

# Future Political Conventions Expected To Tailor Activity Around TV Cameras

By MARY JANE MERRYMAN

CHICAGO—By the time the 1956 conventions roll around, Oregon undoubtedly will be on the full television circuit and viewers will share an inside seat on everything but the smoke-filled rooms.

If the big brains in the networks wield any influence, one of two things will happen: either the conventions will streamline themselves or the streaming will be done for them in the cutting rooms.

This year, both conventions received full coverage—that is, every minute of the proceedings at the stockyards was on the air, with switchbacks to the open committee meetings progressing in the hotels downtown. But as somebody remarked, there is such a thing as too full coverage.

The Republicans had all the television cameras mounted on platforms built out from the sides of the huge meeting hall. Complaints poured in about the movement in the background which obscured the view of the main speakers.

The Democrats built a camera platform in the center of the floor to correct this. It must be a dizzying job, as photographers are confined to a narrow cat-walk swung over the heads of the South Carolina and Arizona delegations. It also cracks the heads of the girls who are carried aloft through the demonstrations. All it does is pick up the constant commotion on the rostrum.

The Democrats announced they were going to streamline their convention, but somebody forgot to pass the word along.

They were going to have short speeches. The keynote was so long that every good Democrat in the hall caught up on the sleep he missed the night before. They were going to be on time. No session got underway less than an hour from the announced starting time. There were going to be no fights for the public to witness. The Democrats rolled up their sleeves and put on a first-class re-play of the War Between the States.

However, viewers will long remember seeing Franklin Roosevelt

Jr., give the classic over-the-head handshake as Virginia was seated; Sen. Paul Douglas madly waving the Illinois standard in a vain attempt to be recognized from the chair; the Idaho potato bouncing up and down as Idaho sought recognition; the girl in the balcony who stripped off her bolero to reveal a tattooed donkey on her shoulder.

Everyone who has a television set is familiar with the top of Chairman McKinney's head. He read his speech, and has a fine head of black hair. Gov. Devers had a new departure... the Democrats have installed two "idiot prompters," those fancy gadgets introduced by the Republicans, who had only one. It's a small screen placed in front of the speaker's stand which prints out the speech for the candidate to read off. Once in awhile the prompter gets off the track which accounts for that mutter of Mr. Hoover's you heard over the radio when he said, "Go on, go on." Joe Martin had the same trouble and gesticulated madly as he whispered, "Come on, come on, get going."

As a result, Democrats either make an obvious play for television or cover in their seats hoping the folks back home won't catch them napping.

It is difficult, during the planned spontaneous demonstrations, to keep your head. The organ blares, the band plays, the paraders who have been waiting for hours outside for the signal to start their grass roots demonstration, rush in. By concentrating on the delegates, you can maintain a sort of balance. Those whose candidates are not being lauded, sit back and watch quietly. The gallery crowd is remarkably inert. A few youngsters who have been sitting on their banners break them out at the appointed time and mow down the spectators but there is little bal-

cony fever. As a matter of strict truth, there are few people in the balconies.

That accounts for the chairmen opening the galleries to the ticketless public last night... the empty seats looked so bad over television.

On the other hand, television is the great chance for the American public to actually see what goes on at a convention. As Monroe Sweetland, Oregon's national committeeman, put it: "You folks know what's happening. I don't. I've been sitting locked up with that platform committee."

Oregon's caucus room is well-

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filled, now that the television set has been installed. After all, as the visitors say, "Once you've smelled the stockyards and seen the crowds, you can find out more by watching it on television."

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**KING WHO ABDICATED**—The Egyptian State Radio said that King Farouk of Egypt, shown above with his Queen Narriman and their infant son, Crown Prince Ahmed Fouad, had abdicated and left the country. Earlier the State Department in Washington said the king had been given an ultimatum by the military to abdicate at once and leave the country in six hours.

## Youthful Killer of Family Faces First Degree Murder

WATERVILLE, Wash. (AP)—Twenty-seven-year-old Matthias V. Swearson was charged with first degree murder Monday night in connection with the slaying of his wife and four children.

Prosecutor R. A. Hensel listed five counts in information against the Chief Joseph Dam construction worker. Swearson was to be arraigned Tuesday before Superior



MATTHIAS SWEARSON

Judge Robert T. Hunter. Hensel said Swearson would be taken to Eastern Washington Hospital at Medical Lake later for observation and diagnosis.

Swearson is accused of slaying his wife and children at their home near Bridgeport on the Columbia River, 30 miles northeast of here, early Sunday.

He was arrested as he drove to church. Police Chief Lyle Prothro said Swearson admitted the slayings and told officers:

"The Lord told me to do and I did."

The victims were his wife, Joyce, 25, and their children, Kay, 4, Peggy, 3, Karen, 2, and Matthias, 6 months.

Officers, summoned by neighbors who heard shots and screams, found the home a bloody shambles. The bodies of two of the children and the family dog were in the yard.

Prothro said Swearson tried three times to take his own life and quoted the carpenter as saying when he failed he "decided to go to church." He was naked to the waist and bleeding from head, throat and chest wounds when taken into custody.

## Gen. Clark OKs Shoosmith

TOKYO, Tuesday, July 29 (AP)—Gen. Mark W. Clark, United Nations commander, today confirmed the appointment of Maj. Gen. Stephen Newton Shoosmith of Great Britain as deputy chief of staff in the United Nations Command headquarters.

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