

Washington Digest

No Right-Minded Candidate Will Antagonize Newsmen

By BAUKHAGE
News Analyst and Commentator

CONVENTION HALL, PHILADELPHIA.—The notes for this column are inspired by a view from the extreme left wing of the Democratic platform. I do not mean that figuratively, but literally.

I am sitting in the left-hand corner of the wooden platform filled with the brass hats of the party and their friends who are gathered together to nominate a Democratic candidate for President of the United States.

The scene isn't so very different from other political conventions I have attended back to—well, never mind how far back. I have in my mind's eye a different picture. It is a platform, viewed from just about this angle, but instead of this high rostrum protruding into the hall from the middle of the wide platform there is just a wooden box with boards atop it—rough-hewn rails to fence off the speakers from the shouting delegates. The name of Abraham Lincoln is being put in nomination. This vision, let me hasten to add, is purely visionary. I did NOT cover that convention. I saw a picture of it in a book.

The scene I have been watching is no more placid. That Democrats love a Dennybrook is an old saying. No smoke-filled rooms, no private fights for them—rather a free-for-all in a wide field, even if they know what the final outcome is to be in advance.

But frankly I have been thinking about something else as I sit here in this tropical heat—that is, in the moments when I have been able to think between the flashing of the light which is the silent bell on the telephone beside the mike I am sharing with Earl Godwin. The flash of the light on the phone means someone in the ABC booth, high above us, wants one or the other of us to jump in and give a brief word-picture of what is transpiring in our immediate neighborhood, for we are in the thick of things here and, believe me, sometimes things are pretty thick.

What I have been thinking about is the lot of the newsmen and the small thanks he gets for his pain and suffering in a political year. Besides being hauled and mauled by the public—his public, as the listeners of a commentator are referred to—besides that, he is under slantwise attack by the candidates when they forget themselves.

Nobody, either the partisan listeners or the politicians, ever thinks the columnist, commentator or reporter is being fair unless he is boosting his side.

Candidates, when they are in possession of their full senses, don't go around arousing the wrath of the newsmen. Even Franklin Roosevelt, who was forever needing the newspapers, always carefully explained that it was the publishers and editors and headline writers who twisted the news, not the men who wrote or broadcast it.

But sometimes candidates slip. And as we sit, perspiring under the klieg lights and trying our best to tell the truth without malice and with as much charity as possible about what is going on before us, we recall without too much rancor, the statement of the candidate who is not being unanimously nominated. On his recent trip he made one off-the-cuff remark, which prompted him to send that offending piece of haberdashery to the laundry immediately after he had thought it over.

President Truman opined to one rear-platform audience that it was almost impossible to get the facts definitely before the public "because there are certain people in the newspaper business and certain people in the radio business who have a distorted view of what the people ought to know and what the people ought to think."

It might have been better if he had worded his plaint in the language of an earlier candidate—much earlier—John Quincy Adams, who at least narrowed his charges against the press to a few papers, even though he didn't name them specifically. This offered a sop to the rest.

However, President Truman, in a previous outburst on that same western trip was specific too. He attacked the Chicago Tribune and the Spokane Spokesman-Review. In lambasting the Tribune, he was following in Franklin Roosevelt's footsteps. You may recall that on one occasion when FOR was asked a particularly sharp question by a Tribune reporter, he replied: "Oh, tell Bertie (Robert McCormick, publisher), he's seeing things under the bed."

Mr. Truman's attack on the Tribune came about this way: While travelling through Washington state, a reporter put to him a question which, although it seemed guileless, might have concealed a barb. Anyhow the President interpreted it that

way when Senator Magnuson revealed that the reporter asking the question represented the Spokesman-Review.

The President knows that part of the country and the sentiments expressed by its publications. It was then that he said the Spokesman-Review and the Chicago Tribune were "the worst newspapers in the country, the Tribune having the edge." That was about as sharp a thrust as a President ever has launched at the press in modern times. It was in that connection that he also called the present congress the worst in our history, later amending it to "second worst."

It would have been kinder to the rest of us if Mr. Truman had stuck to the specific instead of adopting the sweeping generalization quoted earlier—"some people in the newspaper and radio business, etc.—"

Presidents since the time of John Quincy Adams have not been shy about airing their views concerning the Fourth Estate. But Adams, while not specific, at least narrowed the field of his complaint to "eight or 10 newspapers of extensive circulation published in various parts of the Union acting in close concert with each other and pouring forth



PRESIDENT TRUMAN
... rear platform opinion ...

continual streams of slander upon my character and reputation, public and private. No falsehood is too broad, and no insinuation too base, for them ..."

