

PEARSON--IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BOOM FOR JUSTICE DOUGLAS

A new Democratic move to sidetrack President Truman, this one in favor of Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas, is scheduled to get under way this week end.

Americans for Democratic Action, scheduled to meet in Pittsburgh on Saturday, originally were set to bolt to Eisenhower. However, inside word is that they will launch a Douglas boom instead.

ADA was set to dump President Truman and come out foursquare for General Eisenhower when further discouraging word came from Eisenhower's office that he might not be available. Top maneuverers behind the Douglas candidacy are Ed Flynn of the Bronx, ex-brain-truster Tom Concoran, magazine writer Elliott Janeway and Leon Henderson, former OPA Administrator. It's also no secret that one of Douglas's warm admirers is Democratic National Committee Executive Director Gael Sullivan, who was known to favor Douglas for Vice President. What view Sullivan now takes of Douglas to replace Truman isn't known.

Douglas might have been President today but for fast footwork by former Democratic Chairman Bob Hannegan at the Chicago convention in 1944.

President Roosevelt had written a letter to Hannegan saying that either Truman or Douglas would add real strength to the Democratic ticket. But the machine bosses picked Truman. Therefore, Hannegan set the psychological stage for Truman's nomination by leaking word that Truman was Roosevelt's choice and withholding the text of FDR's letter. Only after the bandwagon formed for Truman did Hannegan release the President's letter in which Douglas's name got equal billing.

By that time the Douglas forces were so disorganized the young Supreme Court Justice never got serious consideration.

Douglas seriously considered giving up his Supreme Court post to enter the Truman Cabinet after Harold Ickes resigned as Secretary of the Interior. However, during a White House luncheon, he became so disgusted with the spectacle of midday bourbon drinking indulged in by Presidential aides that he declined the job.

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