

Punishment of Bolting Democrats Boils Toward Showdown

Controversy Could Darken Political Hopes Next Year

By LYLE C. WILSON
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Washington—(U.P.)—An effort to punish top Democrats who supported President Eisenhower in 1952 was boiling today toward angry showdown.
The plan is to read them out of the party.
This was the opening round of a controversy which could darken Democratic presidential hopes next year. Republican prospects were correspondingly brightened.

The disputed question is this: What is a bona fide Democrat?
The New Deal-Americans for Democratic Action elements of the party evidently want a definition which would bar 1952 bolters from next year's Democratic National convention. Named specifically for punishment were former Gov. James F. Byrnes of South Carolina, Gov. Robert F. Kennon of Louisiana, Gov. Allan Shivers of Texas. There would be others.

Convention Challenge
Former Democratic National Chairman Stephen A. Mitchell told the United Press, "unless they say they are good Democrats and will support the 1956 ticket. In 1952 they broke their promise given to the convention to support the ticket. They are not entitled to take part in the 1956 convention unless they announce their return to the party and promise to support the nominees. They are Republicans as of today so far as I am concerned."

But some other influential Southern Democrats slapped Mitchell down.
Sen. Price Daniel of Texas, who supported Mr. Eisenhower in 1952, said: "I doubt that Mr. Mitchell is in a position to speak for the party on this subject."

He's Cockeyed
Rep. James P. Richards, from Byrnes' home state, said that if Mitchell "is quoted correctly, he's cockeyed... he or anyone else who tries that is cockeyed. They'll relearn a lesson that I thought they had learned before and they'll learn it more emphatically by losing more of the South than they did before."

Some other Southerners who didn't want to be quoted said that Mitchell is stirring up trouble unnecessarily; that some of the men Mitchell named may not go to the convention anyway.
Speaker Sam Rayburn of Texas declined comment. As permanent chairman of the 1952 convention, he was the one individual most responsible for stopping the "Young Turk" drive to unseat rebellious Southern delegates. He has indicated a number of times in the past that he is all for letting bygones be bygones and welcoming the bolters back to the party.

Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey, Minnesota, a notable member of ADA, backed Mitchell's suggestion. In a 1952 pre-convention statement, Humphrey said the party did not need the Southern states.

Affection Said Lacking; Actress Asks Divorce
Hollywood—(U.P.)—Film star Dale Robertson was divorced yesterday by actress Jacqueline Wilson who testified that the actor "showed no affection or love" after six months of marriage.
The couple married in 1951. She received custody of their two-year-old daughter, Rochelle, \$150 a month child support and alimony up to 11½ per cent of the actor's gross salary not to exceed \$12,000 annually for five years.

Several Days Expected For Manslaughter Trial
The Dalles—(U.P.)—District Attorney Donald Heisler predicted today the manslaughter trial of Joseph W. Ferguson, Mosier, would take several days.
Ferguson was charged in connection with the fatal shooting of Portland artist Charles Eaton the day after Christmas last year.
The two were hunting in a heavily timbered area 12 miles east of here.
The jury visited the scene of the shooting yesterday and afterwards heard opening arguments.

Dead line Sunday Classified is at noon Saturday; 1 a.m. Monday for Monday; other days 5:30 previous day.

Demands Increase for Federal Program Providing Free Polio Vaccinations for Children; Labor Lends Support

Washington—(U.P.)—Demands mounted today for a federal program of free polio vaccination for the nation's children.
Big labor unions are putting on most of the heat. Without free Salk shots, they say, many youngsters may be defenseless against polio this year simply because they are poor.
The American Medical Association quickly differed. It argued that physicians must be allowed to vaccinate their patients and charge a fee, if they wish. But it insists no child will go unprotected for lack of money.

Sen. Irving M. Ives (R-N.Y.) strongly recommended, in fact, that the conferees thoroughly explore all the advantages and disadvantages of a free program.
"There are grounds for concern as to whether every child will get equal treatment," he told a reporter. "The cost and the mechanical problems of a free program certainly should be studied to see if it is possible from a practical viewpoint."
Several congressmen already have introduced bills that would clear the way for a free vaccination program.

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