

Old-Fashioned Donnybrook Looms at Democratic National Convention

Los Angeles (UPI) — An old-fashioned, intra-party donnybrook looms with virtual certainty in the political popularity contest when Democrats open their five-day presidential nominating convention here July 11.

With at least four popular potential candidates expected to be digging in for the vote tug of war, hardly less could be expected.

The spectacular of an "open convention" will play to a national television audience and live to the 16,500 persons who will crowd into Los Angeles Memorial Sports Arena for the convention's first four days.

On the fifth day, tens of thousands will flock to the 101,528-seat Memorial Coliseum to hear the Democratic nominee's acceptance speech.

Billowing Clouds
Between the convention's beginning and the sounding of the time-honored salutation to the victor . . . Democratic presidential nominee and next President of the United States — there will be maneuvering and many a billowing cloud from the traditional smoke-filled rooms as supporters of the raft of candidates try to close up the now "open convention."

Sen. John Kennedy (D-Mass.), with an unbroken string of primary victories, is the Democratic front-runner in the polls and probably will try for a quick, first-ballot triumph.

Sen. Stewart Symington (D-Mo.) has the backing of former President Harry S. Truman in his attempt to stop a Kennedy bandwagon.

Senate Majority Leader Lyndon Johnson, Texas, is reported to already have a substantial number of delegates in his political pocket. Observers see him as one of the strong compromise possibilities.

The specter of Adlai E. Stevenson also will haunt the Los Angeles convention hopefuls. Although twice defeated as the Democratic nominee in 1952 and 1956, he has maintained a position of party leadership and received substantial support in the popularity polls.

Seen Dark Horse
Edmund (Pat) Brown, governor of California and that state's favorite son, is rated by professionals as a dark horse possibility.

State Farm Prices Edged Up in May; Summary Notes

Corvallis — Oregon farm prices edged up slightly in May in contrast to national farm prices which slipped a little, reports Mrs. Elvera Horrell, extension agricultural economist at Oregon State college.

Farm prices in the state had their ups and downs last month, Mrs. Horrell found as she studied reports from the U.S. department of agriculture. Beef cattle and hog prices moved up a little, but calf prices were lower. Dairy products also lost ground, and egg prices moved lower while poultry prices held unchanged.

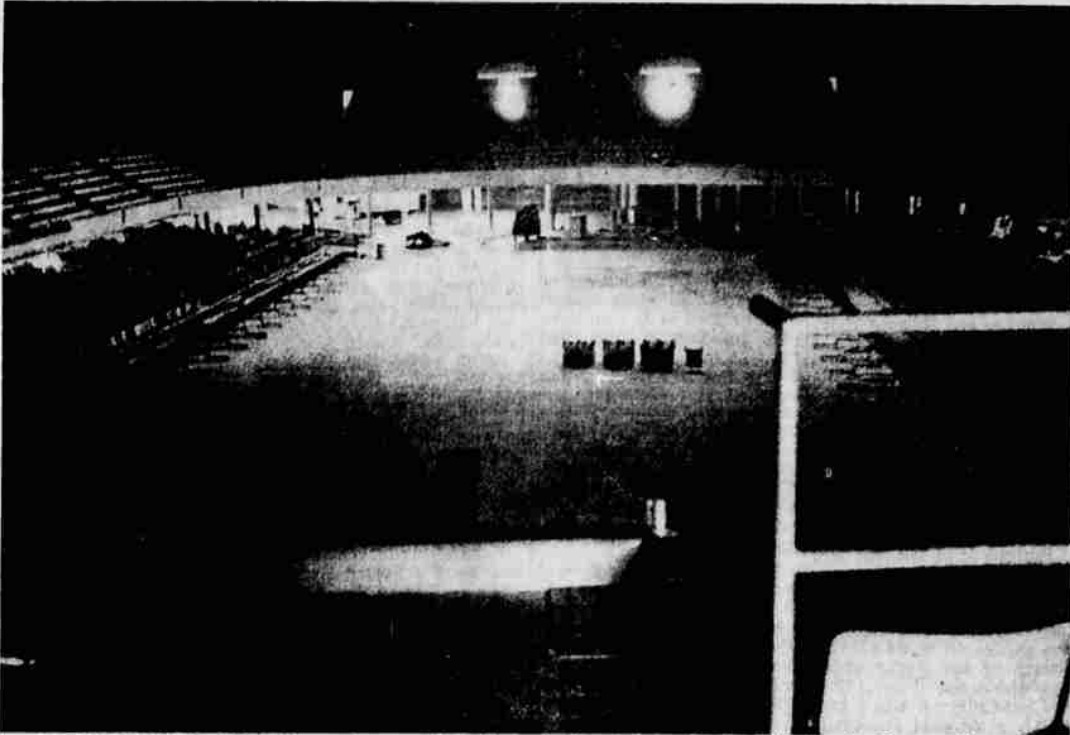
Lamb and wool prices in the state held steady last month, but potato prices were down. Corn and oats prices also held unchanged, but other grains and hay were lower. Put together, prices Oregon farmers received moved up about one-half of one per cent and now stand about 2 per cent above a year ago, Mrs. Horrell said.

