

Washington Report

By WILLIAM S. WHITE

TWO CAN RELAX

Washington - Adlai E. Stevenson is developing a unique distinction amid all the uncertainties of the coming Presidential election year. He is the Democrat who, of all Democrats, is most certain to hold a highly significant public position should his party gain the White House.

He is rather like a horse race bettor who has money down alike on win, place and show. If he himself should be nominated and elected, he would cash the "win" ticket for the grand prize.

And if any other Democratic aspirant now in sight should take the top honor, Stevenson could hardly do less than collect on a place or show wager. The recent meeting in New York of national Democratic leaders has confirmed what was already fairly clear - that almost inevitably Stevenson would be at least in any new Democratic Cabinet, probably as Secretary of State.

Thus, he is the most comfortably situated of all the Democratic Presidential possibilities. He has carried the load for the party in two losing Presidential campaigns against Dwight D. Eisenhower. Now, he reaps the rewards of past exertions.

This explains why Stevenson's repeated statements that he won't actively seek a third nomination are widely accepted by the pros as the plain truth. They believe he means what he says, and so does this correspondent. In all logic he has little need to go out looking for anything from a party already sure to honor him, one way or another, if it can.

THIS does not mean, of course, that Stevenson enthusiasts are doing nothing. Here and there they are beating the drums for him, if rather soft drums. If it is true that he has not stopped them, it is also true that he couldn't anyhow. He himself has adopted this strategy: that if the nomination is to be his again, it will come to him; he will not go out in hot pursuit of it.

His fortunate circumstances allow him the luxury of this position. It happens to be also

the wiest position for him, just as a similar position is wiest for another Presidential aspirant, Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson.

Stevenson's biggest handicap lies in the declared (and often quite sincere) belief of many organization Democrats that he could not win the election. Johnson's biggest handicap lies in the declared (and often quite sincere) belief of many organization Democrats that he could not win the nomination itself because of his Texas background.

And, for a superb irony, the private view of an undoubted majority of the important national Democratic professionals is this: that in sheer ability, Stevenson and Johnson between the mhave incomparable more of that valuable, but not necessarily decisive, assets than all their Democratic rivals put together.

FOR Stevenson, therefore, to run around pleading for the nomination would be simply to invite more "he-can't-win" talk from those who oppose him. This sleeping dog is better left lying as quiet as possible, as long as possible.

Johnson, for his part, must adopt a comparable policy of wait and see, for a comparable reason. To be openly ac-

MAIL TRIBUNE, Medford, Or. Friday, Dec. 11, 1959

Deputy Defense Secretary Takes Oath

Washington -UPI- Air Force Secretary James H. Douglas was to take his oath today as deputy secretary of defense.

At the same time Dudley C. Sharp, Air Force undersecretary, was to be sworn in as secretary, succeeding Douglas.

Both men were given recess appointments by President Eisenhower Thursday, subject to Senate confirmation when Congress returns next month.

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Try and Stop Me

By BENNETT CERF

A LITTLE GIRL, attending her first church wedding, exclaimed to her mother, "That's a funny bride! She must have changed her mind at the last moment." "Whatever makes you say a thing like that?" wondered the mother. The little girl explained, "Well, she went up the aisle with one man, and here she comes back with another!"

Helen Hayes and Katharine Cornell, two of the great American actresses of all time, have a little mutual admiration society. The story goes that Miss Cornell attended an opening night of a Hayes starring vehicle and sent this message backstage by an usher: "Katharine Cornell firmly believes Helen Hayes is the best actress in New York." Miss Hayes read it with delight, added two commas, and sent it back to Miss Cornell: "Katharine Cornell, firmly believes Helen Hayes, is the best actress in New York."

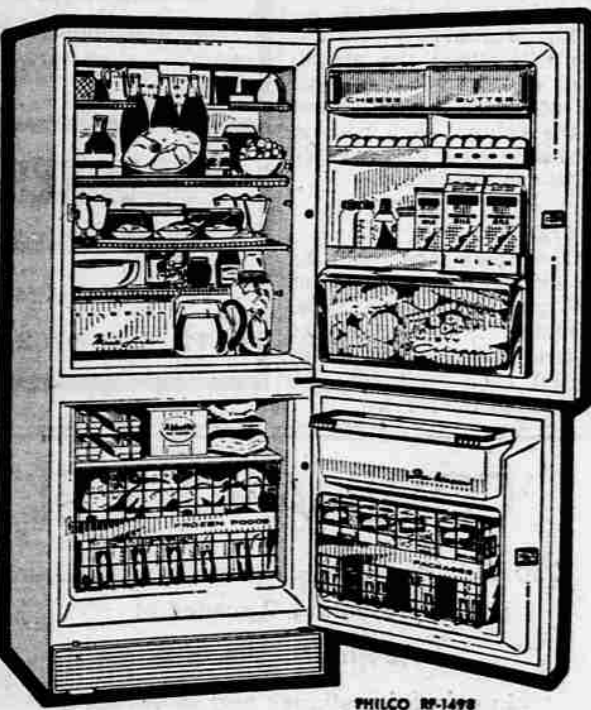
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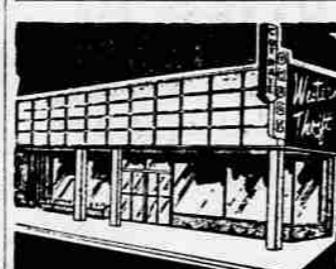
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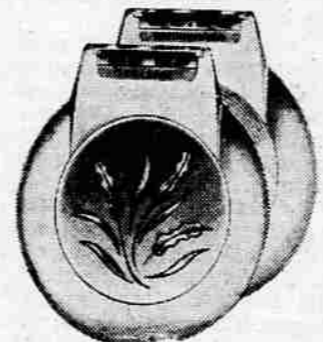


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