

Matter of Fact

By Joe and Stewart Alsop

EISENHOWER'S SECOND ROUND

San Francisco — The President's acceptance speech had not been delivered before those around him began talking jubilantly about a very different sort of campaign from the one discussed thus far.

White House staff men are happily thanking the Democrats for the personal attacks on Eisenhower that were heard at Chicago, as though the other party's spokesmen had done their staffwork for them. The President, who has been let off so wonderfully easily in the last three and three-quarter years, has not developed a politician's normal insensitivity to partisan criticism. It appears that the Democrats' denunciations — and especially their references to "a part-time President" — angered him deeply and made him eager for the fray ahead.

For this reason, those close to Eisenhower are now predicting that he will make at least eight and probably more television appearances, instead of the five or six originally projected. They are even predicting that he will take the stump, at least in a limited and dignified way, in the states where it will do most good. And although the television screen still emphasizes his enduring loss of weight, the President in the flesh seemed to glow with health and confidence in this high moment here in San Francisco. Looking at him responding to the fervent adulation of the city and his party, one could well believe he might end by plunging into the thick of battle and staying in the front line until he was sure of victory.

WATCHING him in action, one could not help but think back to four years ago, when a not very enthusiastic and visibly untried Eisenhower came before the Republican Convention to make an obviously sincere but heavy and shuffling acceptance speech. Then, you would have said he would never make a politician.

But now he is a new master of the political art, who has stolen or quietly muffled just about every issue the Democrats could possibly use against him, except the single, unavoidable issue of his health (which is one more reason for suspecting that he will end by doing some cross-country stumping, for there is no more effective way for him to muffle the health issue too).

In pure political terms, in truth, the performance of the first Eisenhower years has been nothing less than brilliant. But it is not only the political agility and astuteness of this performance that commands admiration. By patience and wisdom, the President has not just united a party that was sadly divided, but he has given his political opponents a steeply uphill road to hoe.

BY the same patience and wisdom, the President has also united a country that was sadly divided, and given an astonishing new impetus to America's productive power. Of the prosperity which we now enjoy, it is surely needless to speak at any length. Anyone can see it all around us, despite the unevenness of distribution that has angered the farmers. But of the unity of America that Eisenhower has achieved, it is not possible to speak too long or too enthusiastically.

This has been his greatest gift — to end the Civil War of the spirit that was tearing and rending and embittering this country, and to bring back a decent, seemingly concord among Americans. Four years ago, no man trusted his neighbor, and there were moments when it seemed as though every decent American tradition would finally be forgotten in the madness of mutual suspicion. But now that is

all over, like a bad dream, and the exploiters of suspicion are almost as completely forgotten as the creatures of last night's nightmare on a fine, bright morning.

Yet it must be added that these great achievements have been bought at a price. At bottom, the mutual suspicion that formerly hagrode us was the instinctive, unreasoning response of the less hardy and tough-minded Americans to the unaccustomed stimulus of danger from abroad.

IN ESSENCE, the danger lies in the rapid and progressive shift of the world balance of power against America and all the West. It is not the military balance only that is shifting. It is the political balance, as one can see in Suez and in Singapore and indeed in almost every vital region of Europe and Asia and Africa. It would have needed great and costly and very painful efforts to reverse this trend of the power balance. If those efforts had been demanded by the President, concord could never have been restored to us; but they were not demanded.

There is the heart of Dwight D. Eisenhower's enormous gamble. If it comes off, he will be remembered as one of our greatest presidents. But if the gamble fails, the cheers in San Francisco will look decidedly premature in the harsh light of history. Perhaps it is just as well that besides being a singularly wise man and famously expert gambler, Dwight D. Eisenhower has a deserved reputation of being one of the luckiest leaders of his era.

NO MARILYN MONROE
San Francisco — One thing the Republican Convention which has just ended here has proved beyond dispute. The best professional techniques of the admen and the electronics experts are no substitute for the unique, peculiar and traditional American political processes.

For weeks before the Convention opened, there was a great deal of talk about how the Republican convention this year was to be something entirely new, a clean break with tradition. This year, the convention was not to be the usual messy and unpredictable chaos.

It was to be, instead, a production, a show, professionally staged, and designed, like any major television production, to beguile, and persuade the millions at their television sets. There was to be an absolute minimum of the traditional cliché-ridden politician oratory. There was to be an absolute maximum of pretty girls, pageants, performances, and general electronic hoop-la.

TO HEAR the Republican impresarios talk, you would have thought that the politicians were to be almost entirely shunted aside in favor of, say, Mrs. Marilyn Monroe or Miss Kim Novak, or other proven attractions. In the event, instead of Marilyn Monroe, the televisioners got Mrs. Elphie Sulin of Iowa, mother of nine and grandmother of 25.

Mrs. Sulin spoke, and very nicely too, for exactly 90 seconds, on the subject of "Morality." She was one of 15 ladies who appeared on something called "The Women Speak," which was typical of the kind of "production" the Republican impresarios talked about so confidently.

