

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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Stevenson Remains The Logical Choice

SOMETIME this week the Democratic convention will get around to the main business of nominations. At that juncture some overdue attention doubtless will be paid to the candidates themselves. The quiz kids will be back home, Mr. Truman will have had his moment, the plform will have been written, for good or ill, and a party accustomed to victory will face up to the problem of regaining it by selecting leaders best suited to represent the party to the nation.

ADLAI STEVENSON remains the logical choice for the presidential nomination. Despite his unfortunate statement on civil rights he must be judged on the mass of his utterances and attitudes as the principal antagonist who would place reason and compromise above the political tempests of the times. He is a liberal without a trace of radicalism, and an intellectual with demonstrated capacity in the pragmatism of government. Part of Stevenson's qualifications is his impatience with pat answers to involved questions, and with the empty slogans, clichés and claptrap of routine partisan politics.

Long ago, he reminded the nation that the South should not be cast in the role of a parish unwilling or unable to deal with the race problem. He saw the problem for what it is—a national failing—and reminded other regions of their own shortcomings. Stevenson is not without faults. He has been less than frank, for example, in his discussion of the farm problem. But those faults dim when placed beside the reckless and sometimes irresponsible attitudes of his principal antagonist, Averell Harriman. The New Yorker seems to make a fetish of taking extreme positions in the eagerness of his ambition.

LYNDON JOHNSON is a born and bred candidate. He has the South and beyond that, a skillful legislator with proved qualities of leadership. Excepting his heart attack, the Texan would make an excellent national candidate.

Give Drag Racers Stiffer Penalties

THE State of North Carolina has no business supervising drag races and we sincerely hope the state won't go into it. Such is the desire of two Sampson County legislators. They plan to ask the General Assembly to charge the State Highway Patrol with the responsibility of setting up and supervising drag races on highways sealed off from other traffic. The idea is to give youthful speed kings a place to race safely and legally. Then, the legislators reason, hot rodders will learn responsibility. Doubtless Sen. Henry Vann and Rep. Percy Vann are sincerely seeking a solution to the growing problem of suicidal races on heavily traveled highways. But their plan will not stand the test of experience or practicality. It is likely to enlarge the ranks of drag racers and lessen their fear of penalty. Motor Vehicles Commissioner Ed Scheidt



ADLAI STEVENSON

But his role at this convention must perforce be that of kingmaker rather than king. A serious bid for the nomination now would win him the tag of a regicide and therefore an unacceptable candidate.

It's conceivable, of course, that none of the leading candidates will win the nomination. A bitter division on civil rights could produce a deadlock and an opening for a dark horse. If that dark horse were Stuart Symington the party would be in good hands. The Missouri senator has been an excellent administrator both in government and private business, and has made a good record in the Senate. But it is likely that the divisions that brought on the dark horse would forfeit any chance of party victory.

THE party's overriding need this year is to heal its divisions and present to the nation a candidate representative of its common beliefs and equipped by character, ability and integrity to be president if the people should see fit to elect him.

Adlai Stevenson appears to fit the bill better than any other candidate given a chance at this convention.

From The Richmond News Leader

PRONOUNCING GUIDE TO THE HOLY CITY

ANY southerner knows that the most maligned thing in the world is the southern accent. To the TV comedian from New York, there is only one southern accent, and it consists of pure saccharine: "Honeh chile, duz you-aw! wahn meant in you-aw! juo-llip?" This is how everybody in the South supposedly talks, and from Richmond to Houston all one has to do is to talk like an almost dead automobile battery and one will be to the manner born. The facts are that there are as many southern accents as there are southern states. Not only do southerners in different states have different ways of speaking, but as every Virginian and South Carolinian knows, within the same states accents are likely to vary widely. Not even the drawl is common to all southern accents. There are southern dialects in which the words are not wuffed slowly into the air, but pronounced rather quickly and melodiously. Anyone who ever has visited Charleston, S. C., knows that the drawl is simply not spoken there. A Charleston accent is unmistakable, but it is not a drawl. It is a kind of musical singsong affair, in which the vowels achieve strange intonations.

