

British Election Outcome Seen as 'Virtual Tossup'

By **HELMAN MORIN**
LONDON, (AP)—The British national election a week from today looks like a virtual tossup now.

There are no indications of a big or developing trend at this point. Various public opinion polls still report an advantage for Winston Churchill's Conservatives over the Labor party, but the margin of sentiment has been diminishing steadily for a week. It has narrowed now in the opinion where it actually indicates only a very close race.

Independent observers are beginning to forecast the same thing. Events abroad are moving fast, and nobody yet has been able to assess the effects for or against either party of the assassination of Pakistan's Premier Liaquat Ali Khan and the outbreak of violence in the Suez canal area, Britain's "lifeline" to the Orient.

HAZY
 In consequence, the "floating" vote is even less predictable than it was a few days ago. It is estimated at more than 2,000,000 uncommitted voters and liberals who will have no candidates in many constituencies.

The net result is a thickening fog of uncertainty.

You are feeling strongly in any attempt at a grass roots survey of public opinion.

Within the past few days this reporter has gone canvassing with a team of conservatives, and stood in crowds that gathered in three cities to hear and question socialist Prime Minister Clement Attlee. All soundings were in constituencies considered "doubtful" by both parties.

Attlee, riding in an automobile driven by his wife, has been making

a tour that resembles in many ways the whistle stop trip of President Truman in 1948. He has been drawing large crowds and his simple, homely manner gets respect, if not in every case agreement.

He is inevitably applauded when he speaks of "fair shaken for everybody" and says it is not only the "privileged few" who have seen living standards rise since the war.

SPLIT
 But the applause doesn't tell much. It appeared to come in each case from about half the audience. The other half was silent.

Questions give an index to the people's thinking.

At Aylesbury a man shouted, "How about the dollar deficit?"

Attlee replied that it was due to rising prices in world markets and to the cost of rearmament.

At Wolverton a trench-coated listener grated out one word — "groundnuts." That's British for peanuts, and the reference was to

an expensive and abortive Labor government effort to cultivate large tracts of land in Africa to produce oil and fats from peanuts.

The prime minister replied bluntly: "It was a failure."

His audience there appeared to be largely sympathetic. Wolverton is an industrial city, but there was a dull, sodden silence after his explanation about the groundnuts fiasco.

At High Wycombe Ewell he was applauded on some points. On others the reaction seemed unfavorable. There was no marked, unmistakable crowd response to indicate he had either won or lost any support.

In short, there appeared in all three audiences to be a very large percentage of people who, while not necessarily opposed, were simply uncommitted. They seemed not to have made up their minds.

The more personal interviews, by the Conservative doorbell-ringing team in the Wandsworth section of London, brought out this uncertainty even more clearly. Wandsworth gave the Labor candidate a 2000 plurality last year out of a total of some 52,000 votes cast. It houses large chunks of both industrial and white collar workers.

The question was, "can we count on you for support?"

The answers, where no definite party affiliation was stated, inevitably were "I haven't decided yet" or "I'd rather not say at this time" or "yes, I'd like to have your literature, but I wouldn't want you to

take that as a commitment to the Conservatives."

The district will have no Liberal candidate at this time. More than a dozen erstwhile Liberal voters had not known that.

The canvassers put forth a special effort with those people, but in no single instance did a voter agree therefore to vote Conservative. One man said, "Maybe," but most said, "I'll have to think it over."

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Cities Must Police Liquor

PORTLAND, (AP)—Oregon cities must share in the responsibility for enforcement of the state liquor control law. Unless they do they will lose their apportionments from liquor revenues.

That was the warning here Tuesday of Robert E. Eitzen, state liquor control commissioner. He spoke at a meeting of the league of Oregon cities.

He said the cities would share about \$1,000,000 in revenues this year—about 60 percent more than last year. These additional funds should be used to aid in the enforcement of liquor laws.

All this distribution is authorized by law and is mandatory. I cannot emphasize too strongly that if you fail now to give consideration to the extent of the law—in other words, if you fail in your enforcement responsibility, you stand to lose these benefits," he warned.

Earlier the league named a committee to investigate revision of the local budget law. Some delegates complained that municipal water and light departments and port and dock commissions are handicapped by budget limitations.

Colleges Plan Visitations

EUGENE, (AP)—Eight Oregon schools of higher education had representatives at a meeting here Tuesday to outline plans for their annual high school visitation program.

The representatives will tour the state later to tell high school seniors of the advantages of each of the colleges.

Schools represented at the two-day meeting include the University of Oregon, Oregon State college, Oregon College of Education, Southern Oregon College of Education, Eastern Oregon College of Education, Vanport Extension Center, University of Oregon medical school and the Oregon Technical Institute.

Mathematicians say that a machine could be built to play perfect chess or to orchestrate a melody.

Fleischmann Kills Self

SANTA BARBARA, (AP)—Max C. Fleischmann, 74, sometime head of a yeast and gin empire, killed himself with a pistol late Tuesday.

Doctors had told him he had an incurable, malignant disease.

Julian Bergen, the multimillionaire's confidential secretary, gave the story of the death. He said Fleischmann came here a month ago from his home in Nevada for an operation which disclosed the malignancy.

Coroner John Ross said Fleischmann shot himself through the mouth and died instantly.

The tragedy occurred at the Fleischmann home near Carpinteria. The attending physician, Dr. Irving Wilks, had just summoned nurse Della Laviene into the hall outside Fleischmann's room when they heard the shot.

Fleischmann came to Santa Barbara in 1930, a year after selling his yeast factories to the J. P. Morgan banking house for about \$20 million worth of stock in standard brands.

Five years later he built one of the most impressive residences in Nevada on the shores of Lake Tahoe.

Fleischmann was known as "Major," a military title dating from world war one, in which he commanded the American expeditionary force's balloon corps. He frequently wore one or two pistols strapped at his waist.

Flirt Defense Fails Actress

VAN NUYS, Calif., (AP)—Two policemen were trying to flirt with her said actress Jacqueline Blanchard, so she started blowing her auto horn in self protection.

The court fined her \$30 Tuesday, however, after the officers testified she was honking to pass a car and was exceeding the speed limit.

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