Each of the 15 ladies (one for each letter of the words "Republican Party") was accompanied by a young girl bearing a placard spelling out the chosen subject. The girls were pretty, but only fairly pretty, because they were volunteers, not professionals. Some of the ladies spoke their pieces very well. But they were, for the most part, exactly like lady orators at any convention, with their iron curls, their sometimes quavering fervor, their impressive corsages, and their habit of bobbing their

heads as if admonishing naughty children.

THE harsh fact is that "The Women Speak" and the other productions dreamed up by the impresarios, were something less than electrifying, and a far cry from Marilyn Monroe. And the further harsh fact is that politics and the professional techniques of the advertising, entertainment, and television industries do not really mix very well.

They do not mix well because the main participants at any political occasion are not entertainers but politicians, which is a very different breed of cat. George Murphy, the Hollywood actor who rather frantically directed the convention proceedings, acknowledged as much in a chat with one of these reporters.

Some day, he said, conventions would be run as they ought to be run, in a proper theater, with proper direction and control. Meanwhile, he said, he would be happy to settle for an automatic trap door to get rid of the politicians who insisted on speaking too long.

EVEN without his trap door, Murphy and the other able professionals from the communications industry, did succeed in making the convention run more smoothly than usual. But the fact remains that the convention was a tooth-aching bore, at least until the final climactic moment of the President's acceptance speech.

It was a tooth-aching bore partly because the outcome was foreordained, and there was none of the conflict and suspense which lends to the American political convention its peculiar fascination. But it was a bore also, in part, just because it was too smoothly run, and lacked the unpredictable messiness which also lends flavor to a convention.

ALL this suggests a lesson which the Republican command might well ponder. Even before the President's illnesses, the word was passed at Republican headquarters that the campaign to follow the new kind of convention would also be a new kind of campaign. Instead of the usual frantic beating of the bushes for voters, the strategy would center on the techniques of the communications industry — five minute spots, saturation campaigns, carefully planned full-length shows, and so on, with the President's role limited to a half dozen or so television appearances.

Obviously, television and the new communications techniques have introduced an important new element into American politics. But the experience of this convention clearly suggests that the new techniques are no adequate substitute for the old. And this in turn suggests that before very long the pressure on the President to take the stump, in the old traditional way, will be very heavy indeed.

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Meat Packing Unions Order Strike Vote

Chicago — (UPI) — The nation's two biggest meat unions have ordered a strike vote among 85,000 members employed by six major packing firms.

The unions said they seek a "substantial wage increase and other contract improvements." Present contracts expire Sept. 1. Employees of Swift and Company, John Morrell and Company and the Hygrade Food Products Corporation will ballot on whether to authorize strike action.

Marshalls Return Friday From Minnesota Visit

Mr. and Mrs. Harry B. Marshall, 1299 Covina st., returned Friday from Sebeka, Minn., where they had been since Aug. 1. They were called there by the illness and death Aug. 6 of Marshall's father, Milo H. Marshall, 88.

Marshall is associated with Medford Realty company, and Mrs. Marshall (Jeanette Thatcher Marshall) practices law here.

Is That So?

Surely that bird which spends almost its entire life on the wing, gathers all its food and nesting material in flight, drinks by skimming over the surface of still water and mates in mid-air, must be pre-eminent of air-borne creatures—and that it is, the swift.

If not injured, the swift spends its entire lifetime without ever once setting foot on the ground. As its name implies, these torpedo-shaped swifts are swift—swiftest of birds, really. They have been clocked at speeds ranging from 171.4 to 219 miles per hour.

Wonderful are the adaptations this bird has made. Because of its tremendous energy output, it runs a body temperature of 111 degrees F.—as far as I know, the hottest of warm-blooded animals. Its digestion, of course, is rapid; its diet of oily insects highly nutritious.

Because it feeds on insects taken on the wing, most swifts live where there are many insects the year round, in the tropics. Only a few, like the chimney swift and European swift, hazard summers in temperate zones. But, as a result, when weather turns wet or windy, bugs fall off and these poor birds suffer. Hastily, then they attempt to outfly the storms or hurry to open water to get what mayflies and other aquatic insects may emerge. It seldom suffices.

In feeding their young, the parents collect one by one, a large ball of insects, and it remains entangled in the sticky saliva in the back of the throat. These single balls will contain from 90 to 800 insects and weigh up to one-tenth of the weight of the feeding fledgling, but it downs the ball without batting an eye.

Eggs May Grow Cold
Because insects may be hard to come by in cold weather, the swift's egg has been so adapted that it may remain unattended and grow cold for five hours or more but yet maintain the spark of life. Under comparable conditions, any other bird's eggs would not incubate.

But even more remarkable, the little naked fledglings can remain cold and unattended for a day at a time. And not die. In fact, of all fledglings it is the only one known which can lose body temperature, reverting to a "cold-blooded" state. (Two others, the adult humming-birds can reduce their temperatures during cool nights, and the California poorwill during hibernation—but not their tiny fledglings.)