Nationally, farm prices dropped last month for the first time this year, Mrs. Horrell also reported. The decline, which amounted to less than one-half of one per cent, left national farm prices about one per cent below mid-May 1955.

Lower prices over the nation on eggs, milk, lettuce, and tomatoes carried the major responsibility for this drop, Mrs. Horrell indicated. These lower prices were nearly offset by higher prices on fresh melons, cabbage, and apples.

Prices paid by farmers for living and production costs also dropped a little last month, the first time since last October, Mrs. Horrell said. However, the drop was only one-third of one per cent. This left prices paid by the nation's farmers a full one per cent above a year earlier.

With prices received and prices paid by farmers down about the same amount in May, the purchasing power of farm products held unchanged, Mrs. Horrell pointed out. The parity ratio — the government's yardstick for measuring the relationship between prices received and prices paid by farmers — remained at 80, 2 points below May 1955.



DEMO CONVENTION SITE—Democrats open their five-day presidential nominating convention in Los Angeles July 11. The Memorial Sports Arena is to be the convention site for the first four days. The interior of the arena is shown above. On the fifth day, the Democratic nominee is to deliver an acceptance speech in the Memorial Coliseum.

But whether or not the 1956 Democratic presidential nominee goes on to win the presidency, the Los Angeles convention should definitely help to put the party on its financial feet.

The Los Angeles Host Committee, headed by Mayor Norris Poulson, is virtually certain to collect the \$450,000 it pledged to the Democratic National Committee.

Additionally, two promotion plans will raise more funds. The Host Committee is distributing about 1,200 convention tickets to contributors of \$1,000 or more. Tickets are going at the rate of \$500 each but nothing less than \$1,000 per pair is being accepted.

And tickets to the rally and acceptance speech in the Coliseum are going at \$10 each despite the fact that the high tariff undoubtedly will cut down total attendance.

Volunteer Work Force
Some 2,500 persons are presently at work in making convention preparation. This volunteer work force, except for two or three paid secretaries, is headed by Paul Ziffren, Democratic national Committeeman from California and Democratic convention chairman.

"I was thinking of this as a six-ring circus," said Ziffren. "But it's even more than that."

"I'm trying to keep these groups going and to coordinate them all."

Keeping things going includes co-ordinating the efforts of the California Convention Committee of 500 members and its subcommittees, the Committee of the Arts responsible for entertainment, the Dinner Committee which is arranging the \$100 per plate dinner, the Housekeeping Committee charged with seating and communications arrangements, and the mayor's Host Committee.

Includes Decorations
"We will spend a minimum of \$200,000 fixing up the Sports Arena and the Coliseum," Ziffren said. This will include decorations and building stages, offices and caucus rooms.

"The radio and TV networks will spend considerably more than \$1 million on their facilities. The PT&T (Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Co.) is already working

on cables. Western Union has started work. "We figure there will be more words sent out of here during convention week than from any event in history."

As always, the ticket situation is "bad." The allotment plan allows for 3,042 seats for the delegates, 1,467 for alternates, 850 main floor press, 1,500 to the Host Committee, 700 upstairs news media, 1,500 to California, the host state and two each to Democratic senators, representatives and national committeemen. The remainder of the tickets will be distributed among the various states, according to their voting power.

