

Crystal Ball Yields Look at Political Futures

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Editor's note: Once again our Washington correspondent has spent the holidays peering into his top-sliced crystal ball to find out for us what will make headlines in 1969.

JANUARY — The New Year dawns bright and clear-headed for Oregon's teetotaling top three politicians who wait for the rest of the country to come to by making entries in their diaries, as follows:

"Dear Diary—I had such a strong sense of destiny for me in 1960. And for the people, too, of course. They called me Oregon's Golden Boy, and with no legislature to harass me, I would have been able to maintain a golden silence on every touchy issue. Rocky said he wanted me on his ticket, although I had a nightmare he might have said this to others, as well. But Rocky has thrown in the sponge, and everyone knows geography prevents me being Dick's running mate. I try to remain philosophical. I can still be the best governor Oregon ever had."

"Dear Diary — I feel as weary, bone-tired Meriwether Lewis must have felt as he gazed into the sunset after crossing the snow-crested, craggy Bitter Root Mountains — it's all down hill from here on. I know I can never be partisan again, like other men. But as long as Hatfield continues to knife my Oregon Dunes Seashore bill and Morse keeps up his vehement attacks on me, I'll win in a landslide of sympathy."

"Dear Diary — I have no illusions about my role in American politics, but it is becoming clear, finally to countless Americans that they cannot risk giving the presidency to a phony liberal. Until Truman the other day praised Kennedy and Humphrey as sound liberals, I told Harry the only true liberals left were thee and me — and how I wonder about thee."

FEBRUARY — U. S. mothers march on Washington in protest against increasing number of TV gunslingers and skull crackers. Congress acts boldly, voting to draft these guys for duty in Outer Space. Their departure leaves such a void on TV that Ike declares it a national disaster area of American culture.

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ture. TV producers turn to the host of presidential contenders, confident the politicians won't raise too drastically the lowest common denominator TV spent so much money developing. Political spectacles become the rule. Harry Truman and Dick Nixon appear in "Can You Top This." No jokes, just insults. Wayne Morse takes over role of "Maverick," sponsored by the Teamsters. Checkers replaces Lassie, who was caught taking a T-bone payola.

Everyone find this immensely entertaining, except Ike, who misses the westerns. Warning this will make politics the laughing stock of the country, Ike sends Congress a bill to ban all humor on political TV programs. Americans for Democratic Action charges this is an "anti-Adlai" bill designed to suppress Stevenson's wit. Jim Hagerty angrily denies this, claiming the bill is general mirth control legislation.

Congressional Quarterly queries a 11 candidates on mirth control. Each finds a uniquely evasive way of saying, "Politics is serious business, but the government has no business interfering with the right of the people to have a little fun." Jack Kennedy wins an Emmy award for singing, "I Got Rhythm."

MARCH — In the Nation's first primary in New Hampshire, Kefauver beats all Democrats because snow-bound voters still wearing coonskin caps he passed out last time. Nixon piles up 99 per cent of Republican vote — all but Dartmouth grads who remain loyal to Rockefeller.

Rep. Charlie Porter, just back from checking on working conditions of Post Office employees at Little America, announces his intent to take the first rocket to the moon. "I owe it to cheesemakers in my district to make a personal survey of chances of importing green cheese from the moon."

Attorney General Thornton wins conviction. Life at hard labor is sentence imposed on Jim Elkins' mule for jumping fence onto a state highway and cracking six yards of concrete. Asked if it had anything to say, the prisoner replied: "If only I were a donkey or an elephant, in this political year I would have got off scot free."

APRIL — In Wisconsin primary, Nixon wins 98 per cent of GOP vote, and GOP National Committee warns all party members against any further expressions of dissent. Kennedy wins on the Democratic ticket, and Morse is named the "native son" candidate on the Progressive ticket. After stumping the state, Morse in hometown of Madison says: "I have no illusions..."

