

# Today and Tomorrow

By Walter Lippmann

## FOREIGN POLICY AND CIVIL RIGHTS

Although the Convention adopted the platform a few hours after Stevenson's nomination became a certainty, the men who put together the long section on foreign affairs were not thinking very much about any Presidential candidate. For by no stretch of the imagination can this section be read as a serious and responsible statement of what would be U.S. foreign policy if a Democrat became President.

The many paragraphs are not a platform on which a party can stand. They are a heterogeneous heap of planks thrown together in the hope of pleasing every pressure group, wherever located, with which politicians have to reckon. The result is not a statement of national policy but a collection of items supposed to appease or attract in the various localities.

The best thing that can be said for the Democratic foreign policy platform is that it is no worse, no more demagogic and no more irresponsible, than was the foreign policy section of the Republican platform on which Gen. Eisenhower ran in 1952. Indeed, there is reason for wondering whether the authors of this Democratic platform did not use the Republican platform of 1952 as a working model. For on the Far East, the Middle East, and on the European satellite countries, the Democrats in 1956 are making most of the same promises, raising most of the same hopes, and tying themselves in most of the same knots, as did Mr. Dulles when he wrote the Republican platform of 1952. The reason the two platforms are so much alike is that both are designed not as national policy but as voter bait.

GOV. STEVENSON, will, no doubt, have to say now what Gen. Eisenhower said four years ago, that he approves of the platform and will run on it. But if he is elected, he will have to do what Gen. Eisenhower and Mr. Dulles have done, which is to hope that the country will forget what the platform says, and that the loose words will be regarded as part of the great game of politics, not to be identified too closely with the conduct of foreign affairs.

There was no evidence, so far as I could see, that the Convention was interested in the plat-

form on foreign affairs. For while every delegation was, no doubt, interested in appeasing or attracting one or another of the pressure groups, none of the delegations was much interested in all the groups. The platform as a whole aroused no interest in the Convention as a whole.

THE real and the most serious business in the platform was the part about civil rights. My own view is that the outcome may well be regarded in the future as an event of great significance and great promise in the history of American sectional and racial relations.

For who that has known the tension which has followed the decision of the Supreme Court would have dared to hope that the Northern and the Southern Democrats could find common ground, could find it—all things considered—with no rancor, so calmly, with such an overwhelming determination on all sides to be tolerant and accommodating.

THE words of the platform are an unequivocal declaration in favor of using persuasion to bring about compliance. Insofar as the words chosen to say this are somewhat muted, are not emphatic and defiant, are couched in the language of understatement, it is because the Democratic leaders, Gov. Stevenson himself and Mrs. Roosevelt, who is the keeper of the party's conscience on this issue, were wise enough not to force the hands of the Southern leaders. There are great masses of the Southern people who are not persuaded, and if they are to be persuaded, it will have to be by people who live in the South and know its problems.

For those who believe that desegregation must be ended, but that it can be ended only by consent, and never by force, there is nothing weak in the civil rights plank. It is, indeed, a courageous act of accommodation on the part of the political leaders of the South, and one which does them great honor.

Words, political words at a convention, are cheap. But this was an act which, because it means so much to the internal peace of the nation, has given the Democrats a big claim on the confidence of the voters. It has given them the right to say that they have shown themselves competent to deal responsibly with as difficult a problem as exists within the borders of the United States.

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# History Books May Label 1956 Year of Vice Presidential Race

By LYLE C. WILSON  
United Press Correspondent  
San Francisco—(UP)—The history books probably will call it the vice presidential campaign of 1956—and with good reason.

Adlai E. Stevenson made a brief appearance before the Democratic National Committee immediately after his nomination for president. He made a strong point of the fact that man is mortal and subject to death's call at any time, that he himself might die in office.

Some days before that President Eisenhower's new conference questions failed to bring up the subject of his health. Surprised, perhaps, Mr. Eisenhower contributed on his own that he would shortly have another medical examination and would report to the people. If the voters do not realize now that the vice presidential nominee of both parties should have presidential qualifications, they will be aware of it before this campaign is over.

