't worry. I understand your situation perfectly. We'll get the votes anyhow. Forget it."

That man is Joe's friend for life.

Some years ago, a magazine took a secret poll of the Washington correspondents to determine the most "useful" man in congress. He was to be judged by his "integrity, intelligence, industry and influence." Joe got the highest vote of anyone in either house or senate.

Not long ago there was one of those big parties here, periodically thrown by various visiting firemen. It was a regular stampede, but some way I managed to back Joe Martin into a corner with my two Washington-wise assistants. Joe is a bachelor, and these two women are not lacking in either brains or pulchritude. They'd both met the speaker before, more or less professionally, anyhow rather formally. This wasn't formal. Neither of them is a born-and-bred Republican. Like me, and all other Washingtonians, they are voteless and more or less neutral between the parties. Both of them fell for Joe Martin hard. And it wasn't because it is Leap Year and Joe is a bachelor. They are both happily married (the only kind of assistants my wife and I hire).

At any rate, Joe Martin is a good dark horse to watch.



MARGARINE STRATEGY . . . Rep. Edward A. Mitchell (Rep., Ind.) acted as host at a capitol luncheon for congressmen and members of women's leagues who favor repeal of the present taxes on oleomargarine. Donning a chef's bulging cap, Mitchell demonstrated the process housewives must go through to color their margarine at home.

NEWS REVIEW

Peril Seen for Tax Cut; Soil Control Row Due

Following the first blush of joy over the spirit of deflation which seemed to have been evoked by the commodity market price slump, U. S. citizens began to realize that complications might set in.

Most significant hidden gimmick behind the market skid appeared to be the development that the price decline might, in the words of Sen. Scott Lucas (Dem., Ill.), "eliminate all possibility" of income tax reductions this year.

And that apparently was the cautious but considered opinion of the entire tax-writing senate finance committee, of which Lucas is a member.

Sen. Owen Brewster (Rep., Me.), also a finance committee member, expressed a concurring view, pointing out that any appreciable general price decline "certainly would have to be taken into consideration" by Republicans in their tax-cutting plans.

Another member of the group, Sen. Harry Byrd (Dem., Va.) said that if a decline of market prices develops into a business recession, it probably would have "a considerable effect" on tax reduction.

"I certainly am not going to vote for any bill that would put the treasury in a deficit position," said Byrd.

While the senators' statements reflected a good deal of pussyfooting and at least a temporary surge of indecision with regard to tax reduction in the light of the market slump, it was obvious that they were thoroughly concerned with this turn of events.

Theory which set their tax-cutting plans awry is that a continued slump of commodity market prices would bring down the national income and tax receipts, thus rendering any major tax reduction perilous.

SOIL CONTROL: State or Federal?

One of the springtime battles now shaping up in congress will concern the issue of whether the national farm erosion program should be federally or state controlled.

Fireworks are scheduled to begin in March when the house agriculture committee opens hearings on a bill sponsored by Rep. Harry D. Cooley (Dem., N. C.) which would turn over the soil conservation program, operated by the agriculture department since 1935, to state land grant colleges.

Along with the transfer of authority would go about 10,500 department agents who administer the program in about 2,000 districts. That will provide a point of strong controversy, as will the measure's provision for federal grants to help states foot their soil-saving bills.

Pushing the switch from federal to state control most strongly is the national farm bureau, one of the most powerful lobbies in Washington, on the grounds that the soil conservation program would accomplish more under state authority.

The federal program has not been as effective as it should be so far, the farm bureau contends. But opponents of the transfer counter with the argument that the states lack

AID BURDEN: Taft's Plank

Sen. Robert Taft, Ohio's G.O.P. aspirant to the White House, started off another campaign jog around the West by offering a thoroughly Republican message calculated to appeal to a large portion of the western voters.

The United States cannot allow its foreign aid program to jeopardize freedom at home, he said in Chicago, his first stopping place.

"We should not be actuated by purely altruistic desire to improve the condition of a lot of other people who have failed for centuries to do the job themselves.

"We want peace and prosperity throughout the world to eliminate a threat to our own freedom, but it is certainly not worth while to adopt a foreign policy so burdensome on our own people that it will destroy at home the very freedom we are trying to protect."

There was expressed a major plank in Taft's campaign platform: Careful control of the foreign aid program in the pre-eminent light of how it may affect this nation's domestic economy.

Also, it was consistent with his activities in congress where he has been making that theory felt with regard to approval of the Marshall plan.

U. N. PLUM: To Europe

Decision on where the United Nations will hold its 1948 assembly meeting will mean that some European city will get a healthy, 50-million-dollar plum tossed in its lap.

