

Washington Digest

Guess Early on 1948 Presidential Candidates

Truman Seen as Standard-Bearer of the Democratic Party; Dewey Faces Fight in New York to Stay in GOP Race.



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National elections still are three years away, but Washington politicians and news correspondents—particularly the latter—already are selecting "men to be watched."

The next campaign will be normal in at least one respect, namely, that the Democratic candidate for all practical purposes already has been chosen. Unless the party's hierarchy wishes to confess failure of a policy of government it has espoused with only occasional departures, the ticket will be headed by President Harry S. Truman. As a matter of fact, that can now be dismissed from conjecture; unless fate intervenes, Truman is the candidate.

However, passing of a President and the elimination from the political scene of an incumbent in the vice presidency, plus election of a Democratic mayor in New York City have combined to encourage election forecasting. Mayor-elect William O'Dwyer will not figure personally, but because he ran roughshod over the nominee of Governor Thomas E. Dewey, head of the Republican national ticket in 1944, he has brought national implications into what otherwise would have been simply a municipal ballot.

Who will be Truman's running mate, currently is a popular subject of debate in political circles. Whom the Republicans will place on their ticket runs a close second.

Taking those developments up in inverse order, attention first comes to Governor Dewey. His was the presidential chance discounted by the election of O'Dwyer in New York City, over Josiah Goldstein, a former Democrat turned Republican—a circumstance that didn't help him one bit in an overwhelmingly Democratic community headed for the past 12 years by Mayor LaGuardia. The Little Flower defied description by party label, but his replacement on January 1 will be regarded as substitution of a Democrat for a Republican. No one familiar with New York state politics needs to be told how poor are the chances of a candidate for governor who lacks city support.

Dewey faces the New York electorate two years hence. And he does it, recent history indicates, without city backing. If he fails to gain another term at Albany, that, plus his defeat for the presidency, just about ends him as a contender.

Strong GOP Competitors Loom

Assuming, if only for the sake of developing the thought, that this diagnosis by Washington scribes is accurate, upon whom does the mantle fall? The subject becomes difficult at that juncture, but there are two who stand out so far in front of other aspirants as to make them virtually alone in the field. One is a disciple of the old school, the other an ultra-modern in politics—the former, Senator Arthur Vandenberg of Michigan; the latter, former Governor Harold Stassen of Minnesota. A close third, and a vigorous contender, is ex-Governor John Bricker of Ohio. A political catalogue could hardly record three more differing types.

Senator Vandenberg is the most politically orthodox of the three. His experience in public life has been confined wholly to the United States senate, but he has made the best of every political break. A forceful orator, he captures headlines, is known throughout the country. There is no bluster to his oratory; it has been pointed at specific objects and he has clicked. With the country facing an era of international dealings of transcendent importance, he is well versed in world affairs. He was chosen over several other illustrious party members as a Republican delegate to the United Nations conference at San Francisco, where he acquitted himself well.

In the field of labor relations—second today only to international problems—he was the sponsor of the recent labor-management meetings in Washington, which, if they did no more, proved that employers and employees can sit down at the same table and discuss their differences even if they cannot eradicate them.

That was a major stepping stone toward amity. It was labeled the President's Labor-Management Conference. Both sides, and the rest of the nation, know it was Vandenberg's.

Former Governor Stassen stands in a position to become the first veteran of World War II to become President, just as the incumbent, President Truman, is the first veteran of World War I to achieve that high estate. Stassen has youth plus experience as the chief administrator of a state which is important politically and geographically. Like Vandenberg, he also was a delegate to San Francisco, but in any frank appraisal of their roles in international politics, he must give ground to the Michigan senator. However, Stassen has captured popular imagination by his forward-looking attitude toward the tantamount subject of the day, the atomic bomb. He has a faculty for capitalizing on issues.

Governor Bricker faces the drawback that "he's been to the well" before. He failed to win the Republican presidential nomination in 1944 and had to be content with second place. But who could win against the wave of Dewey sentiment then washing over the nation? That he has made a splendid state administrator even Democrats admit. What he lacks is recognition outside his own state; he has suffered from the accusation that he is provincial. His declarations on foreign affairs as a vice presidential candidate a year ago weren't marked for their profundity, weren't convincing. Unless all present plans miscarry, Bricker will try for the United States senate. That would give him the national sounding board he needs.

Bricker is handsome (an attribute which cannot be overlooked in these days of women's vote), he's an able speaker and a war veteran. The latter will be a factor to be carefully weighed when the 1948 ticket is made up. And this time he'll have the wholehearted support of Senator Robert A. Taft of his home state, something he lacked in a practical sense before. Taft was a candidate himself. This time he says he will not be.

Democrats Vie for Vice Presidency

On the Democratic side, the goal hopefuls will be shooting for is the vice presidential nomination. The field is rather open, but not to the more obvious personages. There is, of course, no vice president today. Senator Kenneth McKellar functions on the job as president pro tem of the senate. Actually, in spite of public thought to the contrary, that doesn't make him the second highest officer of the federal government. Protocol places the speaker of the house next to the President. As a matter of record, President Truman has asked congress to enact legislation creating statutory succession to the presidency with the speaker preferred over the president pro tem of the senate should vacancies occur in both the presidency and the vice presidency. Translated into sports talk, McKellar is "in on a pass."