With other kinds of birds, fledglings increase weight steadily and if food runs short, the young die within a few hours; not so, the swift. Its young is adapted to lose a large proportion of its body weight, absorbing its own fat. And remain alive.

Growth of feathers, too, keeps pace with food intake. Again, with other kinds of birds the growth is regular—with the young's feathers may be ready for flight within five to nine weeks, depending upon the food.

Once feathers are grown, without any prompting from the parents, the young one tips out of the nest-hole and flies away—at once completely independent, never returning to the nest. And although its previous experiences were limited to the nest-hole, it now knows how to catch its food on the wing at 70 miles an hour; skim over a quiet pool for water; outrun storms; and soon make a 2,000-3,000-mile migration without parental guidance.

Northern swifts usually lay two or three eggs. Why such a limited clutch? By the very nature of their food-gathering limitations, they cannot feed more mouths. When there are two eggs, about 16 per cent die; when there are three eggs, up to 42 per cent die—so it all averages out; whether two eggs or three; just about the same number—1.7 to the nest—remain alive.

By EUGENE BURNS
Ranger-Naturalist

Adults, as we have pointed out, cannot reduce their body temperature like the naked fledglings but they have perfected an ingenious habit for staying warm on cold nights. When muffled weather arrives, they alight in large numbers on walls and cling together tightly, like swarms of bees. And in this "dormitory" they keep warm and cozy.

But perhaps even more remarkable is the European swift's habit of sleeping-on-the-wing. Although the young pair up and build nests they do not mate the first year. But they do form colonies. And during clear evenings many of them collect in flocks and gradually ascend, higher and higher in running circles, screaming as they rise until they finally vanish from sight.

During the night, their resting holes remain unoccupied. Then, with the break of day from great heights these aerial gymnasts come down a spiraling.

What happened during these night hours no one knew until World War I when French aviator glided through a comparatively motionless swarm riding an updraft with wings outspread. Two were caught in the strut. Since then, this Frenchman, E. Weitnauer, has made many observations of their nighttime sleeping-on-the-wing.

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'Last Supper' Window Arrives at Park Here

A stained glass reproduction of Leonardo deVinci's painting "The Last Supper" has arrived at Memory Gardens Memorial park, 1395 Arnold lane, according to W. S. Ferris, park manager. It will be on public display late in September.

The work will be housed in a memorial building. Ferris said that other work on the memorial park, which was begun in July, 1954, is continuing on schedule. A new portion, the Garden of the Apostles, will open Sept. 2. This part of the tract will feature 12 garden mausoleums.

Georgia Man Jailed On Charge of Larceny

Reese Lee Dooley, 38, of Brasneton, Ga., is being held in the county jail on petty larceny charges after he was arrested by sheriff's deputies in Ashland on Wednesday.

Dooley is suspected of stealing clothing and bedding from Jack C. Harman at the SOS orchards Aug. 16. The stolen articles are at the sheriff's office.

Dead line Sunday Classified in at noon Saturday, 10 a.m. Monday for Monday; other days 5:30 previous day.

Engineer Speaks At Flood Meeting

Grants Pass—At the meeting of the board of the Rogue Valley Water Resources and Flood Control association Wednesday evening in the Josephine county courthouse, Col. Jackson Graham of the Army Corps of Engineers was the visiting speaker. Approximately 75 persons attended.

Col. Graham pointed out that his department now has sufficient funds for the completion of the flood control survey of the Rogue basin. Exactly how long this survey will take is not known but work is progressing as rapidly as possible. He mentioned that all information previously gathered and information collected by other committees and groups will be coordinated so that various agencies will not duplicate each other.

The amount of damage done by the December 22 flood of the Rogue river and its tributaries has been set at \$4,000,000. Army Engineers' information regards the Rogue river flood as a once-in-50-years proposition and this fact will have a great bearing on whether a flood control project will ever be recommended for this area.

Col. Graham added that before a flood control project is recommended it must have a

Five Young People Arrested Saturday

Three young men and two juvenile girls were arrested by city police at 12:35 a.m. Saturday and charged with illegal possession of alcoholic beverages.

The men were placed in the county jail. The girls were released to their parents by County Juvenile Officer Kay Crowell. The group was arrested by a car at Fourth st. and Central ave. after the police had received a complaint that several young people were causing a disturbance at Cubby's Drive-In on Stewart ave. at the south city limits.

Jailed were Teddy Lorice Huff, 20, Suncrest ranch, box 441, Talent; Kenneth Ray Sims, 19, Talent Cabins, Talent, and Jerry Allen Johnstone, 18, route 2, box 51A, Jacksonville. One girl, 16 years old, had a Medford address and the other, 15, was from Ashland.

good benefit-to-cost ratio and that the people in the community must be interested in promoting it.

Following Col. Graham's talk a question and answer session was held.

IT PAYS TO REMEMBER
Detroit—(UPI)—Earl R. Sullivan told police he neglected to pay 48 overdue parking tickets because "I guess they just slipped my mind." His poor memory resulted in a \$200 fine.

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