

Chicago's Role in Political Conventions Started in 1860

Editor's note: Following is the second of two articles dealing with cities which will host the 1956 political conventions.

Chicago — Back in 1860, a group of local Republicans joined forces to raise \$7,000 and some loose lumber. They slapped together a hall called "The Wigwag" and held their first national convention, complete with small brass band.

Out of it came the nomination of Abraham Lincoln, much ballyhoo, and the start of Chicago's role as the nation's number one center for political conventions.

Next year, a century later, the Republican will be back again. On July 25, 1960, Chicagoans will begin serving as hosts to their 39th political convention, more than any other city has held.

To Chicago, the whole thing

has turned out to be big business. And the big business is people.

Last year alone, nearly 1,100,000 persons came to Chicago to attend 1,071 registered conventions. This figure doesn't include tourists and visitors.

Adds Up To People

The best convention year in Chicago's history was 1933 when drawn in part by the World's Fair, nearly 1,600,000 persons arrived for 1,527 meetings. This adds up to people — and money, too. The Chicago Convention Bureau estimates an average convention delegate spends \$160 during a four-day stay, for a total annual take of more than \$160 million. Of that total, conventioners spend approximately \$35 million in retail stores alone.

"That's just the past," says Robert E. Johnson, Convention Bureau president. "The future looks even brighter. We're building a new convention and exposition center, new hotels and an airport destined to be one of the jet world's most modern."

In addition, the city is served by 23 major passenger railroad lines and 16 major passenger airlines.

It was only 138 years ago that the area now known as Chicago — Indians said the word means "Land of Smelly Onions" — had as its total property tax a mere \$11.42.

Landed Both Conventions

As for conventions, starting with 1884, Chicago has managed to land at least one political convention each time around. It won both conventions of Republicans and Democrats in 1884, 1932 and 1952. In all, counting next year, the city has welcomed Republicans 14 times, Democrats nine times and assorted other parties 16 times. Thirteen Chicago-nominated presidential candidates — seven Republicans and six Democrats — have been winners out of the 38 nominees total.

In order to make sure the conventions keep coming, the city is building a three-block-long, \$34-million Exposition Center that will seat 21,000 persons, have built-in coaxial

cables for TV and will overlook Lake Michigan.

This hall is scheduled for completion next year but Republicans aren't taking any chances. They've decided to hold their meeting at the International Amphitheatre, one of the world's largest private indoor arenas, which seats 13,500.

In its bid to land at least one of the major political conventions in 1960, Chicago offered both parties everything but the kitchen sink. And in a way, there was some provision for that, too.

Campaign Promises

According to the official proposal, later improved upon, the city is on record as having made the following campaign promises to the Republicans:

- 2,423 available air-conditioned hotel suites near convention headquarters.
- A multiple switchboard with 23 working positions at headquarters.
- Parking facilities for more than 7,000 cars.
- Free janitor service at the convention. (There's your sink.)
- A car manufacturer will provide cars and drivers for delegates who need transportation.
- Agreement to publish a convention program and help in obtaining advertisements for the program.
- The GOP convention will not be the biggest gathering the city will have in 1960. The International Machine Tool Builders, 105,000-strong, start arriving six weeks after the Republicans leave.
- "The fool men need a month to set up their exhibits," said Bob Baron, a Convention Bureau official. "That's why we told the Republicans they'd have to meet in July."
- "The Republicans probably will bring in about 2,000 persons," he added. "But convention money doesn't necessarily come from political conventions. They just bring that precious ingredient known as prestige."

The first Catholic Mass in the United States was said in St. Augustine, Fla., in 1513.



LAST VETERAN — Walter Williams — last surviving veteran of the Civil War, is fighting for his life in an oxygen tent at Houston, Tex. Williams, 116 years old, contracted pneumonia two weeks ago. (File Photo)

Back Stairs: Ike's Press Conferences

By MERRILL SMITH
UPI White House Reporter
Washington — (AP) — Back stairs at the White House: It is somewhat difficult to realize while watching President Eisenhower at his press conferences these days that he once wanted to throw the entire system away to protect his dignity and avoid contact with the "hostile press."

The President has held 16 meetings with reporters this year for the purpose of answering any type of question they decide to ask. This is a new record of frequency for the chief executive.

Different Eisenhower

Hugh Baillie in his new book, "High Tension," pictures a much different Eisenhower than the man who today actually looks forward to news conferences on many occasions as a highly desirable method of putting his point of view across.

Baillie, then president of the United Press, called on Eisenhower in New York in January, 1953, shortly before the chief executive's first inauguration.

In his book Baillie reveals that Eisenhower told him "that he saw no reason for having regular press conferences on the old basis, and that he thought the presidential press conference had become a lazy man's way of covering a story."

Didn't Like Idea

Baillie said Eisenhower did not like the idea of being questioned by the "enemy" press, that is employees of news media "hostile" to his administration.

At the time, he said, Eisenhower was thinking of a plan whereby he could be questioned by 10 or so reporters who would accept questions from their colleagues and then pass judgement on relaying them to the President.

Eisenhower of today would laugh at these ideas and fears of 1953. But it took on-the-job experience to convince him, and the hard urging of his press secretary, Jim Hagerty.