In any event, McKellar will be approaching 80 years of age when the next convention rolls around and would be out of the running on that score if for no other reason.

A dark horse in the long-range predictions is Senator Brian McMahon of Connecticut. A first-term member, he trimmed the popular and able Senator John Danaher, Republican, to win his office. He has many of the attributes which won votes for Thomas Dewey a year ago—he's young, just turned 42; he has proved himself an able prosecutor while serving as chief of the criminal division in the department of justice when he cleaned up such messes as the Harlan mine outburst; he's a White House intimate, a vigorous speaker, self-made man with a substantial accumulation of worldly goods gained in the practice of law, and he's chairman of the senate's committee to develop national policy on atomic energy. In gaining the latter distinction, he overthrew the senate seniority rule and by-passed older members who aspired to that important post.



RUBBER G.I. FOOLS ENEMY . . . A "Long Tom," made of rubber, weighing only 250 pounds and registered under the nomenclature of pneumatic gun, 155-mm., M.L., is an example of deception and camouflage used by the U. S. army in World War II. Insert shows a rubber soldier, attired in G.I. clothing, as he stands on guard. The army also used rubber decoy LCT boats, rubber jeeps and tanks to draw enemy fire.



BULL SESSIONS AT "OLD MEN'S TOWN" . . . Disraeli pithily summed up man's life cycle thus: "Youth is a blunder; manhood a struggle; old age a regret." The state of Maine has taken a mighty step towards eliminating the regret from old age with the establishment of the community for old men outside the town of Jefferson, near Augusta. The rocking-chair statesmen are prepared to give opinions on everything from OPA to the atomic bomb and many verbal battles result nightly.



FASHIONS OF BY-GONE DAYS . . . Homecoming at Flora McDonald college, Red Springs, N. C., featured the costumes of other days, as well as the latest in modern styles. A riding skirt, built for side-saddle riding, was among the creations. The tennis scores must have been terrific with the 15-pound skirts.



BEAUTY RUNS FROM MOUSE . . . Prize winner in the 34th annual show of Beresford Cat Club of America, Chicago, proves that she can ignore the lowly mouse by majestically walking away. Lady Aris is so uppity that she actually turns her back on anything as lowly as a mouse. She was engaged in the show by Mrs. Sidney F. Gray, Chicago, and was one of the favorites of the great feline exposition. Prize cats from all parts of nation competed in show.



HEAVYWEIGHT BABY . . . Dr. H. B. Fraley, physician of Ashland, Ky., made delivery of a 19-pound son to Mr. and Mrs. John Castle, December 9. He stated that it was the largest baby he had ever seen.



FOREIGN LANGUAGES . . . Although they speak different languages, inseparable pals are Polly and Enooky, parrot and Boston terrier pets of Mr. and Mrs. Elliot E. Simpson, New York City. They love to wrestle each other.



PAT HURLEY ALWAYS A STORMY PETREL

WASHINGTON.—This town, deadly afraid of peacetime boredom, pricked up its ears and licked its chops when Pat Hurley issued his stentorian resignation as ambassador to China. It then settled down to enjoy a good show.

Washington has known Pat ever since 1912 when as a dashing young attorney from Oklahoma he used to appear before congressional committees for the Choctaw nation, and they know he always puts on a good show. Once in testifying before the senate insular affairs committee as secretary of war, Pat shouted: "You cannot call me a liar. You can run your star-chamber sessions without me. I have taken all I can stand." Whereupon he flounced out of the room.

Some years earlier, Pat appeared before the house Indian affairs committee to oppose opening the tribal rolls-of the Choctaw nation to certain Indians who claimed they were euchered out of their tribal lands. And he was severely criticized by Webster Ballinger, who pointed out that just two years before, Hurley had represented the Wards, an Indian family which sought to have the Choctaw tribal rolls opened. Thus Hurley was in the position of arguing on both sides of the same question in the brief period of two years.

Pat was not quite as ferocious in those days, however, and for some unexplained reason did not threaten to kick Ballinger out of the committee room.

PATRICK J. O'HURLEY

Pat Hurley has come a long way from those days when Oklahoma was an Indian territory. Born O'Hurley, he dropped the "O" and the Catholic religion of his father to become a Baptist, and after working his way through an Indian college, he had the courage to come to Washington, take a law degree at George Washington, and marry the daughter of Adm. Henry B. Wilson, then and now one of the most beautiful ladies in the capital.

It is a long way from such lowly beginnings to his more recent interviews with Joe Stalin, his airplane flights through the Near East, and his powerful position as the right bower of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek. But Pat has staged a colorful personal row at almost every milestone along the way.