Sen. Estes Kefauver of Tennessee is a master of what the Madison avenue gray flannel suiters call "soft selling." His campaign as the Democratic vice presidential nominee, will be a folksy bit, pitched in a soft, low key.

The South got a Democratic civil rights plank which it doesn't like, but with which it can live because it must—most of the South, that is. The Democratic Party of the state of South Carolina met before the Chicago convention recessed, and will meet again to consider the situation. South Carolina might bolt. The South doesn't like that Democratic presidential ticket much better than the civil rights plank. For many Southerners Stevenson was the best of a bad bargain. It probably is fair to say that the South like Kefauver considerably less than it likes Stevenson, which is faint praise.

Republicans arriving here for the GOP National Convention report a rumor that Mr. Eisenhower may follow the Stevenson lead a little way on the vice-presidential choice. The word was that he might submit a list of a half a dozen men, any one of whom would be acceptable to him.

There wasn't much to support that rumor except that Presidential Assistant Sherman Adams

had not denied it. Your correspondent's informant said he hoped it wasn't true. But if it was added, there would be an avalanche of endorsements of one name on the list—Richard M. Nixon. The vice president arrived here yesterday. He will leave San Francisco with a re-nomination in his pocket.

Former President Truman's reputation as a master political strategist took a shattering in Chicago. Some of his one-time best friends believe he still is thinking in terms of his upset presidential election victory of 1948. Otherwise Mr. Truman's political strategy has not paid off much. He picked a loser in 1952—hand picked him. That was Stevenson. He picked a loser at Chicago this year, Gov. Averell Harriman of New York. The Democrats then spanked Mr.

Truman again by nominating for vice president a man whom he ardently dislikes, Kefauver. That could be the cruellest cut of all.

Mr. Truman is on record with respect to the 1956 presidential ticket, like this:

1. Stevenson can't win, can't carry a state other than those he carried in 1952.

2. Well maybe he would win if Mr. Truman helped him.

Kefauver is wholly unacceptable as a presidential candidate.

That's a severe indictment, especially when it is remembered, as it will be, that vice president's so often succeed in office presidents who die.

Nearly 60 per cent of American men aged 65-69 are still in the labor force, as well as 40 per cent of those in the 70-74 age bracket.

## Optometrists Set Graduate Seminar

Resident optometrists of southern Oregon will attend a graduate conference-seminar in Medford Tuesday, Aug. 21.

The one day seminar will be held at Rogue Valley Country club under the chairmanship of Dr. A. M. Skeffington, nationally recognized vision specialist, and is sponsored by local members of the optometric extension program.

Dr. Skeffington, who is conducting a series of graduate seminars on the west coast, will discuss the importance of vision, the four great developments in the vision field and the application of lens fitting and the uses of lenses in presbyopia, anisometropia, and myopia.

A morning session will start at 9:30 a.m., Tuesday, with two afternoon sessions scheduled at

## West Coast Shows Passenger Increase

During the first six months of 1956 the number of passengers boarded on West Coast flights have increased 13.7 per cent, with 12,294 more passengers boarding than in the same period in 1955, according to Tom Croson, WCA vice president of sales.

In the same six months, Croson pointed out, the net sales of the line increased 16.49 per cent, reflecting the greater dis-

1:30 and 3:30 p.m. A special evening session will be held at 7:30 p.m. following a dinner meeting.

Optometrists, their wives, and technicians and assistants in the vision field have been invited to the meetings. Optometrists from Klamath Falls, Grants Pass, Roseburg, Ashland and Medford are expected to attend.

tances flown by passengers. Through June 1956, 101,848 passengers boarded flights compared with 89,554 in the first half of 1955, he said. Croson added that West Coast airlines DC-3s have flown 9 per cent more miles in 1956 with the net sales increases almost twice that figure.

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