

# Stevenson Claims Control Following White House Conference

BY JACK BELL

WASHINGTON (AP)—Gov. Adlai E. Stevenson of Illinois lightened his command over his presidential drive today, with President Truman ready to take campaign orders.

As a result of an historic—if somewhat indecisive—White House conference yesterday, Stevenson had assurances he could count on Truman as a subordinate member of his team.

And it was strictly up to the Democratic presidential nominee as to when and where he would insert Truman in the lineup. That was to be determined later in line with Truman's statement that "details will be worked out at a later date."

The President was quoted by an authoritative source as offering to undertake a whistle-stop tour for the Democratic ticket, but as telling Stevenson:

"You are the one who has got to run the campaign—it is up to you."

Stevenson apparently made no direct reply.

But some of his friends believe about the last thing he now wants the President to do is to take to the whistle-stops, since any such move might distract attention from the nominee's own efforts to carry his cause to the country.

Apparently left unresolved in a three-hour session publicly acclaimed by its two top participants as "very satisfactory" was a conflict in tentative speaking dates for Labor Day.

Stevenson had planned to open his campaign Sept. 1 with a speech in Detroit, where Truman began his successful 1948 drive. Truman tentatively had accepted a date to talk in Milwaukee the same day.

Although this matter was discussed at an hour's meeting at which Sen. John Sparkman of Alabama, the vice presidential nominee, sat in, no decision was said to have been reached.

Stevenson said on his return to Springfield, Ill., that if arrangements can be worked out I think we both may speak on the same day.

The tentative bookings had been made without each other's knowledge.

Stevenson described Truman as being "just as co-operative as he can be," and he added: "All he wants to do is what we want him to do."

Asked if Truman would play the role of "back private" in the rear ranks, Stevenson said: "That's what he said he would be."

The dramatic White House meeting was the first in which a retiring President met the nominee of his own party to discuss campaign plans since the late Calvin Coolidge did not choose to run again in 1928.

Out of it came the definite impression that Stevenson alone will lead the turn on his campaign and that Truman's part in it will be on a selected and limited basis.

However, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, Stevenson's Republican opponent for the presidency, blasted the White House meeting with a statement that Truman and his Cabinet obviously want the people to know that the Democratic nominee "is subservient to the political forces which have too long been in power in our country."

Before and since his nomination, Stevenson has tried to make it clear he is avoiding any direct links with the Truman administration and is prepared to effect a wholesale turnover in Washington if he is elected.

He was said to be in general agreement with the President on the issues to be emphasized during the campaign and this apparently prompted Stevenson's announcement on the White House steps yesterday that he had "a very satisfactory and reassuring and gratifying talk with the President about the campaign."

Significantly, perhaps, Truman gave the party nominee first crack at the microphones.

After the Illinois governor had expressed deep gratification for the

President's "proffer of co-operation in every respect and in every degree," Truman took his turn. Expressing pleasure at the opportunity to conduct Stevenson and Sparkman on a tour of the White House, Truman said:

"The meeting has been very satisfactory from my viewpoint. We have discussed various things. The details will be worked out at a later date but I think we are both happy and satisfied that the meeting took place. I am sure that I am."

Sparkman said he enjoyed lunching with Truman, Stevenson and the Cabinet after he and the Illinois governor had been briefed by military leaders on the world situation.

This, too, aroused the ire of Eisenhower, who said the participation of military and security officers "presented an unusual spectacle."

"It implied," he said, "a decision to involve responsible non-political officers of our government who bear heavy responsibilities in our national defense organization into a political campaign in which they have no part."

Sparkman, observing that there had been "general discussion" among Truman, Stevenson and himself about the election campaign, added:

"I have told the governor I was subject to his command, and subject to his call, and I look forward with a great deal of interest to the campaign of carrying the truth to the American people. If we are able to do that, I shall have every

confidence in the outcome of the campaign."

Sparkman later told a reporter there was "a complete understanding and meeting of the minds" between the President and Stevenson on major points.

But it was apparent major campaign plans will be made at a Springfield conference this week end without any White House representative sitting in.

To this conference, Stevenson has summoned Sparkman; Wilson Wyatt, his personal campaign manager who accompanied him back to Springfield yesterday; Sen. A. S. Mike Monroney of Oklahoma, chairman of the party's Speakers

Bureau; Sen. Earle Clements of Kentucky, chairman of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee; Rep. Michael J. Kirwan of Ohio, chairman of the House Campaign Committee, and Stephen

Mitchell, new Democratic national chairman.



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