In Chungking, he first rowed with Gen. Al Wedemeyer over the question of sending a mission to the so-called Communist section of China to evaluate the importance of its military strength. For a while he and Wedemeyer weren't speaking to each other though they occupied adjoining bedrooms in the same house.

Later at a Chungking cocktail party, Wedemeyer's chief of staff, Maj. Gen. Robert B. McClure, chided Hurley for sending General Marshall a telegram of protest against Wedemeyer.

"You pup," boomed the ex-cowpuncher from Oklahoma, "I've shot men for less than that."

Guests had to separate the two men. The Chinese looked on, amused but not impressed. In China it brings severe loss of face to fight in public.

"Pat is Pat," mused FDR when informed of the fuss, "and there's nothing you can do about him."

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

If you happen near the secondary office of Rep. Leslie Arends of Illinois, house Republican whip, deep in the sub-basement of the capitol, you can hear strange sounds echoing through the catacomb-like corridors.

Arends and his five colleagues are getting their voices in trim for a special trans-Atlantic broadcast of Christmas carols—in which six members of the British parliament also will join—to be aired by the Mutual network on December 20.

Familiar carols, such as "Oh, Little Town of Bethlehem" and "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" will be rendered by the legislators. The Americans and Britons will do a joint rendition of "Silent Night."

The other members of the Arends sextet are GOP Representatives Harve Tibbott of Pennsylvania, Paul Shafer of Michigan, Harry Towse of New Jersey, Frank Fellows of Maine and William Hill of Colorado.

The singing congressmen occasionally vary their practice sessions with "Sweet Adeline," according to Macon Reed, Mutual news reporter, a former army corporal who is helping to arrange the Christmas broadcast. However, Reed insists there is no "liquid encouragement" at such times.

CAPITAL CHAFF

California's new young Republican Sen. William F. Knowland was the only member of the senate to challenge Sen. Jim Eastland of Mississippi recently when Eastland made a lengthy speech attacking U. S. policy in Germany as too severe. . . . General Marshall was slated to become a director of the American Red Cross before Truman decided to send him to China. . . . Former GOP Congressman Mel Maas of Minnesota, a colonel in the marine aviation reserve, is back in Washington.

ASK ME ANOTHER? A General Quiz

- The Questions
1. What is the meaning when a locomotive has two white flags on its front?
 2. Who was the first Roman emperor to embrace Christianity?
 3. How many men of our navy, which reached a wartime peak of 3,389,000, did not serve overseas?
 4. How many signs of the zodiac start with the letter "a"?
 5. What is the total population of the United States?
 6. How does a dog's normal body temperature compare with a human's?
 7. What is a wombat?
 8. What President of the United States was born on the fourth of July?
 9. Simon Bolivar led the South American revolutionary struggles which resulted in the independence of what are now how many countries?
 10. Do anthropoid apes produce twins?

- The Answers
1. It is a special train.
 2. Constantine the Great.
 3. Only 7 per cent.
 4. Two, Aries and Aquarius.
 5. The population is 139,632,000, an increase of more than 8,600,000 over the year 1940.
 6. Higher (101 degrees).
 7. A burrowing animal, resembling a small bear. From Australia.
 8. Calvin Coolidge.
 9. Six: Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama, Peru and Bolivia.
 10. Although anthropoid apes more closely resemble man than do any other animals, they rarely produce twins. The only scientific record of such a double birth is that of the chimpanzees that were born on June 26, 1933, in the Yale Laboratory of Primate Biology in Orange Park, Florida.

JEFFERSON TARPULINS AT LOWER COST

Jefferson Textiles Co. of Pottsville, Pa., has made a new line of tarpaulins available at low prices, for protecting trucks, autos, machines, crops, etc. A representative of the company stated that in the medium 11 oz. weight, fire proof and water proof, with reinforced corners and grommets every three feet, a 6x8 ft. tarpaulin now costs no more than \$4.80; 8x10 ft., \$8.00; 9x12 ft., \$10.00. Other sizes range up to 20x20 ft. at \$40.00. Quantity discounts are given, and special custom sizes are made. Satisfaction is guaranteed. Inquiries should be addressed to the consumer services division of the Jefferson Mill, or through regular dealer channels.—Adv.

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MISCELLANEOUS

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If more people were aware of how the kidneys must constantly remove surplus fluid, excess acids and other waste matter that cannot stay in the blood without injury to health, there would be better understanding of why the whole system is upset when kidneys fail to function properly.

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DOAN'S PILLS

BARBS . . . by Baukhage

It is generally admitted that the United States emerges from the war an island of capitalism in a sea of leftist countries. Whether we can withstand the tides that are moving toward state socialism and the curtailment of private property depends on whether we work together or fight among ourselves. The heaviest pressure is from within not without.

When Admiral Nimitz was welcomed in Washington, planes in formation spelled out his name in the air. "Some stunt to make a Z," an onlooker remarked to me. But suppose they had to spell out Eisenhower! After the parade there was a wild mixup among cops, soldiers, sailors and marines, but fortunately the "K-Nine" dog detachment didn't mix.