



Adlai Scorns GOP's 'Huckster' Campaign



ADLAI E. STEVENSON GENERAL CHAIRMAN JAMES J. HARRIS



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Decline Halted

Tax Cut Seen As Business Boost

By WAYNE OLIVER — The nation's economy got a billion-dollar shot in the arm this week and business men hopefully forecast a decided improvement.

Lowering of the federal excise tax on hundreds of goods and services brought price cuts ranging from a penny on a short ride railroad ticket to several hundred dollars on a miak coat.

Merchants, struggling to keep sales without discounting of last year's high levels, predicted the lowered prices and a late Easter shopping season would bring a boom in retail trade.

ENCOURAGING SIGNS

There also were other encouraging signs leading some to the conclusion that business decline may be leveling off and that the trend soon may reverse itself.

The automotive industry, the nation's biggest, was cheered by reports of increasing new car sales and a dwindling of stocks of unsold used cars, prompting manufacturers to boost April production schedules five per cent above earlier plans. Production this week, however, totaled 113,369.

cars and trucks compared with 117,034 last week and 117,721 in the one of unrelieved optimism.

The industry's big three—Chrysler, Ford and General Motors—built 1,269,273 passenger cars and 227,230 trucks the first three months of this year compared with 1,401,614 cars and 254,708 trucks in the first quarter of 1953. And R. L. Polk Co. said final figures were expected to show more than 400,000 new passenger car registrations last year compared with 340,728 in January and 359,592 in February.

The basic steel industry, of which the auto industry is the best customer, also showed signs of leveling off from its recent decline. This week's production was scheduled at 1,821,000 tons, virtually unchanged from last week's 1,824,000. In Pittsburgh scrap steel prices went up a dollar a ton after a steady decline of more than four months.

CONSTRUCTION UP

Also on the brighter side was a hefty increase in heavy construction contract awards with a weekly total of \$29,541,000 compared with \$22,561,000 the previous week. This was the best weekly volume for the year.

The administration confidently went ahead with plans to build 35,000 new housing units in the fiscal year starting July 1, and a number of corporations announced multi-million dollar expansion plans. Among them were the Texaco Co. which said it would spend 275 million dollars this year and Consolidated Edison Co. of New York which announced a 375-million-dollar, five-year expansion program. New public works projects also were announced, including Massachusetts' 125-mile, 240-million-dollar turnpike which construction will start in the fall.

1952 Candidate Rallies Democrats



(News Staff Photo by Tom Franklin—Franklin)

DOBBERKE LOEWE STEVENSON JOHN OEXLE

These four German reporters, in the U. S. under the State Department Exchange Program stopped in Charlotte yesterday and today attended the press conference for Mr. Stevenson this morning. Left to right are: Jurgen Dobberke, Berlin; Walter Loewe, Berlin; Mr. Stevenson, Herbert John, Hamburg; and Franz Oexle, Konstanz.

Stevenson Answers Some Questions, Sidesteps Others

Adlai Stevenson met the press corps and current political problems face-to-face this morning at Hotel Charlotte.

The press conference, originally scheduled for 11 a.m., was moved up to 10 to accommodate correspondents with early Saturday deadlines.

Mr. Stevenson, introduced by ally and publicity director Tom Brown, greeted the more than 80 reporters, photographers and radio men. He immediately threw the meeting open to questions.

On the Indochina situation, Mr. Stevenson declared the problem of united action is complex because "This is a civil war rather than an outside aggression."

When asked what developments are likely to take place to prevent a French collapse, he paused, said he would have to answer off the record, and then decided not to speculate.

Berlin reporter Walter Loewe asked him if he thought the U. S. would negotiate directly with the Germans in event the European Defense Community is rejected by France and Italy.

Mr. Stevenson said he would not like to say anything to prejudice the peace talks, but he would like to speculate on a course of action predicated on the failure of plans which have not failed.

"A power balance with the Soviet Union cannot be solved by any simple formula," he said.

"The European Army is a good idea, but it has no value if it is only the half-hearted support of the participants."

He added he would not be completely discouraged if EDC is not ratified, but preferred not to assume its failure.

H-BOMB ISSUE

Asked if he believed the present administration has been completely candid with Americans on the H-bomb, he prefaced his reply by saying "I would have to be disloyal to myself."

He agreed that in the last few days there has been a marked effort on the part of the President and Mr. Strauss to inform the American people.

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Civil War Vet Dies; Only Four Now Left

AUSTIN, Tex. — Thomas Evans Riddle, private in the Army of Tennessee, was dead today, leaving only four veterans of the Civil War to outlive him.

Just two weeks shy of his 100th birthday, Riddle—who held such mythical titles as admiral in the Nebraska Navy and colonel in the Confederate Air Force—died last night at 10:10 p.m. C.S.T.

