

SAY THE WORD, IKE!

PHILADELPHIA is a normally placid city but it promises to be the liveliest town in America next June when the Republicans meet there to nominate their candidates for President and Vice-President. There are enough announced and secretly hopeful aspirants for the jobs to ensure a convention as exciting as a three-ring circus.

A few party strategists foresee a short convention and the quick nomination of one of the favorites for the top job, New York's Governor Thomas Dewey or Ohio's Senator Robert Taft, with a hot, brief scramble

for second place involving a small company of major and minor politicians.

Others predict a deadlock and the emergence of a dark horse, the way it happened back in 1940 when Wendell Willkie was swept into the nomination.

The man most frequently mentioned in the Republican party's political paddocks as the most likely to run away with the convention is Dwight David Eisenhower. His name has been touted so persistently that he may wind up a favorite by poll time. He is still a long shot in the winter books of the quadrennial national po-

litical sweepstakes, but his odds are improving daily.

Another potential last-minute starter is Senator Arthur Vandenberg, of Michigan, probably the party's most respected statesman. Vandenberg, however, is not in the best of health and is getting on in years. He has frequently told intimate friends that he is beyond the age (sixty-three) when a man "may reasonably expect to survive the Presidency." He would like to end his long public career as Secretary of State, but few top-ranking members of the G.O.P. hierarchy doubt that he would refuse the nomination if he were drafted.

Talk of an Eisenhower candidacy is widespread enough to have driven the Democrats into a frenzy of political fence-mending everywhere, particularly in the left-wingish West where they are weakest, and to cause some healthy consternation among the top Republican contenders for the nomination. The cartoonist of a Middle Western newspaper recently pictured Dewey and Taft crouching like scared schoolboys under an enormous cannon labeled "Eisenhower," waiting with hands clapped over their ears for the big boom.

Tremors Start in Kansas

So far only one Republican politician of any consequence has come right out and said, "I'm for Eisenhower." He is Senator Arthur Capper, of Kansas, the genial general's home state. Kansas seems to be the epicenter of tremors of Eisenhower sentiment that are becoming more and more perceptible throughout the nation.

At least two other prominent Kansans have indicated their willingness to board an Eisenhower band wagon. One is Alf Landon, grayer but no less vigorous than in 1936 when he ran for President against the invincible F.D.R. Landon dabbles profitably in oil and real estate, but he would rather wave a placard at a political powwow than bring in a wildcat well. It is clear from remarks he has made both publicly and privately that he is itching to lead a parade of 19 Kansas delegates into Philly's convention hall shouting "Eisenhower."

Another is Roy A. Roberts, the portly president of the Kansas City Star, influential in Republican state and national politics. He too has indicated his willingness to support an Eisenhower candidacy. But neither he nor Landon has committed himself to the general, and they will not do so until Eisenhower, now Chief of Staff and soon to become president of Co-

lumbia University, frankly admits he is a candidate or, at least, demonstrates that, like Barkis, he "is willin'."

But will Eisenhower run? If he doesn't there are going to be a lot of surprised experts among Washington's political writers who believe almost unanimously that General Ike will be a candidate as soon after he hangs up his uniform in January as is decently possible.

It is true that Eisenhower has said, "No" to questions concerning his availability often enough to qualify him as a contender with Gromyko for the world championship. But no one, as is traditional in politics, takes his disavowals seriously. The general could have taken himself out of the Presidential picture as irrevocably as did General Sherman when in 1884 he told Republican urgers that he would not accept if nominated and would not serve if elected.

Significantly none of General Ike's disclaimers have been even remotely as categorical. On the contrary he has admitted that he might change his mind about entering politics after he leaves the Army. Not only Republicans but Democrats too, much as they might wish otherwise, are convinced that the general will run.

"Why, he is running like a jack rabbit already," one of the higher-ups of the Democratic National Committee said the other day. "He is the Number One threat to the Democrats right now."

One Democrat of sub-Cabinet rank, known as a heavy contributor to his party's political war chest, sees Eisenhower as "the only man who can beat us in 1948." But if President Truman himself is perturbed over the possibility of facing Ike at the polls he gives no outward indication.

