

GOP Official 'Likes Taft, Eisenhower'

WASHINGTON, March 19 (AP). A Republican national committeeman kept General Eisenhower in the presidential picture Monday in the face of the general's fresh denial of political aspirations.

Arthur Summerfield, Michigan national committeeman, said in a telephone interview he wants Republicans in his state to look over Eisenhower and Senator Taft of Ohio before they decide whom to support for the 1952 presidential nomination.

As a part of this plan, Summerfield said he plans to invite Taft to Michigan for a speaking date soon and hopes to get Eisenhower later.

Michigan cast 41 votes for Senator Vandenberg of Michigan on the first two ballots in the 1948 convention but swung to Governor Dewey of New York on the third, when he was nominated.

"I think Taft and Eisenhower are the leading contenders for the nomination next year and I want Michigan Republicans to take a look at them before the convention," Summerfield said.

He added he "likes them both" and has no choice between them now.

Eisenhower broke his recent rule of silence on political matters over the week-end to deny a radio commentator's report that he might be recalled from his job as commander of the North Atlantic defense forces by midsummer in 1952 to be "available" for a presidential nomination.

Eisenhower has been mentioned as a possibility for either major party's nomination.

The NBC radio newsman, Merrill Mueller, wrote in Quill, a journalism fraternity magazine, that President Truman had "made a deal with General Eisenhower to make Ike available for the presidential campaign of 1952."

He said Eisenhower had told him the president had said "that one Harry Truman did not want to be accused of exiling a potential powerful contender for the honors of the White House."

From his headquarters in France, Eisenhower issued through a spokesman a denial that he had ever discussed with the president "any political possibilities of 1952 whatsoever."