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Matter of Fact

By Joseph and Stewart Alsop

Washington — Last Friday, the man of destiny came to Washington. Gov. John Fine of Pennsylvania is a smallish, plumpish man, neatly but far from nattily dressed, his balding head a gleaming expanse of pink, his face comfortably be-jowled. At first glance, he might pass for a not very successful small businessman from Nanticoke, the grimy Pennsylvania coal town where he was born in poverty.

There is a certain shrewdness in the small sleepy grey eyes peering out from behind the gold-rimmed spectacles. And there is shrewdness also in the remarks which the governor utters in his peculiar confidential whisper. But what is really interesting about Gov. Fine is that he controls the largest bloc of uncommitted Republican delegates (variously estimated from 30 to 50, the Governor's own figure) still loose in the United States.

As the Governor himself remarked last Friday, with visible relish, "I'm being kinda wooed." The results of all this wooing might quite possibly determine the outcome of the Republican convention in July. This is what makes Gov. Fine a man of destiny.

A visit by Gen. Douglas MacArthur to the Pennsylvania state fair at Allentown some time ago is in turn very likely to affect Gov. Fine's course, at least initially. Fine is a professional politician from one of Pennsylvania's toughest counties, and he is unaccustomed to consorting with the great. He is also a rather lonely man, and when MacArthur discussed lofty international issues with Fine, and was nice to his children, something of a spell was cast on the Pennsylvania governor.

AS OF THE moment, accordingly, Fine is rather obviously strongly inclined to throw his delegate herd to MacArthur on the first ballot at Chicago, probably by prior arrangement with the Grundy-Owlett Old Guard Pennsylvania machine. He and Sen. James Duff beat this machine in the last election, in one of the bitterest political fights

in recent years. But Fine has now clearly reached the conclusion that an amicable working arrangement with the Owlett-Grundy faction is only sensible.

Fine has been in recent and frequent contact with MacArthur, and he would certainly like to be the leader of a MacArthur movement in case of a deadlock. But he is also a practical politician, and as a practical matter he expects that either Sen. Robert A. Taft or Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower will be the party choice. His admiration for MacArthur itself says a good deal about Fine's political views. The way he talks about "foreign spending" and related subjects puts him ideologically at least, rather firmly in the Taft rather than the Eisenhower camp. Mason Owlett and Joseph Grundy are, of course, in the same camp, also Owlett at least, has been careful not to commit himself publicly.

Therefore it is a reasonable guess that Fine is also strongly inclined to switch to Taft if and when the time seems right. But the time will seem right if—and only if—Sen. Taft's nomination will thereby be assured. Otherwise Gov. Fine will certainly very easily overcome his private doubts about foreign spending, and turn to Eisenhower.

GOVERNOR FINE is not, of course, in a mood to commit himself about such future contingencies, having achieved his present unique and enviable position by refusing to take a stand on any candidate. Yet the basic facts of his position, which will determine his course are clear enough. Although he could ask for and get just about anything he wants, he has no hankering for national office. When he says this he sounds convincing. What he does want is to be a big frog in the national political lake, and the biggest frog of all in the Pennsylvania political pond. This is one reason why he has made his peace with the Grundy-Owlett faction and the Grundy-Owlett crowd will certainly do their best to pull Fine over to Taft.

Yet if Fine is to be the kind of really big frog he wants to be, it is essential that the Republicans win, especially in Philadelphia which they lost in the last election for the first time in decades. The Philadelphia leaders are strongly Eisenhower-minded, on the theory that Eisenhower's coattails are longer and stronger than Taft's. Finally, it is absolutely essential to Fine that he should throw his support, when the time comes, to the winner.

If Fine backs the loser, all the unique glories of his present position will turn to ashes in his mouth. He himself clearly believes, on the basis not of personal preference but of cool political judgment, that Eisenhower is more likely than Taft to be nominated. This is why, on bal-



ROY H. BROWN To Open Brookings Mortuary

Funeral Director To Open Mortuary In Brookings, Ore.

Roy H. Brown, who has been employed as a funeral director at the Conger-Morris funeral home for 2 1/2 years, will leave here Thursday for Brookings, where he will open his own mortuary, it was announced today.

Brown was selected by a committee of Brookings citizens to open a new funeral home there. The committee is seeking to secure each type of business for the rapidly-growing community, and there has been no funeral home there in the past.

During his stay in Medford, Brown has lived at 805 West Second street with his wife, Alice, and three youngsters, Rosemary, Richard and Denny. All but Denny will accompany him to Brookings, and Denny will join the family after school is out. Until then he will live with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. K. L. Denton at the same address.

Brown has been active in church work, being a member of the choir of St. Mark's Episcopal church, and in safety work, as vice-president of the Medford Safety council.

Boy Said Recovering From Buggy Crash Hurts

Johnnie Wolmsdorf, 5, son of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Wolmsdorf, Route 1, Medford, was injured Saturday when he was thrown from a buggy, according to attendants at Osteopathic hospital, where he is confined for treatment.

The reports said that a wheel from the buggy came off, and rolled over the youngster, resulting in internal injuries. His condition is said to be improved.

ance, the odds are that Pennsylvania's man of destiny will land in the Eisenhower camp in the end.

Stevenson May Address Delegates At Demo Conclave

Springfield, Ill. — (U.P.) — Gov. Adlai E. Stevenson, boomed as a "draft" candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination, may make a welcoming speech to the party's national convention, it was learned Tuesday.

Stevenson, who returned to his desk here after a 12-day trip to the West Coast, discussed the possibility of making a speech to the convention in Chicago July 21 with National Committeeman Jacob M. Arvey in Chicago Monday.

The governor asked Arvey, who has been trying to push the Stevenson for President bandwagon, whether it was the custom for the host governor to welcome the convention. No decision was made at once.

Stevenson, who has said he "could not accept" the presidential nomination, continues to sidestep the question of whether he'd accept a draft. When a reporter asked him the question Monday, Stevenson replied by handing him a couplet which said:

"The more I see of this awful mess, The more I want to be presidential."



WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT BOB ROOT

C. C. Chapman in Oregon Voter:

"Jackson County can well be pleased and proud over the performance of Freshman Representative Robert 'Bob' Root. When he talks he knows what needs be said and his courage in tough spots is much to be admired."

Graham Dean in Ashland Tidings:

"Although a freshman, his sincerity and objective approach to legislative problems was different, non-political; among veteran newspaper observers it was conceded that Root was one of the more thoughtful, studious, conscientious legislators."

RE-ELECT ROOT REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Pd. Adv. Re-Elect Root State Representative Committee

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