White House sources, while they don't minimize the general's popularity at the grass-roots level and appreciate what might happen if Eisenhower is nominated, consider his nomination as only a remote possibility. Besides, professional party politicians say, the Democrats have a general in their pasture too, George Marshall. It is not inconceivable that, if Eisenhower is the G.O.P.'s nominee, Marshall would be named as Truman's running mate or might displace the President as the party's candidate.

Meanwhile, a Washington businessman, Maurice Mumford, has organized a Draft-Eisenhower-for-President League with chapters, he claims, in 18 key states and more to come. The league intends to enter the general's name in the primaries in half a dozen states—New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Wisconsin, Nebraska and

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Oregon—where the consent of the candidate is not required.

It is the league's intention to "create enough Eisenhower sentiment in all states to pull a Willkie at the convention." All this is being done without the general's formal approval but not without, according to Mumford, the general's knowledge.

At least one important industrialist, Thomas Watson, president of International Business Machines, is reputedly prepared to help finance an Eisenhower campaign. A full-fledged Eisenhower boom, in other words, seems to be in the political works.

Eisenhower was often mentioned as a Presidential possibility long before the boom got under way. There were many reasons for this, among them the historical habit that Americans have of turning to generals for political leadership after every war except World War I. Washington, Jackson, Harrison, Taylor, Grant and Teddy Roosevelt were war-born Presidents who had distinguished themselves as soldiers as well as politicians.

Eisenhower, in the eyes of Americans, somehow managed to do both in World War II. They saw a superb soldier in the man who victoriously directed the vast, complex European operation, and a first-class politician in the man who bossed an Allied staff of a dozen different nationalities and points of view. General Ike's command contained as temperamental a group of prima donnas as Sam Hurok has ever had to deal with, but it never failed to function efficiently.

More importantly, from the standpoint of vote appeal, Eisenhower finished the war more of a civilian than a general. He attracted none of the doughfoot's traditional animosity toward brass. This cannot be said of the other general talked of as a Republican Presidential prospect, Douglas MacArthur—who is known to have the blessing of Colonel Robert McCormick, publisher of the Chicago Tribune and one of the godheads of the ultraconservative, isolationist wing of the G.O.P.

The Eisenhower boom seems to have originated in the more progressive although not dominant element of the Republican party. Those who want to see the general run are those who regard their party as a disunited, quarrelsome family of more or less rugged individualists lacking both in a program suited to the nation's needs and the vote appeal to win a major election.

"What we need," one Republican leader explained, "is a man who will unite the party, help it to tailor its policies to fit the changing times and

needs of the people and restore to it the vigor and drive it had under Lincoln and Teddy Roosevelt. We've got to win, but I don't know whether we can win with what we've got.

"We need a man who appeals not only to the small businessman as Taft undoubtedly does, to the white-collar workers as Dewey certainly does, or to the farmers or any other single group. We need a candidate who has at least some appeal for labor too, and none of our hopefuls seems to, except maybe Stassen. We need a man who can fire the imaginations of all kinds of voters, as Willkie did."

According to the Gallup Poll

Such reasoning ignored Truman's continued popularity in the public opinion polls, which showed that the President was preferred over any of the regular Republican candidates. Dewey, in the latest sampling made by the tireless George Gallup, was Truman's closest contender, but the President nosed him out, 51 to 49. But Truman trailed Eisenhower by 55 to 45.

Reporters who accompanied Taft on his 17,000-mile safari through California, Washington, Oregon, Wyoming, Idaho and Nevada encountered so much firsthand evidence of Eisenhower's popularity at the grass-roots level that they often asked themselves and one another whether they were covering a Taft campaign tour or an Eisenhower boom. Local politicians of various dimensions, cool or warm toward this Republican candidate or that, invariably ignited when Eisenhower was mentioned.

The same held in Ohio, Illinois, Minnesota and, of course, in Kansas. In the Middle West and West, Eisenhower seemed to appeal most to those to whom the Deweys and the Tafts appeal least, the working men and women.

An automobile mechanic on a Minneapolis used-car lot said he could not see much difference between Truman and Taft or any of the other candidates the Republicans were talking about. He was not figuring on voting next November.

"But what if the Republicans run Eisenhower?" we asked him.