The throng of delegates and alternates will be the "largest in the history of any political convention," Ziffren said.

J. Leonard Reinsch, special assistant to the chairman, reported that all convention seats are foam rubber, like those in theaters.

Plan Worked Out
Reinsch said a floor plan has been worked out which enables the convention chairman at the speakers' platform to disperse everyone in the arena in 15 minutes. He additionally guarantees that television cameras will not block any delegate's vision.

The Convention Committee reports it has worked out a "foolproof" security system for preventing counterfeiting of tickets. Plans also include a rigid patrol and gate system to keep unauthorized persons off the convention floor.

"The convention will have more security than Khrushchev had on his tour," said Ziffren.

"We're determined to keep that floor clean, and we will do it."

The Hospitality Committee will, in addition, set up a tight schedule of social events. Any unauthorized parties or diversions will not appear on the convention calendar.

Jobs Sought
Ziffren's office has received about 300 applications from young men and women asking for page's jobs but only a handful will be used during the sessions. Many of the applications are from college students majoring in political science who want to get a first-hand look at nation convention proceedings.

The convention housing subcommittee has booked nearly 11,500 hotel rooms from Pasadena to Beverly Hills and back again.

The Biltmore Hotel, with its 1,370 rooms and 100 offices, will be convention headquarters.

Buses have been assigned to pick up the various state delegations and transport them from airports and train stations to their hotels. The same driver and hostess will be assigned to each group of delegates for the entire week.

Local transportation is the responsibility of Mrs. Goldie Kennedy, Martin Pollard and Nick Shamus.

Candidates Assigned
The Democratic National Committee will be housed on the second floor of the Biltmore. The candidates have been assigned to that hotel, too. The platform will be debated and hammered into shape in the hotel ballroom.

Special cars, all white in color and bearing the Democratic convention emblem showing a jovial donkey with the national Capitol in the background, will be provided for the National Committee.

Besides the delegates, alternates and the party faithful, some 5,500 newspaper, radio, TV and magazine reporters will attend convention sessions. The worldwide press representation includes a reporter for the Russian news agency Tass.

Reinsch enthusiastically estimates the convention's potential TV audience at 100 million persons, and worldwide newspaper readership at three-quarters of a billion.

"This is democracy in action and becomes an example to the rest of the world," he said.

"What we do is going to influence the Cold War. Russia is obviously not sending a reporter from Tass to build us up."

Spectacular Planned
Entertainment plans include presentation of a two-hour spectacular the night of the nominee's acceptance speech in the Coliseum. Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jr., Marlon Brando, Robert Ryan, Mercedes McCahey, Lauren Bacall, Barry Sullivan and Henry Fonda are among those who will be featured.

Medford Man On Committee To Study Business

Portland — (UPI) — Appointment of a 17-member committee to study Oregon's "business climate" was announced today by Gerald W. Frank, chairman of the Governor's Advisory Committee to the Oregon Department of Planning and Development.

The committee will be headed by William Wessinger of Portland, who also is a member of the Governor's Advisory

Committee. Gov. Mark Hatfield said before he left for the Governors Conference at Glacier Park, Montana:

Emphasis Placed
"A great deal of emphasis is being placed on business climate by business and industry in considering locations for new facilities. We want to have a climate in which existing industry can grow and prosper, and which

will be attractive to new industry. To do this, we must be willing to recognize any shortcomings and seek corrections where necessary.

The committee will study Oregon's business climate advantages and disadvantages in economic development.

Members Listed
Members of the committee include: Dr. Wesley C. Balaune, Eugene; Don A. Ellis,

Portland; J. W. Forrester Jr., Pendleton; John M. Fulton, Portland; E. A. Geary, Klamath Falls; Harold A. Holmes, Medford; John Horton, Baker; W. O. Kelsay, Roseburg; R. A. Kronenberg, Springfield; N. W. Merrill, Salem; Roy F. Renoud, Portland; Dan A. Thiel, Astoria; E. H. Thompson, Salem; Charles A. Tom, The Dalles; Harold Wendel, Portland; Edward J. Whelan, Portland; and Rudie Wilhelm Jr., Portland.

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