

# Country Lucky To Avoid Disaster, Democratic Platform Drafters Told

Democratic Convention Headquarters, Chicago—(U.P.)—Former Assistant Secretary of State William Benton charged today that "the country has been lucky to avoid disaster" under the foreign policy of the Eisenhower administration.

He told Democratic platform drafters that "it's high time to return our foreign policy to competent and experienced hands" of a Democratic administration. Benton, who also served at one time as a Democratic U.S. senator from Connecticut, was the leadoff witness as the Democratic National Convention Platform committee began gathering ammunition for an all-out election campaign attack on the Eisenhower administration's foreign policy.

In a statement prepared for delivery before the committee he said that "the Republicans inherited a good foreign policy blueprint." As long as the Republicans "stuck to the blueprint, they fared reasonably well," he said.

"When they struck out on their own, trying to adjust to fresh developments, the result to quote one Republican with long experience in foreign affairs, was a three-stage cycle. 'Bluff, boast and back down,'" he said.

"We have fewer friends to day and colder allies. The neutrals are skeptical of us, even to the point of contempt, our enemies are more confident even to the point of arrogance." The GOP administration, he charged, also "has failed to counter Communism's appeal to the uncommitted and undeveloped nations."

President Eisenhower's foreign policy aides also have "failed to rethink foreign aid or to project programs that would win the enthusiasm or allegiance of the world," he said.

By placing exaggerated importance on military pacts, Ben-

ton said, the Republicans "have got us into the fantastic position of having to convince the world that we are for peace."

### Matter of Survival

He urged the platform drafters to "hammer away at these paramount issues . . . most significant to our survival and to the welfare of our children and our children's children."

The Platform committee scheduled 39 witnesses for the foreign policy plank. Many were armed with statements highly critical of President Eisenhower and Secretary of State John Foster Dulles.

But the party's big gun in the

foreign policy assault, former President Truman, will not testify until Thursday.

Democratic leaders expect the Platform committee to come up with a blistering charge that diplomatic fumbling by the Republican administration has dangerously weakened the U.S. position in world affairs.

Armed with such a plank, they plan to make foreign policy a major issue in the presidential and congressional election campaigns this fall.

The committee heard about six hours of testimony Monday on another major campaign issue, the farm program, in the

first day of a week's hearing.

Former Secretary of Agriculture Claude R. Wickard outlined a proposed plank calling for 100 per cent of parity prices for farm crops. Speaking as the chairman of a Democratic farm advisory committee, the Democratic nominee for U.S. Senate from Indiana urged full parity through 90 per cent support loans, plus direct purchases, subsidy payments, a food stamp plan and similar measures.

The proposed farm plank also called for an international food bank and strategic stockpiles of surplus food for use in event of an atomic attack.

But the committee's biggest problem—agreement on a compromise civil rights plank—still was unsolved.

Adlai E. Stevenson, front candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination, and his leading challenger, Gov. Averell Harriman of New York, were represented as favoring a stronger civil rights plank than was adopted in 1952.

### Southerners Draw Line

So far, southerners have drawn the line at going any further than in 1952.

Democratic National Chairman Paul M. Butler sided to a degree with the southerners

when he declared against direct endorsement of the Supreme court decision outlawing segregation in public schools.

Rep. John W. McCormack (D-Mass.) chairman of the Policy committee and ranking Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations committee, told a reporter that the administration has lessened U.S. prestige in Asia and the Middle East by backing Britain and France in their controversies with colonial peoples.

Rep. Thomas J. Dodd (D-Conn.) proposed that the Democratic platform call for creation of an international judicial commission "to document the

crimes against humanity committed by the international Communist conspiracy."

### SOGGY TRIP HOME

Fint, Mich.—(U.P.)—Gordon Yelland, 23, was in such a hurry to get home, he drove his car through 300 feet of newly laid concrete on a county road. Yelland will be sentenced today for the \$3,000 worth of damage to the road.

