

# Truman Might Pick Eisenhower

*The writer, president of the Kansas City Star and one of the best-respected political minds in the Middle West, has access to high administrative and congressional sources. This is the second of two articles on possible presidential nominees in 1952.*

BY ROY A. ROBERTS.

KANSAS CITY, May 14 (NANA).—Where does all the national outpouring of sentiment for General MacArthur since his return home leave President Truman?

In the first place, it caught the President at his lowest ebb in popular esteem. Controls are always good for the other fellow. Everyone clamors for them upon everyone else but themselves. At the best, setting up controls was a tough job. But the confusion in Washington, the revolt of Capitol Hill against the White House, the several very damaging inquiries by Senate committees, the mink coats, the 5 percenters, etc., have hurt the Truman administration and hurt it badly.

On top of all this came the MacArthur affair. Washington may still be complacent, but the country isn't. It has been terrifically stirred and is wondering where we all are going.

The great debate on foreign policy isn't over. When the administration's side is told and the MacArthur hysteria begins to fade away like his old soldier, there may be some comeback. Certainly, more unity than the country has today is needed. But the Truman prestige, like that of his two closest advisers, Secretary Acheson and Secretary Marshall, has been sadly impaired. There is no question about that, whatever one may think of the correctness of their positions.

Changes in the State and Defense Departments may patch things up so there can be at least a surface showing of unity upon a national policy. It may be John Foster Dulles, more probably Paul Hoffman, less likely Averell Harriman. The President's choice unquestionably would be Fred Vinson, chief justice of the Supreme Court. While Vinson might leave the court to run for the presidency as Truman's successor, few who know him believe he would doff his judicial robes for the State Department.

Without any pretense of having any special information or inside knowledge, the writer believes President Truman himself will not want to run again next year.

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A year ago I thought he would, but there are many factors pointing to the contrary now, such as the two-term limitation of the constitutional amendment, and Truman believes fundamentally in it; the unmistakable desire of his family that he retire, and the terrific burden he has had to carry in his tenure at the White House.

All these point to the belief that he would be glad to give up the load and come back home. Of course, he hasn't told anyone yet and won't. Conceivably, he might get mad—a thing he is inclined to do—and decide to show his critics something. He still has implicit faith in his ability to hold the people. Taft, as an opponent, might tempt him. No one else would. But it is a long shot that he won't run again. If not running himself, his first choice from a personal standpoint, unquestionably, would be Chief Justice Vinson. His political choice might be otherwise.

Now we come to the \$64 question. Would Truman pick General Eisenhower as his successor, if he believed he was the one man who could win, and would the general accept a Democratic nomination? As to the first question:

Truman might pick Eisenhower.

As to the second question, the writer frankly doesn't know whether the general would take it, doubts it; but it could be. The writer recently returned from a couple of weeks in the East. At least two very prominent persons, usually well informed, related how it was all settled before General Eisenhower went to Europe, that Truman had assured him he would not run again and would back him (Eisenhower).

Such stories are complete rubbish. The President and the general have never discussed the presidency. There is no understanding. That is the fact. However, if the President felt Eisenhower was the one man who could carry on the foreign policy of the nation with a chance of election, it is entirely possible he might try to get him in the race. It is known most of the Southern Democrats would like Eisenhower, and that's a tremendous factor.

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As to whether the general would even consider a Democratic nomination, that's another thing. First, he has to come out

of his tremendous task in Europe with prestige before he is available to either party. Eisenhower knew the terrific gamble he was taking when he went to Europe to attempt to rearm the democracies. It was almost a hopeless job. He knew it, but he felt he had to respond to the call for service.

If by next summer—and, of course, if there is no war—Europe has responded in a fair way, Eisenhower could come home with a job done and be the logical man for the White House. If Europe, on the other hand, drags its feet and there is still only a paper organization defense and the United States has had to shoulder not only the big end of the financial burden, the gunpowder and planes but also the manpower, that's another story. It is no secret certain GOP chieftains hostile to Eisenhower and friendly to Taft are counting on events in Europe to eliminate the general. Only time will tell.

The writer knows this to be a fact: Eisenhower by heart and instinct is a Republican. He supported the GOP last fall without any fanfare. He is out of sympathy with much of the "giveaway" program of the administration. He is a bit right of center, not left. He is tremendously concerned over the inflationary and fiscal policies of the administration. There is no question on that.

On the other hand, he is firmly convinced we have to work both through the United Nations and with Europe if we are to avoid war. He might feel abandonment of world leadership not only meant war but a betrayal of the millions of Americans who fought under him in Europe.

If the Republican convention nominated an isolationist and wrote an isolationist platform, what General Eisenhower might do is another matter. Despite his fears of where the domestic policies of the administration are leading, conceivably he might feel it his duty to take a nomination of the Democrats on the foreign policy issues. That's entirely possible, although not probable.

## Congressional Quiz

Q. When a state has both a Senate and a House vacancy in its delegation, why is the new congressman chosen by special election while the new senator is appointed, even though special election for senator must be held eventually?

A. Most state laws provide for holding statewide senatorial elections only at time of regular general elections and allow interim appointment of senators by governors. However, no governor may appoint members to fill House vacancies and usually special district elections are held.

## MY AMERICA

It has been some little time now since Dr. Bruce Forsyth, of the U. S. Public Health Service, told another of those congressional committees that chewing tobacco stops tooth decay in some cases.

But there appears to have been no spectacular run on cut-plug stocks since then.

Perhaps this is only because alert opportunists haven't yet had time to get on the market with bite-size quids in pretty \$1 packages. I prefer to think, though, that it's because people aren't so gullible about health hints as the doctors like to believe.

Some people don't start to worry about tooth decay until many years after it's too late for a quick dash to a tobacco counter to help matters any.

By then they will have begun to suspect that almost anything will stop tooth decay in some cases—but not theirs. Provided that it is used for several years before the victims realizes he needs it.

The truth is that no reputable dentist, under oath, would say positively what starts tooth decay, let alone what stops it.

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But almost any dentist can cite you a dozen possible causes, and at least twice that many preventives which at one time or another have shown considerable promise. He will go along with you on a trial of one or more of them, albeit without much enthusiasm.

All he'll ask is that, while making with the toothbrush, paste, powder, pills, vegetables, mouthwash, outdoor exercise or whatever strikes your fancy, you'll agree to keep your appointments. And let him