

Truman Steals Barrymore Thunder To Play News Conference To Hilt

Chicago — (U.P.) — That noise you hear must be John Barrymore reviving in his grave. A little, grinning man from Missouri has stolen the Barrymore thunder.

If ever a man played a role to the hilt, it was Harry S. Truman of Independence, Mo., as he stood above a spray of white chrysanthemums at 3:30 p.m. yesterday and said benignly to a sweating mob of 800 newsmen and interlopers: "Please be seated."

The mob had gathered to hear the former President's pronouncement of his choice for the Democratic presidential nomination. There was a patter of applause when he entered the Crystal room of the Sheraton-Blackstone hotel. His daughter Margaret and her newsmen husband were with him.

Wearing a blue double-breasted suit and a grin as wide as a Missouri barn door, Mr. Truman threaded through the crowd and, spinning a salmon-colored chair, and faced into a phalanx of nine tripod newsreel and TV cameras.

Newsmen yelled for newspaper photographers to sit down. The photos, paying no attention, clustered around the grinning man of the hour, snapping from all angles.

The Crystal room is a four-room joint decorated in bridal pink and cake-frosting white, and used mostly for wedding receptions. It was the scene of Mr. Truman's biggest news conference—topping by far his White House sessions with reporters.

"I expect to read you a very short statement," Mr. Truman began. "Those of you who feel like they want a leg to the telephone may do so—and after that, I'll read it again. I don't expect to answer any ques-

tions, but at a later date I will." The photographers renewed their frantic snapping. "Get through, you guys," Mr. Truman said softly. "I can't start reading with those things snapping in my face."

Dated Chicago Time Then, savoring every phrase, he began ad libbing: "This is dated Aug. 11, 1956. . . at 3:30 o'clock in the afternoon." He looked up, paused, and added: "Chicago Time."

Mr. Truman twisted his torso a quarter turn to the right and began reading at a fast clip—much too fast for longhand copying.

When he got to the part about making up his mind on his choice and said he had received thousands of letters, he eyed his audience and ad libbed: "And I want you to get it plainly that I read

Weirdly Garbed Man Seized After Kidnap

North Branford, Conn. — (U.P.) — A weirdly garbed man, who claimed he was a Russian flyer, was captured near here yesterday with the housewife he kidnaped Friday night after shooting her husband.

The man, identified as Everett Cooley of New Haven, Conn., was wearing a rubberized suit with a uniform underneath when caught, state police said. They said he also had a swastika, symbol of the Nazis, sewed on the left side of the uniform and wore false epaulets.

The housewife, Mrs. Grace Drepper, 27, was not harmed, police said. The two were found in a wooded area about a half mile from her home. Police said Cooley had a gun but did not resist.

and digested those letters." Finally he got to the climax. His body rocked forward now as he accented each word. "In the light of my knowledge of the office of the President . . . When he got to the words "Governor Harriman of New York," it was 3:37 p.m.

Chicago time, that is. A great shout of Yea-a-a went up from the audience—presumably from the interlopers, since newsmen have a way of not shouting at anything except at photographers to sit down.

Finally, Mr. T. reached the end sentence: "I know you can depend on him." Then he looked up and said easily, "That's the end of the statement."

Mr. Truman patted his lapel hanky, which sported three horizontal stripes and made a natty show along with his pale blue tie. His grin got wider as he held the statement to one side and another for the frantic photographers.

"Give me a chance, now, and I'll read it again," he pleaded. After the second reading, he took a big "Harriman is the man" button from a photographer and fastened it atop his hanky.

A reporter asked to borrow the handwritten statement so it could be copied accurately.

"I'm not letting it go out of my hands," Mr. Truman said.

He plainly realized the value of a historical document.

French Vigilantes Blamed for Explosion

Algiers, Algeria — (U.P.) — Moslem Nationalists charged Saturday that an explosion which ripped through the Casbah shantytown killing 18 persons Friday midnight was set off by French vigilantes.

Another 16 were injured, five houses razed to the ground, four others badly damaged and some 150 shanties in the "ant-hill" district damaged to a lesser degree.

All the victims were Arabs. The explosion shook outlying districts of this capital and its population of 600,000.

Police said the blast was caused by the explosion of an ammunition hidden by Rebel Nationalists in one of the houses.