Writing in the CHARLOTTE NEWS & COURIER, "Lord Ashley Cooper" has compiled a dictionary of Charlestonese, "for the use of tourists visiting the Holy City." His with is a fair sampling:
Abode—Wooden plank.
A boot—Approximately.
Air—What you hear with.

Flattery Will Get You Somewhere

Truman Drinks A Heady Wine

By MARQUIS CHILDS

CHICAGO In the months immediately after he fell heir to the presidency, following the death of Frank D. Roosevelt, Harry Truman complained bitterly of the loneliness and isolation of the lofty office in which he found himself. He told his callers that he knew at least a hundred—sometimes he said a thousand—men who were better qualified than he was to be president.

But nearly eight years in the White House and a victory in an election campaign in which everyone counted on him gave Truman a different view of himself and the world. Power is a heady wine and so is the constant adulation that comes from the associates of a man in the most powerful of all offices.

The former president said he had reached his decision to support Averell Harriman for the Democratic nomination after he had talked with many people in many walks of life. But the fact is that in his four years out of power he has been surrounded by many of the men who were close to him when he was in the White House. These have been for the most part the lesser luminaries who if they could no shine in his reflected glory would not shine at all.

This Truman has in a sense been isolated in the same sense that he is isolated in the presidency. The men around him, the ex-office holders, have told him day in and day out what a great man he is and how potent is his voice in the Democratic Party and the country. No man is immune to that kind of flattery, the nomination except after a

quarrel between the North and South wings of the party so some of these lesser luminaries have been principals in the Harriman-for-President movement. They have played a leading part in persuading Truman that he could, first, sway the delegates at the convention who seemed preponderantly for Adlai Stevenson and, second, having made Harriman the nominee, he could then use his magic to put the man of his choice in the White House. Samuel I. Rossmore, former counsel to President Truman and a leading Harriman strategist, has maintained during the past few days such a close watch in the Truman suite that it has been almost physically impossible for anyone to present a pro-Stevenson view without being subject to Rossmore's surveillance.

A FLATTERER Harriman has himself played this game. He has never missed an opportunity to flatter the former president and to declare only a Trumanesque glow-in-the-dark campaign could possibly win for the Democratic nominee. This is of course, equating 1956 with 1948 when Truman campaigned with the full power of the presidency at his back.

Whether Truman has succeeded in stopping Stevenson will be determined in the next few days. The Stevenson strategists believe their man will still be nominated, although they frankly admit that any hope of a first ballot nomination is now ruled out.

Except among the ardent partisans of Harriman, there are several who believe that the New Yorker would make a better president than any other candidate given a chance at this convention.

York governor can himself get force as to make it an empty honor. This is true even though Harriman has gone so far as to call prominent southerners to strictly private conferences to try to assure them that he was less radical than Stevenson on the race issue.

But what Truman has done is to further the warfare among the quarrelsome factions in his party; the factions of the frustrated and the embittered might-have-beens that come to the surface when a political party is out of power. This is bound to have a damaging effect in the fall even though the delegates finally unite behind Stevenson. There was only an outside chance that a popular hero such as President Eisenhower could be defeated in an era of high prosperity. That chance has been reduced by an appreciable degree.

STREWED SUSPENSE Truman was so obviously flattered by himself as he quailed into the jam-packed Blackstone ballroom where, by the shrewd suspense he had carefully created, he was bound to get the widest possible coverage of all the mass media. This was his show, this was his party. This was power.