Congressman Porter files suit against the State Department for refusal to validate his passport for trip to moon. Rep. Walter Norblad starts one-day campaign with slogan, "Eliminate waste in Outer Space." Introduces bill to eliminate suspender buttons

and belt loops from aeronaut uniforms. "I'm informed their modesty is safe because there is no gravitational pull in Outer Space."

MAY — Nation watches Oregon primary. Wayne beats out Adlai, Jack, Hubert, et al — but loses to Norman Thomas. All Portland heart specialists are assigned to emergency duty at Arlington Club. In New York, Thomas declares: "Both parties have stolen my platform, but Wayne Morse pirated my planks for both parties, so I bequeath my delegates to him."

Nixon gains 97 per cent of GOP vote. Republican National Committee, Ike and cabinet meet in emergency session to deal with crisis of 3 per cent dissent in party over its presidential nominee.

Paris summit meeting ends with everyone in gay mood. The first night Nikita discovered the Folies-Bergere and after several return visits makes sweeping concessions to the West on the issue of the can-can.

JUNE — Next summit meeting is held at Augusta, Ga., where the Big Fore is what the caddies yell when Khrushchev gets on the tee to whack the ball. Pravda correspondent cables the story to Russian readers:

"Premier Khrushchev won the golf match today by scoring more points than the British, French and American leaders combined. Later he announced plans to build country clubs on the steppes. Farm workers will enjoy equal opportunity to caddy for party leaders and plant seeds in all divots. We will soon surpass the American farm surpluses by this method," the Premier promised. The Premier accepted the American offer of Ezra Taft Benson, a specialist in managing to pile up surpluses, to become a pro at the first country club."

The treaty with Russia implementing this agreement becomes the first ever wildly acclaimed by Midwest Republicans. Senate Democrats block the treaty, charge GOP with appeasing Russia by handing them the Democrats' best whipping boy before the election.

JULY — Democrats convene in Los Angeles for national convention. After three days of happy blood letting and rip-roaring platform platitudes, Kennedy takes early lead, followed by Humphrey, Stevenson, Symington, Johnson, Brown, Williams, Meyner and Morse. After a week's balloting, Kennedy falters and Humphrey moves ahead briefly, only to be overtaken by Stevenson.

In Chicago, Republicans gather in tails and mink for a neatly packaged, non-controversial convention to place Ike's mantle on Dick's shoulders, with nothing to amuse them but the Democratic free-for-all in L.A. Nixon arrives in Chicago wearing an Adlai button and hinting to reporters he hopes that's who his opponent shall be. This ruins Stevenson, and Truman tries to stampede the convention for Symington. Ike flies into Chicago from the Yalta (not a word about that place, you understand!) summit meeting and embraces Nixon. "He's my boy." Balloting is deferred a day until lady delegates can control their tears. In L.A., Stu flubs because he can't give 'em hell like Harry.

On first ballot at Chicago, Alabama yields to California for the Nixon nomination. After the most respectably extravagant demonstration Madison avenue ever cooked up for the TV audience, it appears to be all over — until one California delegate demands the delegation be polled. Says his name is Joe Smith and he's voting for Rocky. Pandemonium breaks loose. The Stock Market shudders. Smith turns out to be a Stanford classmate of Hatfield's. Nixon's inability to carry own delegation sends Rockefeller stock soaring. Travis Cross checks Hatfield out of Nixon's hotel and into Rockefeller's. Nixon goes to the hall to take command and tells the convention he took a sidewalk sampling that morning which showed the only persons who recognize the Rockefeller name think he is an old fuddy-duddy who hands out dimes. "What kind of an image is that?" demands Nixon, "when everyone knows you can't buy anything with a dime anymore." Travis moves back to Nixon's hotel.

The Democrats' 89th ballot shows Lyndon is limping. Soapy is washed up, Meyner is no major, and Pat Brown is another Californian who can't corral his own delegation.

In Chicago, as Nixon and Rocky alternately take and lose the lead, and as Travis grows wearier rushing to and fro between hotels, Hatfield awaits the winner at the Stockyards Inn.