This seems to be the season for expertise on the President and the press. Douglas Cater has written a new book about the Washington press corps called "The Fourth Branch of Government."

Cater is a writer for "The Reporter," a fortnightly magazine of opinion and observation on current affairs and the arts.

Primary Contact

In a chapter on Eisenhower and his relations with the press, Cater pictures Eisenhower's conferences as the primary contact between the President and the public.

Reporters who see regular, full-time assignment is the

Pearl Crown Valuable Trade Fair Exhibit

Portland—Possibly the most valuable single exhibit in the entire Centennial Trade Fair is the \$125,000 pearl crown worn each year by the Washington Cherry Blossom Festival Queen during the spring ceremonies in Washington, D.C.

It was sent at the request of the Japanese Government for exhibition during the Oregon Centennial Trade Fair—the first time it ever has been displayed outside the national capital, where between festivals it is kept in a National Treasury vault.

The gleaming diadem is made of 1,580 perfect pearls set in gold pearls ranging in size from 23 millimeters in diameter down to 12, and each one individually selected from the largest stock of pearls in the world.

Personal Supervision

The crown was created by Mikimoto Pearls, Inc., under the personal supervision of Yoshitaka Mikimoto, president of the firm and grandson of the historic "Pearl King," Koichi Mikimoto, who originated production of the cultured pearls.

Fifteen superb craftsmen spent 50 days in making the three-and-a-quarter pound crown.

It was presented by the Japanese Ambassador to the Cherry Blossom Festival Committee in Washington, D.C., for the festival two years ago, and first worn by the 1957 Cherry Blossom Queen.

The Cherry Blossom Crown was shipped by air directly from the National Treasury for display in Japan's exhibition at the Centennial Trade Fair, where it is on display daily from 2 to 10 p.m. through June 24. This was made possible by consent of the Cherry Blossom Festival committee of the Washington Convention and Visitors Bureau of the Board of Trade, owner of the crown.

White House regard other aspects of the presidency equally as important. If it were not for these reporters, who Cater says hang around the White House "with the insolence of courtiers at some feudal court," how would the public know what a President was doing outside of the 30 minutes he spends at his press conference?

In a chapter on Eisenhower and his relations with the press, Cater pictures Eisenhower's conferences as the primary contact between the President and the public.

Reporters who see regular, full-time assignment is the

Neuberger Encouraged By Agreement Progress

Washington, D.C.—Sen. Richard L. Neuberger of Oregon said today he was "greatly encouraged" by indications of an early agreement between Canada and the United States on water resource development of the Upper Columbia river.

Neuberger, who conducted a study of problems connected with international development of the Columbia for the Senate Interior and Insular Affairs committee during 1955, pointed out that dams built on both sides of the border would greatly expand the supply of low-cost hydroelectric energy in the North Pacific region.

Flood peril in lower Columbia area also would be greatly reduced, he pointed out. On both sides of the border, the development would add as much as 4,000,000 kilowatts of energy at existing dams and others to be built, he explained.

Neuberger made his comments after an executive session of the Interior and Insular

Affairs committee where reports were received from Department of State and International Joint Commission spokesmen. Both agencies have taking part in the negotiations with Canada.

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SYNOPSIS OF ANNUAL STATEMENT
for the year ended December 31, 1958
of the
UNITED STATES FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY
of New York, in the State of New York, made to the Insurance Commissioner of the State of Oregon, pursuant to law:

ADMITTED ASSETS

Bonds	\$75,814,417.11
Stocks	2,151,151.18
Mortgage loans on real estate	256,154,151.18
Real estate, less 30 encumbrances	1,234,567.89
Cash and bank deposits	31,559,514.62
Agents' balances or uncollected premiums	1,234,567.89
Interest, dividends and real estate income due and accrued	4,461,885.78
Other assets	25,151,151.18
Total	\$630,151,151.18

LIABILITIES, SURPLUS AND OTHER FUNDS

Losses adjustment expenses	\$1,111,111.11
Unearned premiums	1,111,111.11
Other liabilities	1,111,111.11
Total	\$3,333,333.33

NET INCOME

Premiums earned	\$1,111,111.11
Losses incurred	(1,111,111.11)
Other income	1,111,111.11
Total	\$1,111,111.11

SYNOPSIS OF ANNUAL STATEMENT
for the year ended December 31, 1958
of the
EAGLE STAR INSURANCE COMPANY
of Great Britain, S. Branch, in the State of New York, made to the Insurance Commissioner of the State of Oregon, pursuant to law:

ADMITTED ASSETS

Bonds	\$2,151,151.18
Stocks	1,151,151.18
Mortgage loans on real estate	1,151,151.18
Real estate, less 30 encumbrances	1,151,151.18
Cash and bank deposits	1,151,151.18
Agents' balances or uncollected premiums	1,151,151.18
Interest, dividends and real estate income due and accrued	1,151,151.18
Other assets	1,151,151.18
Total	\$10,000,000.00