Because the choice of a site for the coming meeting probably will involve that much money there is a considerable ferment of anxiety in the cities of Paris, Brussels, Geneva or the Hague, principal contenders for the honor.

Trygve Lie, U. N. secretary-general, just back from a tour of European cities, has made a factual report without actually recommending any one spot. He did, however, narrow the field down to those four cities.

The 57 member nations of the general assembly decided at last fall's session to hold the 1948 parley in Europe, possibly to get away from the scene of their erstwhile rather futile efforts.

experience to handle the project satisfactorily.

Currently operating under an annual budget of 39 million dollars, federal soil conservation service has 10,500 persons working with farmers, helping prepare conservation plans which the farmers may accept or reject.

So far it has prepared conservation plans for 476,128 farms covering 131,855,608 of the country's one billion acres of farm land.

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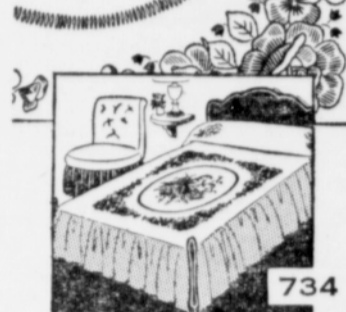
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Household Hints

When washing windows during the winter put a small quantity of ammonia or vinegar into the water. This helps to keep the water from freezing on the glass.

When laundering lace collars, sew the collars on white muslin. This will help keep them in shape.

Protect your rubbers from oil and soil. Oil causes blistering, and soil will cause rubber articles to chip and crack and lose their resilient strength. Clean well after using.

Keep on hand: Percolator tops, electric fuses, an assortment of corks, waxed paper, paper napkins, a box of tacks, an extra can-opener, extra light bulbs, a ball of twine, bicycle tape.

Thread a dozen needles with different colored threads and put them in a pin cushion hung from the wall. It is then an easy matter to repair a garment promptly instead of placing it in the ever-growing mending bundle.

For a larger and fluffier omelet, add hot instead of cold water when beating the egg yolks.

Keep acid foods, such as tomatoes, lemons and vinegar off the porcelain enamel of a range or refrigerator. They cause stains that won't come off.

Excessive use of oil or thinners will reduce the covering power of any paint.

Fired to Better Job

Editor Horace Greeley was famed for his illegible handwriting, which few people could decipher. Once, after an argument with an employe, he wrote the man a letter informing him that he was fired.

Several months passed. Then one day the former employe stopped by for a chat.

"You're the fellow I fired some time ago, aren't you?" asked Greeley. "How are you getting along?"

"Oh, just fine, thanks to you, Mr. Greeley!" laughed the other. "You remember that letter you sent me? Well, I showed it to an editor the following day and told him it was a letter of recommendation from you. He gave me a job immediately—and for more money!"

SCIENCE STILL TRYING

Plague Struck 600 Years Ago

It was 600 years ago, in 1348, that the Black Death swept ravenously through Europe, killing about 25,000,000 persons, to take its place as one of the greatest calamities of all time.

Historians estimated that by the end of the century the Black Death—bubonic plague—had killed one-fourth of Europe's entire population. In China another 13,000,000 died in an outbreak of the disease at about the same time.

Even to this day the seeds of bubonic plague are scattered throughout the world. Since 1898 it is estimated that more than 12,000,000 persons have died of it in India.

Authorities don't know where or when the plague first began, but some say that epidemic disease

mentioned in the Bible can be considered "true plague" and traced through history to 1320 B. C. It is believed to have started in lower Egypt, and in a few centuries "spread to the ends of the inhabitable world."

The black rat of Asia, which carries bubonic plague, probably was introduced into Europe by returning crusaders in the 12th century. They would have multiplied sufficiently to be noticed in Europe within a century, and history books say they appeared at that time.

It wasn't until around 1900 that it was definitely established that the black rat harbors the disease. The rat is bitten by a flea; the flea then bites a man and transmits the

plague to him. In one form the disease even may be communicated between humans.

According to the U. S. health service, plague among rodents exists in many places in the world today, including a great part of this country. Outbreaks have occurred among human beings on the west coast, and rodent plague has been reported as far inland as Kansas. However, officials do not fear any outbreak of the Black Death in the United States.

Medical scientists recently have discovered that the sulfa drugs are valuable in treatment and believe that the new drug, streptomycin, may prove so also. New and more powerful flea and rat killers, including DDT and the poison R-1090, are proving extremely effective.

CHEST COLD? that's a job for 'Comfy' and 'Minty' the MENTHOLATUM TWINS



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