

Adlai Stevenson Thought Sure-Thing Candidate For Presidential Nomination

CHICAGO (AP)—Adlai E. Stevenson was all but an officially announced candidate today for the Democratic presidential nomination next year.

In an informal and unusual news conference last night, the 1952 Democratic nominee made it plain to all who came to question that he will announce in November he is running again.

Without committing himself finally at this time, Stevenson outlined what he regards as a possible winning Democratic campaign against President Eisenhower. He said he doesn't believe Eisenhower is "invulnerable" despite the outcome of a similar race three years ago.

The Stevenson campaign credo, as revealed at a crowded news conference after a cocktail party and dinner given by former Democratic National Chairman Stephen A. Mitchell, was this:

1. Eisenhower has "sharply reversed" the previous GOP foreign policies in favor of "bold and vigorous" action at the Geneva Big Four conference but those policies could change for the worse again "at any moment."

for all of the people and not the few." Having laid down this outline, the tanned and healthy appearing potential candidate told reporters he will have something definite to say about his political intentions by November.

Several Democratic governors have suggested at the 47th Annual Governors Conference here that Stevenson had better make up his mind quickly if he wants their party's nomination. Stevenson said he had been listening for a year to such advice—and to some contrary opinions—and "I'll do what I believe is best for the party."

What was to quit thinking about other potential nominees such as Gov. Averell Harriman of New York and Sen. Estes Kefauver of Tennessee.

Harriman, who repeated after a dinner meeting with the former Illinois governor that "I'm for Stevenson," was described by Stevenson as "understanding my thinking."

Asked if he thinks he or any other Democrat could beat Eisenhower next year Stevenson replied:

"Anyone could do better against Eisenhower than last time. The Democrats are stronger now."

Stevenson indicated that if he is

the party nominee he will not shrink from challenging Eisenhower's foreign policies.

He said that three years of "tough talk" on the part of Eisenhower and Secretary of State Dulles had "brought many people (abroad) to the conclusion that the Eisenhower administration was more of a threat to peace than Russia."

He said Eisenhower has "sharply reversed" that trend at Geneva and he hopes that "what was done there was for the best."

"But I think it would be foolish to think that the cold war was ended by that sharp reversal of policy," he said. "I don't think we can relax because that is precisely what Russia wants us to do."

Although he was laudatory of Eisenhower's position at the Geneva conference, Stevenson criticized the President's conversations with Marshal Zhukov, Soviet defense minister and a World War II comrade in arms.

"I never expected to hear an American President plead with a third string Communist to please believe that the United States wanted peace," he declared.

Stevenson brushed aside earlier comment by Gov. G. Mennen Wil-

liams, Michigan Democrat, that President Eisenhower is "an old man" who probably wouldn't be nominated again unless the Republicans were desperate for a candidate and forced him to run. Eisenhower is 64.

Asked about the statement of the 44-year-old Williams, Stevenson, who is 55 years old, replied: "A man is only as old as he feels."

Essentially, that was the answer of Republican Governors Arthur B. Langley of Washington and Theodore R. McKeldin of Maryland. Langley said Williams was "challenging some of the best workmen and the best minds of the country" by questioning Eisenhower's age.



MEMBER of the Clovis Air Force Base gunnery team is 1st Lt. Dean A. Abbott, formerly of Klamath Falls. He was the wingman for the top jet ace of the Korean War, Capt. Joe McConnell. Lt. Abbott is a flight leader assigned to the 387th fighter-bomber squadron at the base.

FBI Nabs Suspects In Biggest Cash Bank Theft On Record; Two Still Out

NEW YORK (AP)—The FBI says it has cracked the largest cash bank robbery in history, seizing two men as alleged members of a smooth-working quartet who held up a Queens bank to the tune of \$305,000.

Warrants were issued for two other men thought to have been the ringleaders in the carefully planned holdup. A fifth man has been held as a material witness.

Arrested yesterday and charged with violating the National Bank Robbery Act were James McCoo, 36, and Frank Cocchiaro, 34, both of Astoria, Queens — not far from the looted Woodside, Queens, branch of the Chase Manhattan Bank.

McCoo, accused of taking part in the robbery, was held without bond. Cocchiaro was held in \$50,000 bail, charged with aiding and abetting the attack.

Cocchiaro's wife, Mildred, was a teller at the Woodside bank when four bandits appeared on the morning of April 6 and made off with their record haul without firing a shot, Mrs. Cocchiaro since has resigned.

Asst. U.S. Atty. Paul W. Windels said none of the stolen money has been recovered. Windels also said that the holdup was partly an inside job but did not point a finger at any employee.

Redmond (Ninny) Cribbins, 48, alias Mike Malloy, and Thomas (Duke) Connelly Jr., 30, both veteran criminals, are sought for questioning.

Vincent W. Kritil, 28, a Fire Island bartender described as "knowing" Cribbins and Connelly, is held in \$40,000 bail as a material witness. Windels said he feared for

Kritil's life if he were freed on bond. Authorities said Kritil has no criminal record.

A bank employee identified a rogue's gallery photo of Cribbins the day after the robbery.

Connelly, with a long prison record, dropped out of sight about the time of the holdup. His wife, Ann, and their two children, George 2, and Veronica, 3, disappeared about 10 days later.

The children were found abandoned last July 27—one in Baltimore, Md., and the other in Wilmington, Del.

To get into the bank the bandits, one carrying a submachine gun, first kidnaped the bank's chief clerk outside his home and opened the bank door with his keys.

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