

Public Controversy Rages on President's Reported Recovery

By LYLE C. WILSON
United Press Correspondent
Washington—(U.P.)—Something has come unstuck in the fine mechanism of White House public relations. It is too soon to know whether the dislocation is serious and permanent, but it easily could be both.

The cold political fact which now is beginning to trouble Republican political strategists is this: Just about every circumstance relating to President Eisenhower's current illness and surgery has blended into an angry public controversy.

Hagerty Hero Earlier
White House Press Secretary James C. Hagerty was the hero of Mr. Eisenhower's convalescence from last September's heart attack. That same Hagerty may be the goat of the President's comeback from surgery for an abdominal obstruction.

There is division of opinion within the White House itself on the handling of the news of Mr. Eisenhower's current illness. Those who criticize Hagerty hold that he made a basic mistake. If so, it was to permit the attending surgeons to commit

themselves publicly a few hours after looking into Mr. Eisenhower to the proposition that he would recover in fine style and be fit for a second term.

That opinion, coming from the attending medics, had great political significance. It invited political challenge and it got it. Medical opinions on the expected rate of recovery and the potential rate of recurrence of Mr. Eisenhower's illness now are a nickel a dozen and cheapening fast.

Politics Among Medics
Instead of a national atmosphere of unadulterated sympathy and good wishes for the President's recovery, there has developed an atmosphere of angry political controversy in the field of medicine. Everyone wishes him speedy recovery, of course, but it would be unrealistic to believe that Democratic strategists want to face Mr. Eisenhower again in a presidential election. If the President's convalescence turned out to be much slower than his attendants have predicted, the Democrats could take the news gracefully.

There were some murmurs of dissent from the sturdy confidence of Dr. Paul Dudley White that Mr. Eisenhower's heart attack would not put him on the bench. But there was nothing like the current dispute. For this situation, there is a tendency in some quarters to blame Hagerty.

The charge against Hagerty is that he permitted the opinions to be made public too soon. All of this must baffle Jim. He is being rebuked now for what he gained him the highest praise when Mr. Eisenhower was recovering from a heart attack—the instant transmission to the public of all the information he could obtain, good or bad.

Managers of Democratic Hopefuls Meet To Discuss Strategy

Washington—(U.P.)—Managers for the three Democratic presidential contenders now campaigning against each other assembled today to talk about how to campaign against the GOP next fall.

The democratic strategy conference will be followed by a Republican session Friday to complete plans for the GOP national convention which opens at San Francisco Aug. 20.

Leaders of both parties will lay out plans on the assumption that President Eisenhower will be the Republican nominee in the Nov. 6 election.

Adlai Stevenson, Sen. Estes

Kefauver and Gov. Averell Harriman, the three active candidates for the Democratic nomination, all sent ranking aides to the Democratic meeting. It was called by Paul M. Butler, chairman of the party's National committee.

Stevenson's delegation was headed by his campaign manager, James A. Finnegan, Kefauver's by Campaign Manager F. Joseph Donohue, and Harriman's by Carmine De Sapio, Tammany chief and New York national committeeman.

Television campaigning, travel plans, fund raising, organization and national convention planning were on the agenda for discussion.

De Sapio made a gesture toward Southern Democrats, who are definitely cool toward Harriman, when he attended a dinner given by the New York Democratic House delegation

Wednesday night in honor of Rep. James P. Richards (D-S.C.). Richards, chairman of the House Foreign Relations committee, is retiring from Congress.

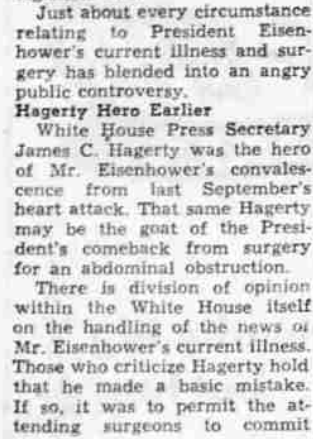
Senators and congressmen who attended from most Southern states professed there was no political significance in the presence at the affair of De Sapio and Brooklyn Democratic Leader Joseph H. Sharkey.

The arrangements committee for the GOP national convention meets Friday to name convention officials and make other preparations.

Although GOP leaders have been confident that Mr. Eisenhower's decision to seek reelection would stand despite his recent operation, they had hoped for a reassuring message at Friday's session.

White House Press Secretary James C. Hagerty said Wednesday, however, that the President was not planning any such message.

House Republican Leader Joseph W. Martin was understood to be in line for permanent chairman of the convention. Rep. Charles A. Halleck of Indiana was reported under consideration for keynoter or for the speech to put Mr. Eisenhower's name in nomination.



Lyle C. Wilson
Lyle C. Wilson, United Press correspondent, is seen here in a recent photograph.

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French Plane Dodges Yank Practice Shots
Paris—(U.P.)—Air France said today one of its DC4 airliners with 60 persons aboard on the Iron Curtain run from Prague to Paris had to skirt anti-aircraft shellbursts fired by a U.S. Army unit practicing just inside the West German border.

The plane was not hit and landed without further incident at Paris Wednesday. Air France said it was calling it an "accident" pending an investigation.

A U.S. Army spokesman at the Grafenwoehr training range 40 miles northeast of Nuernberg said there was ack-ack fire on the range Wednesday. But he said no aircraft had been reported in the area. It is standard practice to cease fire if planes are sighted, he said. The Grafenwoehr base is on a direct geographic line with Prague.

PHYSICIST TO DENMARK
Rochester, N.Y.—(U.P.)—Dr. Tarry W. Fulbright, associate professor of physics at the University of Rochester and winner of a Guggenheim Foundation fellowship, plans to leave in August for Denmark where he will conduct experiments at the Institute for Theoretical Physics in Copenhagen. An authority on cyclotron construction, he expects to visit other laboratories in Europe during his year abroad.

COOL OFF
Chicago—(U.P.)—A person who has been arguing should wait a few minutes before driving his car, the Chicago Motor Club warns. The club said persons who take out their wrath on their automobile are endangering themselves and other motorists.

Two cannon balls from the siege of Yorktown, Va., are still imbedded in the walls of the Nelson House there. The owner himself, American General Thomas Nelson, ordered the shots fired, knowing the Lord Cornwallis was using the house as headquarters.

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