

Democratic Convention To Have Largest On-Spot News Coverage

Chicago — (U.P.) — The Democratic national convention next month will have the "largest on-spot concentrated news coverage of any event in the world since the beginning of time."

This is the way J. Leonard Reinsch, in charge of convention arrangement, sums up the preparations being made by the nation's news media.

Reinsch, assistant to Democratic national chairman Paul Butler, said he expects almost 4,000 personnel from newspapers, magazines, radio and television to be on hand for the convention, which begins Aug. 13.

Preparations already are well underway at the sprawling International Amphitheater. Since the Democrats met here last in 1952, the amphitheater has grown by 188,000 square feet.

An entirely new structure, Exposition Hall, has been built at a cost of \$2,000,000. It makes the amphitheater the largest exposition building in the nation under a single roof.

A heliport has been built atop the amphitheater, and officials believe it will prove a boon to news-picture services and television networks.

The networks and news services plan to use the heliport to shuttle pictures via helicopter between the amphitheater and Midway Airport for shipment throughout the nation.

Seats Limited
Reinsch said seats for visitors at the convention will be limited because the number of delegates this year will be almost double that of the 1952 convention.

In 1952 there were 1,632 delegates and 1,632 alternates. This year, under the half-vote plan, there will be an maximum of 2,744 delegates and 1,896 alternates. This means that the entire main floor, which four years ago seated both delegates and alternates, will be filled with delegates only. In the mezzanine, 1,900 seats will be reserved for alternates.

But there should be no short-

age of hotel rooms, although some VIPs may not get the suites they desire. The Chicago Convention Bureau said 11,825 of the Chicago area's 35,000 transient hotel rooms have been set aside for the convention trade.

The Illinois Bell Telephone Co. estimates that there will be a 10 to 30 per cent increase in this year compared with the 1952 convention.

Company spokesmen said the amphitheater will require an estimated 32 switchboards, 4,000 telephones, more than 100 phone booths, 160 private lines, hundreds of special lines and 1,330 installed for various headquarters in downtown hotels.

The company said 54 microwave "dishes" for television will be installed, including 28 atop the amphitheater, 10 on the Conrad Hilton hotel and the remainder on other large buildings.

At the convention site the company will install a message center staffed by 80 operators, trained to handle all incoming calls for delegates.

A feature of the center will be a large screen on which will be posted by means of a special projector the names of those for whom there are messages, the latest weather reports, baseball scores and the like.

There also will be a TV lounge where delegates can watch televised convention proceedings between telephone calls.



Roaring Writers

The elegantly printed program of the Pacific Northwest International Writers Conference, to be held on the University of Washington's campus, July 27-28-29, reflects the dawn of a new day in the big timber. This has become a region of writers, and their day is at hand. A Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States is announced as the main speaker for the opening program. There was a day—or there was an evening, I should remark, back in 1924, when I was invited to a writers' conference in Portland. The first deal was a supper—or so most of us spoke of the affair, for we were woods and ranch folks in the main. Some were college teachers who were looking for recruits to fill up short-story writing classes. But not even a Justice of the peace was on deck, let alone a Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

Present was a long-time logging camp blacksmith who made rhymes that the Eastern poetry markets welcomed. I had recently found, to my own everlasting amazement, that Paul Bunyan tales were literary trade goods of real value. And there was the best bard of all, Mr. P. P. Bliss. The Record Cut

Mr. Bliss' masterpiece was a cluster of verses composed to celebrate the Americanization of a leading lumber center of the Oregon Coast by exclusion of the town's foreign-born wage-earners. The crowning Bliss stanza went thisaway:

"Now our mothers and wives can get themselves a seat In our motion picture show Without setting next to a Greek."

I took occasion to ask Poet Bliss just what it was that he had against Greeks, in particular. He said, nothin' in particular—not any more than I've got against a Hunyocker. It's just that I had to have a rhyme in there. And "Greek" was the nearest I could come to a rhyme with "seat." It's what they call "poetic license," the poet explained.

So then I knew. The meaning of "poetic license" had always been dim in my mind before that evening of the Writers' Conference. But Poet P. P. Bliss made it mighty clear to me. Had it not been for the Conference, most likely I'd have never learned that meaning. I've been strong for writers' conferences as a medium of education ever since.

Ink-Stained Veterans
Now in 1956 the woods are full of old-timers at the "writing game." There is one breed that is distinct from other writers, even as poets have ever been. This tribe is made up of the "Outdoor Writers of America"—the name of an actual writing organization. The Supreme Court Justice who is to speak at the Seattle conference is really one of the group, if not a dues-paying member. He is the author of the best-selling "Men and Mountains," and his name is William O. Douglas. His voice will be heard as a writer's voice at the big dinner on Friday, July 27.

The outdoor writers will make a start of their own, bright and

early on that Friday, going on a tour to the White River Tree Farm of the Weyerhaeuser Timber Company and the Silver Creek Camp of Snoqualmie National Forest, with chow and bus supplied by the West Coast Lumbermen's Association.