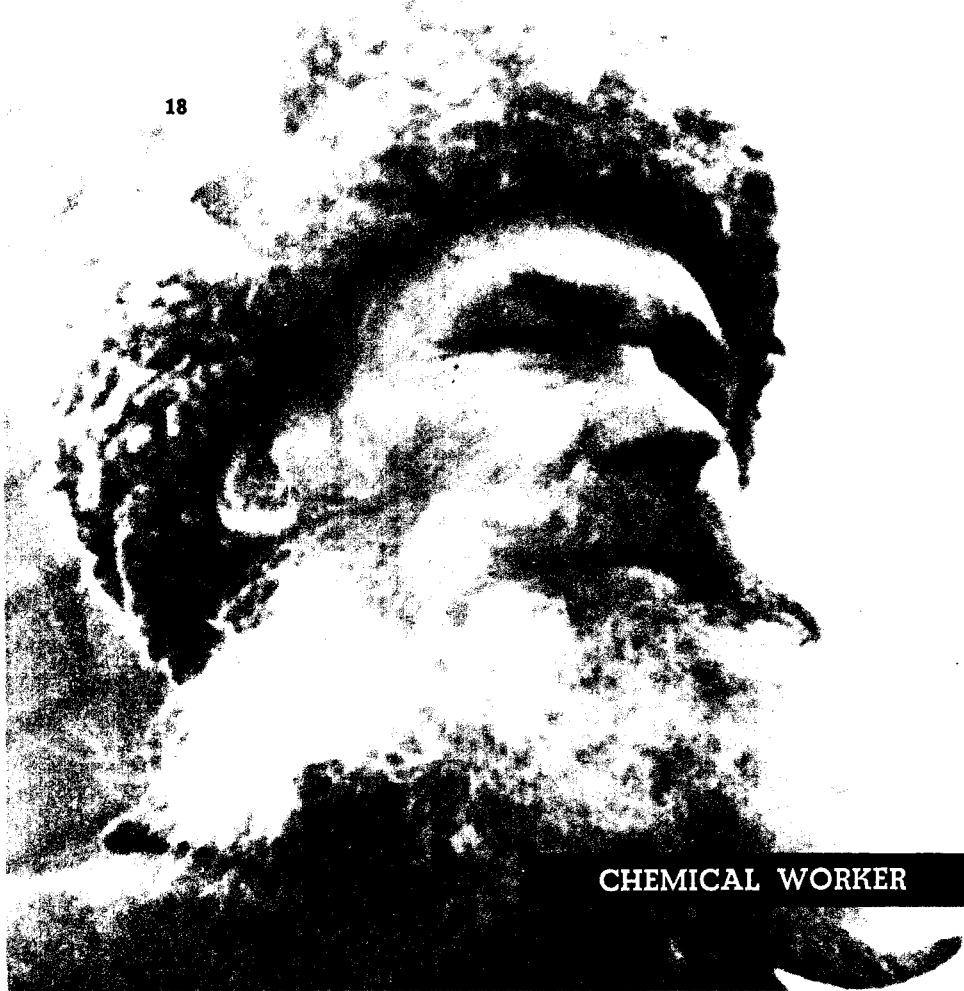
"Say," he said grinning, "that's my boy."

The mechanic's reaction was not unique. It was repeated too frequently to be ignored and often enough to convey the impression that if people, rather than professional politicians, had as much to say about who should be nominated as they do about who is

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Along the top row, after the dancing bear, are Green, MacArthur, Baldwin, Bricker, Warren and Martin. The other four, in case you don't know, are Vandenberg, Stassen, Dewey and Taft. Ike is grinning from the other page



CHEMICAL WORKER

U.S.S.R: WORKERS' INFERNO

BY JOHN K. LEINO

IN THE mind of the average American a state of confusion exists regarding the industrial output of the Soviet Union and its effect on world economy. However, one who can see through the red fog can also see innumerable reasons why the dictatorship industrial economy alone could never present a threat to the democratic nations. Let us therefore turn the spotlight on a few unpublicized events and let them reveal just why this is so.

In 1935 a delegation of Soviet engineers, several of them from the Gorki Auto Works, visited America for the purpose of studying our industrial development, particularly along automotive lines in Detroit. On their return to Russia, a meeting was called at the factory so that the engineers might report their observations to the workers. In an introductory speech, the director of the factory proclaimed that the engineers would now proceed to reveal the superiority of the Soviet system, which had so magnificently caught up with and surpassed capitalist America. Then the first delegate rose to speak.

