

News Report from Washington

Unbeatable—1960—Nixon?
 Democratic Congress—
 Washington — President Eisenhower's landslide victory and other handicaps cost him votes in the next election. Adlai Stevenson took some from the Chief Executive. As a result, he didn't get the votes cast. And he apparently wound up with only about 10 of the 531 electoral votes.
 In short, Eisenhower's victory as the landslide Chairman Leonard Hall of the G.O.P. predicted prior to the election. The fact that the vote was for Eisenhower personally, to a large extent, is shown by results in congressional elections. The Democrats retained control and actually eased their position on Capitol Hill a bit.
 The election also proved right those who said no candidate could defeat the President. One wonders whether or not Adlai Stevenson himself did not have his doubts—after all the polls showed Eisenhower ahead by a very wide margin. (The 1948 poll results showed Harry Truman and Thomas E. Dewey to be very close.)
 Estes Kefauver didn't even carry a state of Tennessee for the Democrats, according to the unofficial returns, and President Eisenhower gained more support in the Solid South (which is no longer solid) than he received in 1952. So, the G.O.P. has cracked the South wide open twice in succession—causing some to wonder if the days of the Solid Democratic South are over permanently.
 Those who like to turn their attention to the future think that Richard Nixon, the Vice President, is in the key spot to become the party nominee in 1960. Of course, would the President feel unable to complete his term, Nixon might become President without having to run another race.
 The Democrats, on the other

hand—looking into the crystal ball again—have no prominent candidate lined up for the next election, when their chances would normally be better than this year, primarily because of the President's tremendous personal popularity. Senator Kefauver does not appear to be in anything like the strategic position occupied by Vice President Nixon for several reasons. The Democratic spot is, therefore, wide open.
 Most observers agree that Stevenson's personality and appearance did not and could not match Ike's. Moreover, they think Stevenson's big issue, the H-bomb, was a bust. It will be remembered that Stevenson overruled some of his advisers to press this issue.
 Even had he stressed the decline in farm prices, the increasing cost of living and other issues, he could not have changed the result. Eisenhower's victory was inevitable because many Americans just naturally like, trust or admire him as a sincere man and a good man. Neither Stevenson nor anyone else could overcome this great advantage.

What our contempt doth often hurl from us,
 We wish it ours again.
 —Shakespeare.

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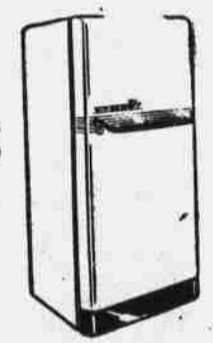
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