

Johnson Enters Nomination Fight

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson formally jumped into the battle for the Democratic presidential nomination yesterday. He said he expects to be the party's choice in Los Angeles.

The Texan made his announcement at a nationally televised news conference in the auditorium of the new Senate Office Building before a packed crowd of reporters and applauding Johnson partisans.

Johnson said he hadn't come out for the nomination earlier because Congress was in session and "somebody has to tend the store." This referred to his duties as Senate majority leader.

But a campaign committee has been working hard for him for some time.

In opening the news conference by reading a prepared statement, Johnson made no direct claims for himself, but in the question and answer session later he asserted, "I am a candidate for president and I expect to be nominated president."

Johnson did not make any specific delegate claims of his own. He said merely his friends had told him he would have more than 500 votes on the first ballot and that his "chief opponent"—obviously Sen. John F. Kennedy—would have less than 600.

It will take 761 votes to win the nomination.

The Texan did not mention Kennedy by name at any point. But a number of his comments were clearly jabs aimed in the direction of the Massachusetts senator.

"Those who have engaged in active campaigns have missed hundreds of these Senate votes," he said. "This I could not do—for my country or my party."

Johnson's prepared statement was written in a rather low and solemn key. It laid great stress on the serious world situation and the problems which will confront the next president.

Speaking of foreign affairs, Johnson said the question is not so much a need for a new policy as improvement in execution of the old policy.

"Some live wires" are needed for running things in that field, he said.

Johnson pictured himself as an experienced government official; one who had known "the presidency—and the men in it—intimately" since 1937.

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Holiday Toll Brings Call For Action

By The Associated Press
The record weekend toll prompted a call yesterday for swift action to curb deaths on the streets and highways.

"Public officials and all others dedicated to safer highways must act, and act fast, in an increased effort to reduce this slaughter—not only on holidays but every day," stated the National Safety Council.

The NSC statement was evoked by the loss of 442 lives in traffic from 6 p.m. Friday to midnight Monday. The total went far beyond the previous high mark for a three-day celebration of the Fourth of July—407 fatalities in 1955.

Deaths during the holiday period also included 34 in boating accidents, 126 drownings that did not involve water craft, and 110 from other causes for an over-all total of 712.

Fireworks, once one of the prime Fourth of July killers, took one life, the first reported in three years. A 17-year-old Walla Walla, Wash., youth was killed when firecrackers touched off an explosion in a metal drum.

"Accident prevention was never more urgent than it is in the face of these statistics," commented NSC President Howard Pyle.

Although the Independence Day traffic toll was high, it fell far short of the record total for a three-day holiday—609 at Christmas time in 1955.

Soviets Shoot Huge Rocket Into Mid-Pacific

MOSCOW (AP) —Soviet scientists shot a huge rocket into the mid-Pacific yesterday and an official announcement said it hit close to the target 8,078 miles away.

Tass, the Soviet news agency, indicated other test shots would follow before the end of July in a program to perfect rockets able to reach Mars or Venus and put a man into space.

Two U.S. Navy patrol planes observed vapor trails and saw the Soviet rocket hit the water, the Defense Department said in Washington. The Pentagon said that based upon the range claimed by the Soviets on their launching into the mid-Pacific last January "it appears that today's shot traveled about 7,700 statute miles.

The Soviets announced last January that in their first test they came within a mile of the target about 1,000 miles southwest of Hawaii. That rocket was said to have traveled 7,510 miles.



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Democrats Begin Platform Hearing

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Democratic convention preliminaries began yesterday with platform hearings to hammer out 1960 campaign principles.

"This is really the opening gun in the battle destined to end with a glorious Democratic victory," said Philip B. Perlman of Baltimore, acting committee chairman. Rep. Chester Bowles (D-Conn.) will take over the gavel Wednesday.

The platform group which already has heard from some 600 spokesmen in regional hearings, got some new advice today on foreign policy, education aid accelerated economic growth, health care and civil rights.

Paul Butler, Democratic national chairman, said world peace and domestic human problems are the main issue.

He predicted the platform will set forth a clear stand on civil

rights. This, he said, could cause some Southerners to bolt but he doubted it.

"The American people are going to know how we stand on the great national and international problems facing our country," Butler asserted.

The American Farm Bureau Federation called on the party to abandon long-time backing for federal crop controls and high farm price supports.

Some Democratic leaders hoped for a farm plank that would capitalize in November on a reported farmer revolt against Republican agriculture policies.

Such presidential hopefuls as Sens. John F. Kennedy of Massachusetts and Stuart Symington of Missouri, along with Johnson, have come out for high price supports.

The American Medical Assn. appealed for party endorsement of a modest federal health care plan for the aged recently passed by the House of Representatives.

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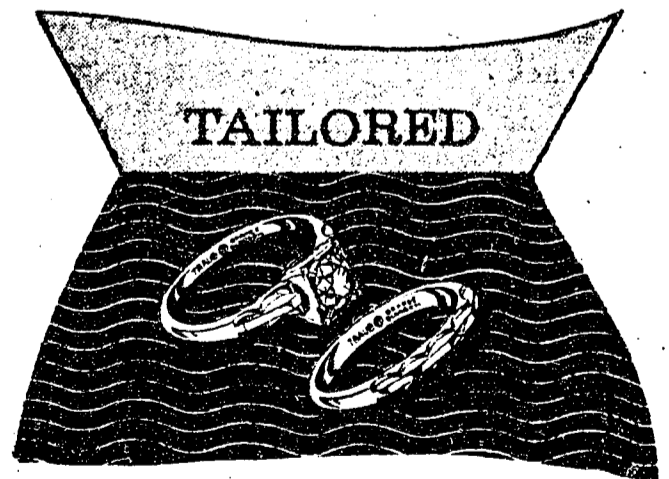
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