President Cleveland also had his press troubles, and history admits he got a rough deal. One summer when he was governor of New York and was sweating it out at Albany, New York newspapers reported him as taking his ease at Newport.

Sometimes the newsmen do let their spleen get into their reporting, but for the most part, they follow Kipling's advice and go on the basis that you can't do a good job unless "... you keep your head when all about you are losing theirs and blaming it on you."

Television may achieve what the less vivid reports conveyed by print or the spoken word cannot. Republican leaders, realizing this, sent out some pretty strict orders on that subject before their recent convention in this city. The orders were revealed by that all-seeing, all-hearing monitor of stage, screen and radio, "Variety."

Republican delegates were told not to be seen (by the eye of the television camera and thereby millions of other eyes) talking to members of delegations from other states lest the suspicious public smell a deal in the making. If they must huddle they were told to huddle unseen.

Delegates also were warned not to assume awkward positions on the floor lest televisioners deduce that handsomeness isn't as handsome doesn't. And most of all, they were warned not to be seen leaving early and coming late. Not overly hopeful that orders would be followed, monitors were appointed.

Since I couldn't see much of the video product, because, as a reporter I had to keep my eyes on the televisioners themselves, I can't say how well the Republicans comported themselves when televised, nor can I assay how well the Democrats, currently in the spotlight, profited by what they saw of Republican video performances last month.

And if either didn't perform with all the grace and decorum nobody can be blamed but themselves. The cameraman gets off easy. The writer and the broadcaster still will have to duck the slings and arrows of the outraged unfortunate.

A recent survey showed that radio listeners like hymns most. Probably a television survey would show that televisioners prefer hers



IT IS only fitting that the heavyweight championship of the world was decided between two Negroes, since most of the better fighters in the last few years have belonged to the Negro race. I might mention Joe Louis, Joe Walcott, Ray Robinson, Ike Williams, Ezzard Charles, Beau Jack and a few others. The only two white entries I can think of now who belong around the top are Tony Zale and Gus Lesnevich.

"Why is this?" I asked a well-known trainer.

"Here's the trouble," he said. "Most of the white fighters are lazy or yellow. They won't train and they can't take it."

This is a minor detail that the white section might consider. Remember this: "They won't train and they can't take it."

Good white fighters have become about as scarce as the extinct dodo, Zale and Lesnevich are exceptions. So is Willie Pep.

Outside of Zale, Pep and Lesnevich, most of the white fighters that I know are crude, lazy and incompetent. They dislike the training routine or, like Rocky Graziano, they won't learn their trade—how to box. "A right hand will do it," was Rocky's answer. Only it didn't.

Zale is a professional. Graziano isn't. He never will be, except on the financial side. Graziano will never be the pro that Zale is. "Strictly a pro," Francis Albertanti says of Zale. "Graziano? Maybe a semipro. But never a pro."

Citation's Goals

Unless something of a harsh physical nature happens to Calumet's Citation, he is almost certain to reach two coveted goals—

1. To finish the high-money winner of all time—above one million dollars in total purses.

2. To be ranked as the top horse of all time—rated definitely above Man o' War.

There is little doubt of his passing the one million dollar mark unless he breaks a leg or is badly injured. The Calumet star already has slipped by the \$544,000 mark, and he is just warming up with such stakes as the Arlington Classic in Chicago and the \$100,000 International Gold Cup race, at Belmont on his list.

There is more than \$500,000 in big stake purses left on the '48 schedule and Citation is still a young three-year-old.

There will be much baying and braying among many members of the old guard in placing any horse above Man o' War. But don't forget two things—that Man o' War ceased firing as a three-year-old and that Man o' War never won a handicap race. He never ran against older horses—except Sir Barton who, at the time, was badly crippled.

Man o' War was a great race horse. But the big test comes in the handicap division where you might give away weight, where you must carry from 130 to 140 pounds to prove your place. There is no reason to believe Man o' War couldn't have carried this weight.

Citation already has run against older horses and beaten them. Two of these were Armed and Buzfuz in the Seminole handicap.

Citation can finish his three-year-old career on even terms with Man o' War, getting none the best of things. But if he goes on from there into the handicap division to meet older horses, he is almost sure to finish as the greatest race horse this country ever has known.

It is always just as well to wait until a competitor has at least reached the stretch of his career before he is finally judged and placed.

Twenty-Game Pitchers

How many 20-game pitchers, on the winning side, will there be this season? The crop will be extremely thin.

When the 1948 season opened, the leading probabilities included Blackwell, Newhauser, Feller, Lemon, Reynolds, Dobson, Munger, Marchildon, Trout, Sain, Spahn, Jansen and Branca. I could mention one or two others.