Polish Army Purged After Riots in June

Malmoe, Sweden — (U.P.) — The Polish Army was purged after the Poznan workers riots last June 28 and officers with lukewarm Communist sympathies were cashiered, a Polish refugee said Saturday.

The refugee, whose name was withheld for security reasons, was quoted by the Svenska Dagbladet newspaper that most Polish Army officers now are Russians.

In addition, he said that Russia now has approximately 200,000 troops stationed in Poland—mostly in the west.

The newspaper said the refugee is a former wartime underground army officer. It said he was smuggled into Sweden a few weeks ago on his second flight to the west. It said he made his first flight in 1945, but returned to his Red-held homeland two years later.

California Brush Fire Brought Under Control

Lancaster — (U.P.) — Firefighters Saturday brought under control a 700-acre brush fire 12 miles west of here near Pine Canyon rd.

Chief Harvey T. Anderson of the county fire department reported a southwesterly wind had calmed down 30 to 10 miles per hour, allowing 150 fire fighters to contain the blaze.

Boy and Girl Object Of California Search

Azusa, Calif. — (U.P.) — A search party composed of 30 relatives, deputy sheriffs and volunteers combed the San Gabriel mountains Saturday in a hunt for a boy and girl, who have been missing since early Monday.

The children, Don Baker, 13, son of Mrs. Mary O. Edwards, of Azusa, and Brenda Howell, 11, of Fort Bragg, Calif., disappeared after they left on a two-hour bicycle trip Monday morning.

Six Navy frogmen to the bottom of a spillway pool below Morris dam in San Gabriel canyon in an unsuccessful attempt to discover any traces of the youngsters.

Two Refuse To Talk To Hodge Grand Jury

Springfield, Ill. — (U.P.) — Two alleged racketeers refused to talk before a grand jury which returned 48 new indictments in the phony state check scandal involving former Auditor Orville E. Hodge.

Frank (Buster) Wortman and Elmer (Dutch) Dowling, reputedly East St. Louis, Ill., area racketeers, were called Friday before the Sangamon county grand jury investigating Hodges \$1,000,000 raid on the state treasury. But they refused to talk and resorted to protection of the Fifth Amendment.

Meanwhile, Hodge failed to change his plea to guilty and demand immediate sentencing. His attorney, Arthur Fitzgerald, had offered to send the deposed state official before a judge Friday, with the guilty plea. The plan was dropped, however, when state's attorney George Coutrakon, said he would block any attempt for a quick sentence.

Bamboo Curtain Said In State Department

Honk Kong — (U.P.) — The Communist newspaper Ta Kung Pao said Saturday that the bamboo curtain has been moved from Red China to the U.S. state department.

Commenting on the state department's ban on a proposed visit to Red China by 15 American newspapermen, Ta Kung Pao said: "These American journalists now realize that the bamboo curtain is not in China but in the state department."

"Certainly, the state department has its difficulties. For the state department China does not exist—and how can it allow American newsmen to travel to a non-existing country."

Meanwhile, radio Peiping, the propaganda voice of Red China, said the Communists were preventing the American newsmen to see "what actually we are doing."

Quoting statements made by Red Chinese Premier Chou En-Lai, the radio broadcast added that "as to how they (the newsmen) report on their return, that matters little."

Girl Jumps To Death; Police Seek Identity

Los Angeles — (U.P.) — The identity of a brunette beauty who leaped to her death from a downtown hotel Saturday was sought by authorities here and Sacramento and Washington, D. C.

Police said examination revealed the girl, believed from San Francisco, was about two months pregnant.

The girl, in her early 20s, stripped her clothes and belongings of identification and then leaped from the roof of the nine-story hotel yesterday, leaving no notes to explain the act, police said.

She was attractive enough to have been a model, officers said.

Political Symbol Shipment Costs Told

Los Angeles — (U.P.) — Both political parties were informed Saturday the cost of shipping elephants and donkeys to conventions is the same as it was in 1952.

Trans-world Airlines announced that a one-ton Republican elephant can be shipped air freight from New York to San Francisco for 60 cents a pound or \$1200. The Democrats get off easier. Cost of shipping their donkey from New York to Chicago would cost only \$92.