Then, the "workshops." Study and discussion sections on juvenile writing, non-fiction books, novels, articles, outdoor writing, poetry, playwriting, short stories, lunch, dinner and a Sunday program. Copy of a program and information sheet will be mailed on request to this newspaper. Oregon, Washington and British Columbia are joined in the program. So it's international. Hope to see you there!

Nixon, Pakistan President Confer

Karachi, Pakistan—(U.P.)—Vice President Richard M. Nixon conferred today with President Iskander Mirza of Pakistan during a brief stopover on the homeward leg of his whirlwind goodwill tour of America's allies in Asia and the Far East.

Nixon's next scheduled stop is Ankara, Turkey.

The vice president said he had a "very concentrated discussion" with Mirza during his stopover in Karachi. He said the talks centered on economic aids and military ties between Pakistan and the United States.

Nixon said that he would relay to President Eisenhower and the National Security Council the views of Pakistani leaders on the recent developments in Mos-

cow. Nixon spent about four hours in Karachi.

Nixon flew to Bangkok after a week end visit to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek on the Nationalist island bastion of Formosa. During his stay, Nixon reassured Chiang of continued U.S. support for Nationalist China. Nationalist Chinese officials were reported considerably heartened by Nixon's visit.

CONTENTED COWS
Sheboygan Falls, Wis.—(U.P.)—Cows at the Dale Carpenter farm needn't go through the usual colorless routine of eating grass and giving milk. The 17 Holsteins in the Carpenter barn spend their evenings chewing their cud and watching the Carpenters practice on a bowling alley installed in the barn.

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WHO, ME?—Kay Douglas, 18, of Greenwich Village, New York City, registers proper surprise at being named Miss New York State. The red-haired beauty will represent her state in the Miss Universe contest in Long Beach, Calif.

Around Hollywood

By ALINE MOSBY
United Press Correspondent

Hollywood — (U.P.)—Will Bing Crosby become the Hollywood bridegroom of 1956? His girl friend of two years reportedly has taken another step that could make her his bride, but the crooners pals insist there's "still nothing definite."

Hollywood observers who think the 52-year-old Crosby will wed 22-year-old Kathryn Grant gained another point last week when word got out around she had been converted to his religion, Catholicism.

Kathy curiously refuses to either confirm or deny the report. She merely says, "I never have made a statement about it and I don't intend to."

But her acquaintances say she told them she has completed her Catholic studies and "she started them after she began to go out with Bing."

Steady Company
The world's most famous popular singer and the little brunette from Texas have been keeping steady company for more than two years. Although Bing has dated actress Mona Freeman, Kathy has been his only steady companion since his wife, Dixie, died in 1952. Kathy visited Bing often at his Palm Springs home during the winter. She has been hostess at his home when he entertained friends, including a wedding party of his pal, producer Bill Murray and his bride.

But other friends of the pair are equally sure Crosby never will marry the girl who is 30 years his junior.

"Bing is just lonely and not interested in looking elsewhere for a companion," one friend says. "I don't think he'll ever marry again."

Ambitious Actress
"And why shouldn't Kathy give him all of her time? She's young with plenty of years ahead of her to look for a husband. Right now she's an ambitious girl planning on an acting career."

Any wedding could not be soon, as the pair will be separated the rest of the summer. Crosby, Murray and possibly Phil Harris leave July 21 to hunt and fish in Canada and Idaho. Kathy says that she, Mrs. Murray and Alice Faye Harris are talking about driving through Mexico while their men are up north. Crosby does not plan to return here until September—unless an elopement changes those plans. The actress insists, "I have no plans now for marriage."

The wild boar has been exterminated in England for more than three centuries but still may be found in some of the dense forests of continental Europe.

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Giveaway Charges Denied by Seaton

Washington — (U.P.) — Interior Secretary Fred A. Seaton Sunday rejected Democratic charges that the Eisenhower administration has given away some of the nation's resources to private industry.

"If we've given anything away," he said, "... it certainly was not intentional."

The "give away" charges have been leveled particularly against Douglas McKay, who Seaton replaced as interior secretary, for policies involving the nation's power, mineral and timber resources. McKay resigned to seek the Senate seat of Sen. Wayne L. Morse (D-Ore.)

Morse Urges Probe Of Wilson Contracts

Washington — (U.P.) — Sen. Wayne L. Morse (D-Ore.) Sunday urged Congress to "thoroughly investigate" contracts signed by defense Secretary Charles E. Wilson.

He said he "would certainly cast reflection" upon Wilson's qualifications to handle this Cabinet post "free from conflict of interest."

Morse, interviewed on a television program "Reporters Roundup," "knowing that as secretary of defense he would sign hundreds of millions of dollars worth of contracts with General Motors."

"I think," he added, "that the contracts signed by Wilson since he has been secretary of defense should be thoroughly investigated by the Congress."

Norway had 204 newspapers in 1955 of which 95 were dailies.

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