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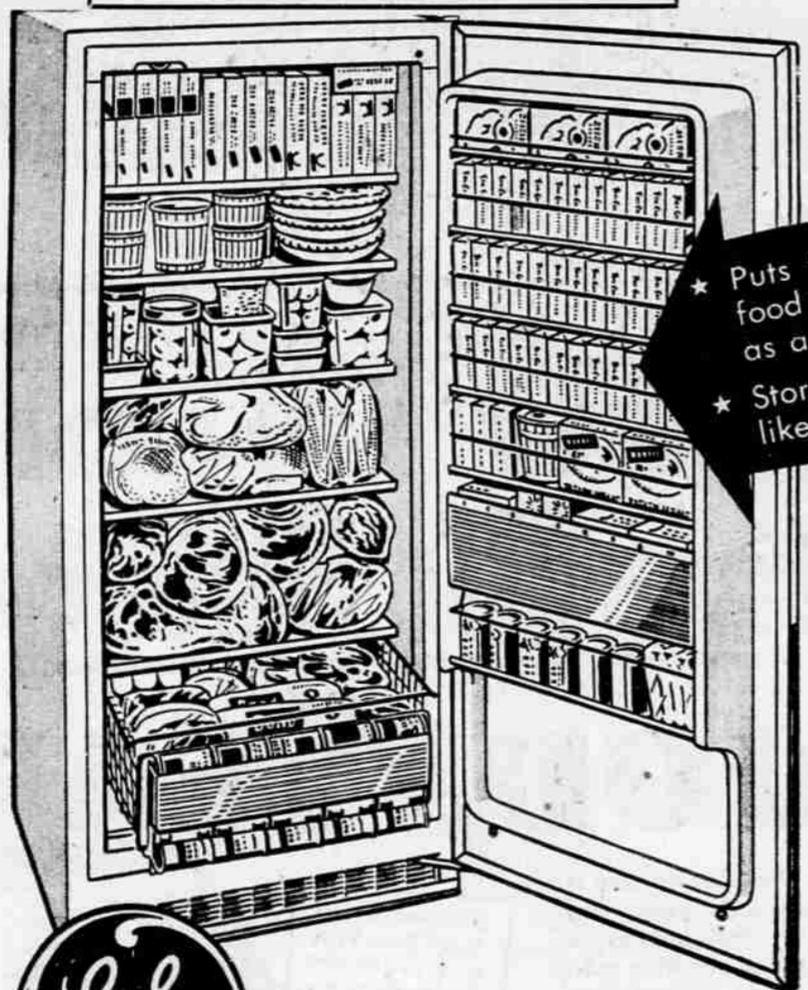
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### Portland Officer's Request Refused

Portland—(U.P.)—The Portland policeman whose allegations of payoff money to city policemen was a key factor in the indictment of eight of his fellow officers by the Multnomah grand jury last week, has attempted to resign from the force.

Jack Forest Olsen said he turned in his resignation last Saturday. It was refused, he said.

Olsen said Capt. David H. Johnson told him "it wouldn't be fair to myself or the force if I quit at this time and asked me to think it over for a couple of days."

The policeman said he had decided "to stick it out."

The 25-year-old officer said he decided to resign after The Oregonian printed a story of his reporting that some of his fellow officers were guilty of accepting payoffs.

"Some of the men refused to work with me. They said they couldn't trust me. I decided to resign rather than endanger the jobs and reputations of those men who would still work with me," Olsen said. "I didn't want to pull them into this."

### Chinese Outposts In Burma Confirmed

Rangoon, Burma—(U.P.)—Premier Ba Swe confirmed today that some 500 troops from Red China have established outposts in Northern Burma, but added that the situation is "not so serious" as had been reported.

Swe told a press conference that Burma has opened diplomatic negotiations over the presence of the troops, whom he said "we regard as friends."

"The government is keeping a strict watch on the situation and taking the necessary steps in the interest of the country," Swe said.

The premier indicated that Red troops have been prowling the disputed border for about a year. He mentioned a "clash" last year, but added that "no occasion has arisen to resort to armed action."

He said last year's clash established "the identity of Red Chinese personnel among those who had violated the border." He gave no details.

### Land Acquisition at Woodburn Approved

Portland—(U.P.)—Rep. Walter Norblad said here today that an appropriation of \$2,400,000 for the acquisition of land for the new multi-million dollar Air Force-Navy air base in the Woodburn area has been approved. Norblad said Army engineers would now begin condemnation proceedings to clear the area.

Norblad said the acquisition of land for the \$50,000,000 base would take about a year. During that time plans for the base will be drawn.

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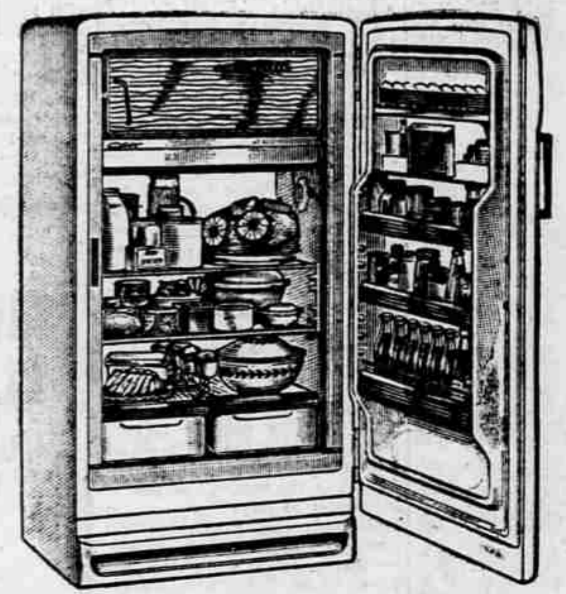
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