He had had a great deal to do with nominating Stevenson in 52 and now he was tapping another candidate. One of Stevenson's problems four years ago was standing clear of the Truman entourage so that he could speak to the American people on his own. He respected and admired Truman, but he knew he could never conduct a Truman-type campaign and he understood, too, the serious handicap



The Big Wheel!

of many things in the Truman record as that record had been magnified by an overwhelming critical press. It takes little imagination to see how Harry Truman as a candidate would be subordinated to Truman. STRIKING CONTRAST During his recent European tour, where he enjoyed so hugely the homage of a Europe grateful for the Marshall Plan and the former British Minister Winston Churchill. Here was a striking contrast, for Churchill has in fact turned control and

direction of his party over to others. He gives no public statements, no interviews. His role in the British election of 1955 was to speak briefly in his own constituency and to campaign for his son-in-law, Christopher Soames. He carefully shunned the spotlight. Truman might take a lesson in retirement from his old friend Churchill. But at 72, four years removed from office, he has chosen the role of kingmaker. It is a role that has often been broken those who undertake it and left them only with the sour taste of defeat and recrimination.

What Price Johnson Biggest Question Before Convention

By JOSEPH & STEWART ALSOP

CHICAGO "What will Lyndon do? What does Lyndon want? What happened between Lyndon and Adlai—between Lyndon and Averell?"

The variations on the single theme of the intentions of Lyndon Johnson of Texas are the loudest noises in the rising roar of anxious speculation in Dallas. The characteristic sound of every national convention. Thus far, in the chief viable office of Harry S. Truman's bold movement of Averell Harriman has been to transform Lyndon Johnson from a mere Texas favorite son into the potentially commanding figure of this Democratic convention.

From Truman, Harriman and Adlai Stevenson on down, everyone is courting Johnson. Everyone is deferring to his wishes, trying to ascertain his price, trying to discover his price. It is a wonderful triumph of the human game which Johnson has always been so expert.

Only four years ago, one of the wisest men in American politics, Sen. Richard Russell of Georgia, reluctantly consented asked for nothing in return—asked for nothing in return—asked for nothing in return—a party in American politics.

Leadership in the proposed bond issue which will enable the board to continue with its building program and make it possible for children to be cared for in a better fashion than double shifts and other devices that do hinder the learning program immeasurably. —CHARLOTTE CITY SCHOOLS, Elmer H. Garinger

Two-Faced Politicians Weasel On Moderation

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Richard B. Russell The Ozone Got Him headed. He is above all notable for his realism and self-control. So it is a very good bet that he will not succumb to the convention-ozone, although he will keep everyone on tenterhooks of uncertainty for as long as possible. He will seek it in deadly earnest. If this is a sound forecast, it tells a good deal, at least in a negative way, about what Johnson wants and will do. What he wants is to get a platform and a ticket that he can approve, and that will not split the party. This means, very obviously, that his great influence will be used for a moderate civil rights plank. This also means, quite probably, that any candidate wanting his support for first place will have to promise not to put any person, abhorrent to Johnson, such as Sen. Estes Kefauver, in the second place on the ticket.

But what candidate can Johnson support? Plainly, because of the feeling in Texas, he cannot support Averell Harriman. He can help Harriman by withholding southern votes from Adlai Stevenson, but he hardly seems likely to continue this sort of indirect aid if it begins to look like the causing the manipulation of Harriman.

People's Platform

Press Contributes To Education Goals

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Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

CONVENTION politics in this sprawling, vibrating city can be as changeable as the Canadian breeze off Lake Michigan or the hot wind off the prairies.

The Tower

It can be as clean as the tower along the lake front built on chewing gum or as putrid as the stockyards or as tawdry as the B-girl dives along Washburn Avenue.

Adlai And Estes Made No Agreements

ADLAI STEVENSON listened ... Kefauver asked for nothing in return—asked for nothing in return—asked for nothing in return—a party in American politics.

Love That Lyndon

Two days before the Chicago convention opened last, handsome Lyndon Johnson of Texas had no more idea of taking his candidacy seriously than he did of abandoning his campaign to help big gas oil producers. Suddenly on the afternoon of the 11th the delegates rallying together a Johnson booth. Suddenly Johnson placards blossomed from the delegates' ribbons. He went over the po-

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