LIABILITIES, SURPLUS AND OTHER FUNDS

Losses adjustment expenses	\$1,111,111.11
Unearned premiums	1,111,111.11
Other liabilities	1,111,111.11
Total	\$3,333,333.33

NET INCOME

Premiums earned	\$1,111,111.11
Losses incurred	(1,111,111.11)
Other income	1,111,111.11
Total	\$1,111,111.11

SYNOPSIS OF ANNUAL STATEMENT
for the year ended December 31, 1958
of the
FIDELITY AND DEPOSIT COMPANY
of New York, in the State of New York, made to the Insurance Commissioner of the State of Oregon, pursuant to law:

ADMITTED ASSETS

Bonds	\$2,151,151.18
Stocks	1,151,151.18
Mortgage loans on real estate	1,151,151.18
Real estate, less 30 encumbrances	1,151,151.18
Cash and bank deposits	1,151,151.18
Agents' balances or uncollected premiums	1,151,151.18
Interest, dividends and real estate income due and accrued	1,151,151.18
Other assets	1,151,151.18
Total	\$10,000,000.00

LIABILITIES, SURPLUS AND OTHER FUNDS

Losses adjustment expenses	\$1,111,111.11
Unearned premiums	1,111,111.11
Other liabilities	1,111,111.11
Total	\$3,333,333.33

NET INCOME

Premiums earned	\$1,111,111.11
Losses incurred	(1,111,111.11)
Other income	1,111,111.11
Total	\$1,111,111.11

SYNOPSIS OF ANNUAL STATEMENT
for the year ended December 31, 1958
of the
CALEDONIAN INSURANCE COMPANY
of New York, in the State of New York, made to the Insurance Commissioner of the State of Oregon, pursuant to law:

ADMITTED ASSETS

Bonds	\$2,151,151.18
Stocks	1,151,151.18
Mortgage loans on real estate	1,151,151.18
Real estate, less 30 encumbrances	1,151,151.18
Cash and bank deposits	1,151,151.18
Agents' balances or uncollected premiums	1,151,151.18
Interest, dividends and real estate income due and accrued	1,151,151.18
Other assets	1,151,151.18
Total	\$10,000,000.00

LIABILITIES, SURPLUS AND OTHER FUNDS

Losses adjustment expenses	\$1,111,111.11
Unearned premiums	1,111,111.11
Other liabilities	1,111,111.11
Total	\$3,333,333.33

NET INCOME

Premiums earned	\$1,111,111.11
Losses incurred	(1,111,111.11)
Other income	1,111,111.11
Total	\$1,111,111.11

SYNOPSIS OF ANNUAL STATEMENT
for the year ended December 31, 1958
of the
GLENS FALLS INSURANCE CO.
of Glens Falls, in the State of New York, made to the Insurance Commissioner of the State of Oregon, pursuant to law:

ADMITTED ASSETS

Bonds	\$2,151,151.18
Stocks	1,151,151.18
Mortgage loans on real estate	1,151,151.18
Real estate, less 30 encumbrances	1,151,151.18
Cash and bank deposits	1,151,151.18
Agents' balances or uncollected premiums	1,151,151.18
Interest, dividends and real estate income due and accrued	1,151,151.18
Other assets	1,151,151.18
Total	\$10,000,000.00

LIABILITIES, SURPLUS AND OTHER FUNDS

Losses adjustment expenses	\$1,111,111.11
Unearned premiums	1,111,111.11
Other liabilities	1,111,111.11
Total	\$3,333,333.33

NET INCOME

Premiums earned	\$1,111,111.11
Losses incurred	(1,111,111.11)
Other income	1,111,111.11
Total	\$1,111,111.11

SYNOPSIS OF ANNUAL STATEMENT
for the year ended December 31, 1958
of the
ST. PAUL FIRE AND MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY
of St. Paul, in the State of New York, made to the Insurance Commissioner of the State of Oregon, pursuant to law:

ADMITTED ASSETS

Bonds	\$2,151,151.18
Stocks	1,151,151.18
Mortgage loans on real estate	1,151,151.18
Real estate, less 30 encumbrances	1,151,151.18
Cash and bank deposits	1,151,151.18
Agents' balances or uncollected premiums	1,151,151.18
Interest, dividends and real estate income due and accrued	1,151,151.18
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ADMITTED ASSETS

Bonds	\$2,151,151.18
Stocks	1,151,151.18
Mortgage loans on real estate	1,151,151.18
Real estate, less 30 encumbrances	1,151,151.18
Cash and bank deposits	1,151,151.18
Agents' balances or uncollected premiums	1,151,151.18
Interest, dividends and real estate income due and accrued	1,151,151.18
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RELIANCE INSURANCE COMPANY
of Philadelphia, in the State of Pennsylvania, made to the Insurance Commissioner of the State of Oregon, pursuant to law:

ADMITTED ASSETS

Bonds	\$2,151,151.18
Stocks	1,151,151.18
Mortgage loans on real estate	1,151,151.18
Real estate, less 30 encumbrances	1,151,151.18
Cash and bank deposits	1,151,151.18
Agents' balances or uncollected premiums	1,151,151.18
Interest, dividends and real estate income due and accrued	1,151,151.18
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Stocks	1,151,151.18
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