Baldock Freeway Opened To Traffic

Salem — (U.P.) — The 33.7 mile R. H. Baldock freeway between Salem and Portland's southern fringe was opened to four-lane traffic Friday without fanfare.

Workers removed barricades at interchanges near the Salem north city limits and near Wilsonville at noon, opening the way for traffic to move over the \$13,200,000 superhighway.

At a testimonial dinner in the Multnomah hotel, R. H. Baldock, whose 41 years with the state highway department were climaxed with opening of the freeway, was honored guest.

The state highway engineer's resignation will take effect Aug. 16. After that he will head a U.S. mission to Iraq to direct a highway program there.

Biography Endorses Jackson's Candidacy

Washington — (U.P.) — The office of Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D-Wash.) has issued a new four-page Jackson biography including one page of statements, endorsing him for the Democratic vice presidential nomination.

Copies of the biography appeared Friday without explanation in the Senate press gallery. A spokesman at Jackson's office later said the biography was prepared in response to requests by the press.

The spokesman offered no explanation why 25 per cent of the biography is composed of statements made earlier this year by senators and other political figures backing Jackson as a vice presidential possibility.

COMMITTEEMAN ILL Chicago — (U.P.) — Dan Shovelin, Democratic National committeeman from Nevada, was stricken with an apparent gall bladder attack Saturday.

Stassen Says Less Than Sixth Of Delegates Pledged To Nixon

Washington — (U.P.) — Harold E. Stassen said Saturday that less than one-sixth of the delegates to the Republican National convention are pledged to renominate Vice President Richard M. Nixon.

Stassen, in a statement to the press, accused Nixon's backers of "overstating" their claims that Nixon already has enough support to win the nomination on the first ballot.

"As of today," Stassen said, "less than one-third" of the delegates have made any kind of public declaration for Nixon's renomination and "less than 200 of the 1,323 delegates" to the convention are committed to the vice president.

Stassen, who took a four-week leave as President Eisenhower's disarmament adviser to try to block Nixon's renomination, also said his drive to nominate Gov. Christian Herter of Massachusetts rather than Nixon is picking up steam.

"The understanding of my position has steadily improved, support for it has gradually grown each day of the week, and realization that I am sincere and that the time is not too late, is becoming widespread," Stassen said.

Italy Opens Probe Of Ship Sinking

Rome — (U.P.) — An Italian government commission Saturday formally opened its investigation into the sinking of the luxury liner Andrea Doria.

The nine-member commission, headed by an admiral, was formally installed by Merchant Marine Minister Gennaro Cassiana and received an outline of its work.

It began a study of the Andrea Doria's logs and headed a report on the summary investigation carried out by Italian consular authorities in New York just after the sinking July 25.

The inquiry is expected to last several months. It will be carried out partly in Rome and partly in Geno, headquarters of the "Italian Line" and birthplace of the Andrea Doria.

The commission planned to question every member of the crew who might have useful information. There was no mention made of attempting to question the crew of the Swedish liner Stockholm which collided with the Andrea Doria.

The former Minnesota governor said he has found that a "majority of the delegates" agree that "the Republican convention is now definitely open on the vice presidential nomination and will remain open" until time for formal action.

Stassen cited the Minnesota and New York delegations as examples of the way Nixon's backers have "overstated" his delegate support.

He said statements have been made that the delegation from Minnesota is "unanimously committed" to Nixon. The fact is, Stassen said, the delegation is not committed to any candidate for vice president and "many members, perhaps the majority, are waiting until all information is available at San Francisco before making their decision."

Resentment Expressed Meanwhile, some other Republicans expressed strong resentment against Stassen.

Ralph H. Bonnell, chairman of the Massachusetts delegation, said the Stassen campaign is "poorly timed and ill advised."

"I talked with Gov. Christian A. Herter Thursday," Bonnell said in San Francisco. "He

still intends to nominate Nixon and I think Nixon will be the Republican candidate." No Republican leader has joined Stassen in this effort and I think that it is not a serious movement.

He added, however, that if a drive for Herter develops a "lot of Republican strength on a national basis the Massachusetts delegation would be for him 100 per cent."

Republican National Chairman Leonard W. Hall, who also is in San Francisco, continued to discount the Stassen drive. "I would deduct 95 per cent of his claims in the interest of accuracy," Hall said.



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