In L.A., Jeannie Davidson sweet talks the tiring delegates and the western states grab control of the Democratic convention with a daz-

zling maneuver executed by Monroe Sweetland, who points out simply that the only contender still fresh enough to make an acceptable acceptance speech is Wayne Morse. "I have no illusions, but if I don't accept this nomination my enemies will nominate me anyway," says Oregon's favorite in humbly taking the prize on the 132nd ballot. Wall Street doesn't know whether to buy, sell or jump.

In Chicago, Republicans react as Sweetland privately predicted and turn to Mark Hatfield, on the 77th ballot, to save the country from Morse. Dick and Rocky make a scramble for second place, but the ticket needs an Eastern conservative and the GOP picks Douglas MacArthur for vice president. Herbert Hoover embraces Mark and Mac, "They're my boys."

AUGUST — Democrats still looking for running mate acceptable to Morse. Dick Neuberger announces he can't support either presidential candidate and will run as an Nonpartisan Independent for President to appeal to "all who hate partisanship and would prefer a man who can never be partisan again unless there is no other way out." Maureen announces for Dick's Senate seat. Edith Green says, "Not without a ladylike fight." Porter flies in from somewhere but decides to stay out of Senate race. "Foreign heroics are child's play compared to battling Oregon's lady politicians," declares Charlie.

SEPTEMBER — Democrats conclude they can find no running mate good enough for Morse. If elected, Morse vows to handle both offices. Hatfield invites MacArthur to Salem for discussion of campaign principles. The general emerges from governor's new house and reads a statement typed in New York before he flew West. "We have decided that in the best interest of the Nation, an exchange of our roles is best. The governor and I have decided that he will be MY running mate." Hatfield later tells the press: "All I know is the general was very persuasive, and I was taught to respect my elders."

OCTOBER — Rayburn and Johnson fly to Washington for conference with Ike, who then calls Congress into special session to meet "national crisis." Lyndon introduces proposed Constitutional amendment repealing the presidential third term ban and gets it passed by sundown, when Morse arrives from the campaign trail too late to object. Rayburn calls convention of the "Me Too" party in Houston. It nominates Ike for president and Lyndon for veep. Morse denounces "reactionary elements who put their own interests above America's historical two-party system." Says MacArthur: "Doesn't Ike know old soldiers are supposed to fade away?" Replies Ike: "One of these candidates would slice us into trouble on the right, the other would hook us into difficulty on the left. The Nation demands a president who can stay in the middle of the fairway, and I've had more experience than anyone at this the last eight years."

NOVEMBER — Pausing briefly from the life of leisure, the voters turn it over once more to Ike and Lyndon, then quickly return to tuning their stereo sets, caulkung their boats, tinkering with their sports cars and opening their second homes to junior and his best pals who are using it as a temporary pad until they can find something worse.

Edith and Maureen end in a tie for the Senate. Lyndon saves everything by getting Ike to appoint Dick Neuberger Secretary of Interior and Maureen Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare — the first husband-and-wife team ever to sit in the cabinet, according to an anonymous article in Harpers magazine.

HOPE TO MC AWARDS
Hollywood — UP — Bob Hope will be master of ceremonies at the 32nd annual Academy Awards presentation April 4, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced Thursday. Hope will be the sole emcee on the 90-minute Oscar awards telecast.

the Earth. The intent of Congress in this case is clearly set forth in House Res. 99: "Whereas it is the belief of Congress that Rep. Porter is the man most likely to go into orbit, we hereby resolve to lend him our support and wish him bon voyage."

The Nation is one year further in debt to its leaders.

Aneurin Bevan Seriously Ill

London — UP — Aneurin Bevan, 62-year-old heir apparent to the leadership of the Labor party, was still seriously ill in the hospital today, but expected to improve gradually.

A bulletin issued late Thursday night said "there has been no appreciable change in Mr. Bevan's condition."

Bevan underwent a major abdominal operation at the Royal Free hospital Tuesday.

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