How many of these will make it? Blackwell and Feller, two of the favored sons, certainly two of the best, are out of it, unless they finish like a brace of Citations.

Blackwell with a bad arm, has three victories out of eight starts. At this time last year Ewell, the lone pine, was on his way to 16 straight.

Feller has been battling to break even. It might also be noted that Feller has been driven from the field of glory seven times, at least, in less than two months.

Hal Newhauser drew the roughest start of the bunch, losing four of his first five games. But the scrappy and skillful Tiger put on a hot rally and proceeded to win seven in a row. He still has an outside chance to reach the olive crowned circle.

Red Munger of the Cardinals has been one of the season's major disappointments. Picked as a 25-game winner, big, strong and fast, the ex-army officer has been below par most of the year.



Excessive Use of Lime Exhausts Soil Fertility

Specialist Warns Other Plant Foods Required

Liming can exhaust rather than rebuild soil fertility, unless lime is accompanied by the return of other needed plant food elements to the soil, declares Dr. William A. Albrecht, University of Missouri.

"Up to the present time in our land use," says Dr. Albrecht, "we have been putting limestone on our



soils under the mistaken belief that its benefits rested only in reducing soil acidity. We have gone ahead with our campaign with the idea that lime is all that is needed, and that if a little is good, more will be better.

"This generous use of lime has helped produce more proteins in legume forage and other crops. But the added crop production has used up other plant food elements. Among these potash has been the most prominent.

"We have credited the lime and the neutralization of the soil with working wonders, but we have not realized that liming by itself was helping exhaust our soil fertility more rapidly," he points out.

"It is essential," concludes Dr. Albrecht, "to remember that we need potash to make the carbohydrates in the growing plant before we can convert them into protein."

Sturdy Roots Required For Top Crop Output

No crop can do a better job producing than the roots that nourish it. To get strong, healthy, bushel-boosting growth above the ground, you have to have a sturdy root development below the surface. Roots need plenty of "living room" to stretch out for moisture,



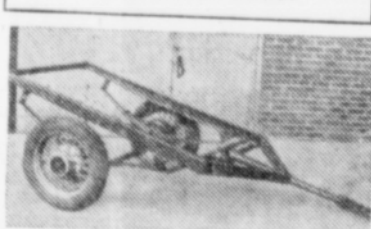
air and plant nutrients. They need that room not only in the plow layer, but also in the subsoil below.

It takes plenty of organic matter to keep a clay or loam soil roomy, well drained and ventilated. Part of that organic matter is burned up every year in producing crops. If it is not replaced, then your soil packs down. It becomes "stuffy" and hard to cultivate. It loses its sponginess, or porosity. Roots cannot grow readily, top growth suffers and lower crop yields result.

Several steps are necessary to get good catches of legumes. Liming, based on soil tests, is important. So is the application of fertilizer carrying phosphate and potash.

To round out a balanced soil management program and add to the organic matter supply, animal manure and crop residues should be returned to the soil.

Steel Farm Trailer



This two-wheeled farm trailer has an all-steel frame on which any type of body can be placed. Welded fabrication on the trailer frame eliminates bolts which work loose and cause rattles or breakdowns. The tongue in this trailer is attached in a way that avoids trouble in service. It was designed at Colorado A & M college.

Johnson Grass Control Termed Community Job

Johnson grass control is a community job because it requires the attention of everyone in the neighborhood, according to Purdue university. Watch for new bunches of Johnson grass that start in clean fields. Kill them by pulling or hoeing before deep roots are formed. The grass spreads both by seeds and root parts and is scattered by water, in hay, by cultivator or wind.



Here's a good treatment for scorched linen. Rub the flat side of a raw onion on the discolored area, then soak in cold water for several hours.

Remove wrappers from soap as soon as you get it home so the air will get at it while it's stored. Stale soap lasts longer than does fresh soap.

You can forestall the tarnishing of gold and silver slippers by wrapping them in old stockings when the shoes aren't being worn.

When your silver polish dries up you can usually remedy it adding water slowly.

Revive putty that's gotten dry and hard by mixing it well with a few drops of linseed oil.



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How to make a hit with your best girl's father

Remember... you may think of your girl like this, but her dad still thinks of her like this ... and he probably thinks of you like this. So your job is to convince him you're a solid-type citizen like this.

Promise to bring her home at a definite time —and do it! But if something goes wrong, be sure to phone no matter how late. Let him know your driving is careful, not like this. And that in case of flat tires you have a flashlight handy ... might as well tell him the flashlight's powered with "EVEREADY" BATTERIES —because they outlast all other brands*..... And take it easy!

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