

Democratic Factions Vie Over Kefauver Candidacy

By the Associated Press

The scramble for the Democratic Presidential nomination intensified last night as rival factions vied over the front-running candidacy of Sen. Estes Kefauver of Tennessee.

A number of New York state Democrats sought to launch a boom for Foreign Aid Director W. Averell Harriman as a candidate to carry on President Truman's "Fair Deal" programs. There were predictions that such a boom might develop into a "Stop Kefauver" drive.

Flood Crest Threatens Twin Cities

OMAHA, April 17—(AP)—Awful suspense gripped the flood-threatened twin cities of Omaha and Council Bluffs, Ia., tonight as the Missouri River moved on-stage for the climactic act in an elemental drama—man versus nature.

By dawn Friday, the levees and flood walls protecting this populous metropolitan area were to be taking the worst the rampaging Missouri has to offer.

There was a feeling in Council Bluffs, from mayor James F. Mulqueen down to the men working on the levees, that the battle might be won. The same guarded optimism prevailed in Omaha.

The unprecedented mass of water, constricted into a bottleneck formed by the cities, pushed with terrifying force against the protective works.

Out of water's reach, no matter what happens, were some 34,000 of Council Bluffs' 45,000 residents and another 5000 across the river. These are the folks who abandoned their homes in fear of the worst, leaving nearly three-fourths of Council Bluffs and the entire east Omaha and Carter Lake, Ia., areas across the river ghostly vacant.

The river level late today passed 29.7 feet. A crest of 31.5 was expected during the night. Flood stage is 19 and the previous record high in 1881 is 24.6.

President Truman said at his weekly news conference that he considers Harriman qualified to be president, and called him one of the country's most patriotic and able citizens.

WASHINGTON, April 17—(AP)—Sen. Robert A. Taft of Ohio said tonight he is not entering the Presidential preference primary in Pennsylvania "because that primary has never had the slightest influence on the delegates selected from Pennsylvania." He has asked his Pennsylvania supporters not to write in his name in the primary.

Asked about Kefauver, Truman said he felt a Southerner could be nominated and elected—if willing to run on the Democratic party platform. Truman also said he was sorry that Gov. Adlai Stevenson of Illinois decided not to run.

At Baton Rouge, Senator Long (D-La.) supported the candidacy of Sen. Richard B. Russell of Georgia. Sen. Harry Byrd (D-Va.), long a powerful figure in the Southern political scene, also supported Russell as the "strongest candidate in sight."

With the Harriman boom scarcely under way, Sen. Paul Douglas (D-Ill.), a top Midwest Democratic leader who has sometimes differed sharply with the Truman administration, threw his support to Senator Kefauver.

Meanwhile, Senator Taft told a news conference in Boston that President Truman's seizure of the strike-threatened steel industry is "a valid case for impeachment."

Wage Boost May Be Given Steelworkers

WASHINGTON, April 17—(AP)—Secretary of Commerce Sawyer tonight summoned the private owners of the seized steel industry to his office tomorrow morning—perhaps to tell them how much the government will boost worker wages.

Sawyer, government boss of the seized industry, said he would meet later tomorrow with CIO President Philip Murray. Murray said today he expects the government to "impose" the full amount of the Wage Stabilization Board recommendations.

Murray told a national press club luncheon he would take nothing less than the 26-cents-an-hour recommended by the WSB.

"I have never struck against the government in my life," Murray said. "That question would have to be decided at our union convention in Philadelphia next month."

The World At a Glance

Truman Claims Power To Seize Press, Radio

WASHINGTON, April 17—(AP)—President Truman said today he believes he has constitutional power to seize the nation's newspapers and radio stations if he regarded such a step as necessary to protect the best interest of the country.

At his news conference, the President was asked whether, since he seized the steel industry under his inherent constitutional powers, he thought he could similarly seize the nation's newspapers and radios.

He said yes, if the President has to act to protect what is for the best interest of the country.

Library Gets Violin

WASHINGTON, April 17—(AP)—One of the world's most famous violins turned up in the library of Congress today after a long and hectic career that found it in the possession of one of Napoleon's generals, a British pirate, a parson and Fritz Kreisler.

Red Attacks Repulsed

SEOUL, Korea, Friday, April 18—(AP)—Communist infantry hit Allied lines on the western Korean front with five probing attacks Thursday and all were repulsed.

The Eighth Army said the five attacks, all of which ended before dawn, cost the Reds at least 36 killed and 70 wounded.

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Relatives to Fight Co-Pilot's Sentence

EL PASO, Tex., April 17—(AP)—Relatives of an Air Force co-pilot sentenced to prison for refusal to fly said today they planned to fight his case—to the President if necessary.

Friends and relatives joined the wife of Lt. Verne Goodwin in protesting his two-year prison sentence.

As this step developed in Goodwin's behalf, Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg told newsmen in Washington a "so-called" stay-down strike of fliers was a "tempest in a teapot."

Goodwin is 29 and a native of Peabody, Mass. He refused to fly in a C-124 transport plane to England last December. He said he feared it would have caused his wife to lose their unborn child.

Vandenberg's comments were about a more general situation—of which Goodwin's case was a part.

The Air Force chief said pub-

licity given to charges brought against a "small" number of airmen "is not indicative of anything as great as seems to appear on the surface." He said he didn't believe the trouble would continue because the Air Force stopped recalling reservists involuntarily five months ago.

Goodwin was convicted of insubordination by a military court at Biggs Air Force Base here yesterday. He was sentenced to two years hard labor, dismissal from the service, and forfeit of pay.

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