The white-haired little man with the shy, pixie smile had been ill since January. First he had pneumonia, then a falling fever, but his grim battle for survival against death was not over until he died.

He died at the Texas Confederate home for men where he had played dominoes, met old friends and new ones and stayed in bed most of the time since January 1950. He had wanted to live to be 110 and to die at his home in Wichita Falls, Tex. He is scheduled to be buried, his family said today, at Burkswood, Tex. When has not been decided.

Riddle, for 18 months of the Civil War, served as a private in Co. 1, 22nd Regiment, Army of Tennessee. He liked to tell of his days under Robert E. Lee and kept a picture of the Southern commander over his bed.

"Five times I thought my life was not worth a minute," he recalled.

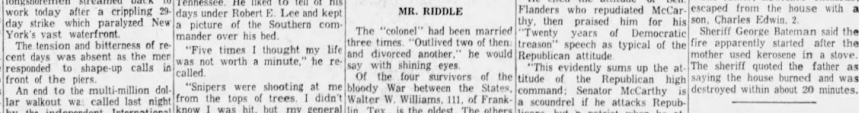
"Snipers were shooting at me from the tops of trees. I didn't know I was hit, but my general says to me, 'Thomas, you're full of bullets,' and I looked and had been shot five times in my side."

Besides his other mythical titles, Riddle also held colonelcies on the staffs of the governors of Texas and Louisiana. He proudly pointed to framed citations on the wall of his room there, attesting to his various "tricks."

But the biggest events in his recent years were his birthday parties. With a clean shave, a Confederate tie and polished slippers he sat on the side of his bed and cheerfully received his guests. Although he could barely hear, even with a hearing aid, he always had answers to questions.

He was tickled pink when he received several proposals for marriage last year after a lawyer filed a claim for him for part of a multi-million dollar race horse fortune.

The petition said the old soldier was a half brother of Mrs. O'War's owner, the late Sappie D. Riddle.



MR. RIDDLE

The "colored" had been married three times. "Outlived two of them and divorced another," he would say with shining eyes.

Of the four survivors of the bloody War between the States, Walter W. Williams, 111, of Franklin, Tex., is the oldest. The others are Albert Woolson, 215 E. Fifth St., Duluth, Minn., the sole Union survivor; and Confederates William A. Lundy, Laurel Hill, Fla.; and John Salling, Slant, Va.

WHAT'S INSIDE

THIS IS THE LAW and it's easy for you to understand it. A new series written by Dr. Robert E. Lee of Wake Forest College law faculty explains in layman's language some points of law which everyone should know. This weekly series is sponsored by the North Carolina Bar Association. It's on Page 12-A.

ALTHOUGH MOVIES ARE GETTING BETTER all the time, the studios have treated short subjects rather shabbily. That's what Movie Editor Emery Wister says in his column today on Page 10-A. However, there is some improvement in the offering and Mr. Wister explains what it is.

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Comic Dictionary

POSTER — An unimportant notice that's always stuck up in public.

OUR WEATHER

Partly cloudy today. Fair and cooler tonight and tomorrow.

Low temperature this morning, 51 degrees.

Low temperature expected tonight, 53 degrees.

High temperature yesterday, 68 degrees.

High temperature expected today, 75 degrees.

Sunrise 6:08 a.m.; sunset 6:46 p.m.

More Weather Data on Page 3-A

Decline Halted

There also were other encouraging signs leading some to the conclusion that business decline may be leveling off and that the trend soon may reverse itself.

Mother, Five Children Killed

GLOUSTER, Ohio — A mother and her five children burned to death early today in a fire which destroyed their one-story frame cottage here.

The mother, Ernest Richards, and her children Mildred, 4; Robert, 6; Lawrence, 14; Freda, Mae, 3; and William, 9 months.

The father, Lawrence Richards, escaped from the house with a son, Charles Edwin, 2.

Sheriff George Bateman said the fire apparently started after the mother and children were in a stove.

The sheriff quoted the father as saying the house burned and was destroyed within about 20 minutes.

He's Sure He Received More Votes Than That

RIPLEY, Tenn. — Dr. J. Louis Freeman says he intends to contest the re-election of Dr. J. S. Scott as mayor of Ripley.

Unofficial returns from Thursday's election gave Scott 780 votes, contractor Joe Tucker Jr. 346 and Freeman 57.

Said Freeman: "I have more than 57 votes more than I know for me."

EVENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we thank Thee for Thy great mercy. Cleanse our hearts from every unkind thought. Help us to possess humbleness of heart, when we are tempted to be harsh in our judgments of others' faults. For Jesus' sake, Amen.