

Stag Dinner May Have Provided Impetus for Sending GOP Convention To San Francisco

Editor's Note: What's the story behind the story of how San Francisco made such a late bid and yet won the 1956 Republican national convention. Investigation in Washington and San Francisco points toward a White House stag dinner as having sparked the idea. The evidence is pieced together in the following dispatch.

By JOHN L. CUTLER
United Press Correspondent

Washington —(U.P.)— A stag dinner at the White House may have provided the impetus that gave San Francisco the 1956 Republican national convention.

The part President Eisenhower played in the selection is problematical.

But a chain of circumstances points to the dinner, attended by some top Republican leaders, as an important factor. It suggests a clue as to how San Francisco moved in at the last moment and beat out Chicago and Philadelphia, the only other contenders.

First Inking From Hall

The first public inking that San Francisco had a chance came from Republican national chairman Leonard W. Hall on Feb. 14 as he left the White House after a talk with Mr. Eisenhower about convention plans. Three days later the Republican National Committee formally chose that city.

Hall pooh-poohed the idea that he solicited the San Francisco bid. He labeled "just bunk" a suggestion that he engineered the whole thing to avoid Chicago because it is the center of mid-western conservatism. In any event, it seemed evident that San Francisco's quick success, after a late start, didn't just happen.

Key to Mystery

A check here and in San Francisco pointed toward the stag dinner at the White House as a likely key to the mystery. The dinner was held the night of Jan. 31. Hall was there along with some other political leaders. Among the other guests was Harry D. Collier, wealthy San Francisco oil man and prominent Republican.

City officials of San Francisco had talked among themselves a couple of weeks earlier about bidding for the 1956 conventions. But it wasn't until after the dinner that the idea picked up any steam.

The sequence of events went like this:



TAKING NO CHANCES—Barbara (Bobo) Rockefeller hides her son, Winthrop, under her coat as they mount the gangplank of the liner Queen Mary at New York. Bobo was determined not to have her youngster's face photographed. They are on their way to Europe for a visit.

Jan. 8: Republican Committee received bids from Chicago, Philadelphia and Atlantic City. No word from San Francisco.

Jan. 13: San Francisco board of supervisors decided to explore the idea of inviting 1956 political conventions. Found no one interested enough to match the \$250,000 bids of Chicago and Philadelphia.

Jan. 13: The board of supervisors considered an invitation to make a bid Feb. 2 for the Democratic convention. It was dropped for lack of interest. That night, Collier attended the White House dinner.

Feb. 2: Democrats got bids from Chicago and Philadelphia. They later picked Chicago.

Feb. 10: Mayor Elmer Robin-

son of San Francisco got word that a "prominent Republican" was interested in getting the GOP convention for San Francisco. That was Collier.

Feb. 12: The board of supervisors talked about putting up \$100,000 to attract the Republican convention. Robinson sought an additional \$150,000 from business and party leaders. All he got was a promise to "endeavor" to raise the money.

Feb. 14: After several long-distance talks with Hall, the mayor had his secretary poll the board of supervisors again. It showed that 10 of the 11 members would join Robinson in having the city guarantee the entire \$250,000. Robinson wired Hall the news. Hall, after a talk with Mr. Eisenhower, announced

San Francisco was in the running.

Feb. 16: Hall's seven-member site subcommittee, meeting in Washington, picked San Francisco. The choice was ratified the next day by the full Republican National Committee.

The lack of interest which marked early talks in the board of supervisors seemed to disappear after Collier interested himself in the matter. It suggested the possibility that they suddenly were given reason to believe that a bid for the convention would be welcomed.

Hall and Mayor Robinson insisted there was nothing unusual about the matter.

Hall said the Republicans had been talking for years about having a convention on the West Coast and San Francisco's bid made it possible.

Robinson said "The thing came about as a result of fast work, organization, the city's financial guarantee and our presentation which indicated complete unity of opinion in our city."

Red Terrorists Die In Brief Gun Battle

Seoul, Korea — (U.P.)—Four Communist terrorists of a "Fighters Against America" band were killed Friday in a 10-minute gun battle with South Korean police, it was announced Saturday.

The 15-member guerrilla band had been plundering and terrorizing villagers in the southern Toogy Mountain area. A woman was among those killed.

Air Force Men Escape Injuries in Crash

Las Vegas —(U.P.)— Four Air Force personnel escaped injury Friday when a twin-engine C47 transport crash-landed on the desert five miles south of here.

The plane, on a routine test flight from nearby Ellis Air Force Base, made a wheels-up landing with little damage after one engine "ran away."

The four occupants were identified as Capt. Charles L. Monroe, pilot; Lt. Col. Homer P. Anderson, and S.Sgts. J. C. Bruce and B. L. Templeton. Anderson, of Cedar City, Utah, is a professor of air science at the College of Southern Utah.



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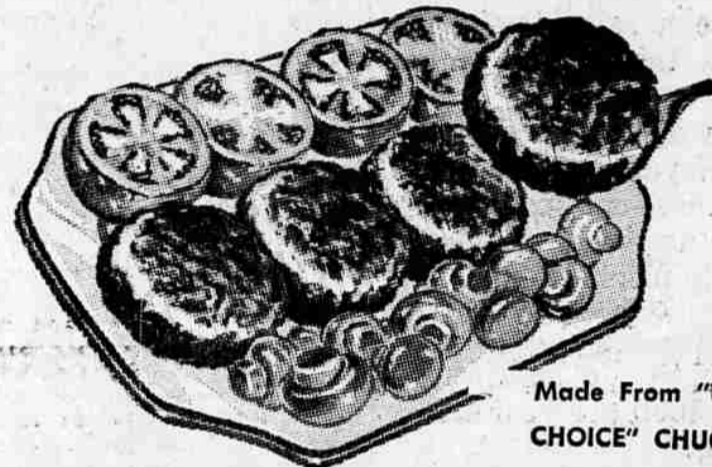
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