"No, Comrades, we have not caught up with America, and we never will, for the simple reason that our workers lack the material conditions for such progress. Comrades, if you had seen what I saw, you would realize that by the time our industry has reached today's American production

level, that country will be fifty years ahead of us.

Why: First of all, the American worker has a full breakfast within fifteen minutes of waking up, and what a *zavtrak* he eats! Orange juice and milk and porridge and bacon and eggs and toast and coffee. Then it takes him only a few minutes to drive *his own car* to the job and be ready when the whistle blows. He works four hours without interruption, the conveyer keeping him always supplied with materials. At noon he eats a nourishing meal, then works four hours more. His wife stays at home, preparing meals, and the store delivers the *produkti* right to his house. After work he is free to spend his evenings on pleasure trips or visiting friends. He has his private *kvartira*, often five or six rooms.

"But how is it with us? Our worker in Gorki must wait an hour in the morning before he can get a glass of hot tea with his bread. He spends an hour, maybe two hours, on his way to work. Often the tramcar breaks down, or does not show up at all, then he is late for work, and gets a reprimand. On the job he must wait for materials, or his machine breaks down, or he must see some official about his documents. How many workers in our factory work four hours without interruption?

"Then, after work, he must run to the bread store and wait in a long line for his bread. Then he must wait for supper because his wife is also working.

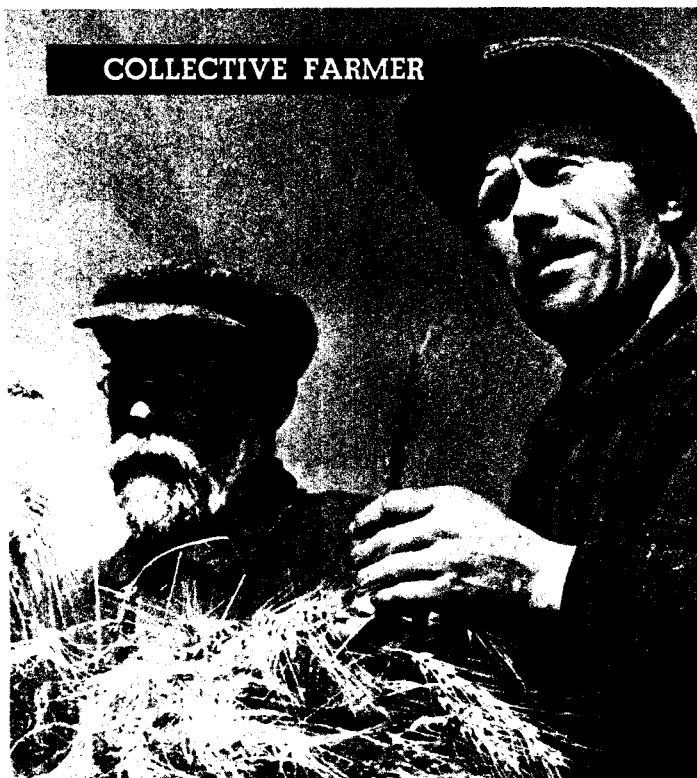
Comrades, there are such great differences between the material conditions, that our country will never catch up with capitalist America."

Thus spoke the engineer who had been to America and seen. That night he was arrested and he disappeared, but the facts he related are worth recording as a background for the many reasons why America has nothing to fear from Soviet Russia along the industrial front. Here are some of these reasons:

Management is incompetent and ignorant and is afraid of being shown up in its ignorance. Many a foreigner has been confronted by this contradiction in the dictatorship policy. The management hires a foreign specialist, then is afraid to utilize his skill. I met such a situation when I worked at the Poultry Combinat in Zagorsk. The technical director saw me using a steel square in laying out stair stringers and rafter cuts, became suspicious and forbade the use of the spirit level and the steel square.

It was only after 5,000 rubles' worth of heating pipes had burst, several thousand rubles' worth of baby chicks had frozen to death, and the pipe-fitter boss had threatened to report to the higher authorities, that my plumb line and level line, rather than the party line, were permitted to be followed in the laying of hundred-foot lengths of pipe.

The distrust of workers, particularly foreign



COLLECTIVE FARMER



COAL MINERS