

CENSORSHIP OF THE AIR

ON LYTTON SAVINGS PROGRAM

Here is the story you were not permitted to hear and see on Channel 9 KHJ-TV on Monday night.

Col. Robert S. Allen, George Dixon and I, all nationally syndicated newspapermen, were scheduled to report on the Democratic Convention over KHJ-TV on a program sponsored by Lytton Savings & Loan Association, Monday night. Two minutes before air time we were notified that I would not be permitted to air my views. This is one of the stories I was going to report. This Convention has been blitzed by press releases from Kennedy headquarters, carried by the press, radio and television without adequate checking to see whether they were based on fantasy or fact. For instance:

Fantasy—When Governor Edmundson of Oklahoma announced his support for John F. Kennedy, most of the press reported that Oklahoma's 29 votes were now for Kennedy.

Fact—Edmundson has no control over his delegation. He has one-half a vote and under the unit rule Oklahoma has 29 solid votes for Johnson.

Fantasy—Governor Docking of Kansas announced his endorsement of Kennedy. The press reported this as another block of votes for Kennedy.

Fact—Docking and his supporters do not control their delegation, and under the unit rule this block of votes will be for Symington.

Fantasy—Governor Patterson of Alabama was hailed for breaking the solid South by joining the Kennedy camp and Alabama was added to the list of Kennedy votes.

Fact—On Monday, by a vote of 49 to 4, Alabama voted to yield to Texas in order to nominate Senator Johnson. The 4 votes were supporters of Governor Patterson.

Fantasy—Headlines proclaimed that Governor Pat Brown of California had assured a Kennedy victory by throwing the huge California block to Kennedy on the first ballot.

Fact—In a caucus on Sunday, the Governor was repudiated by his own delegation which refused to release him from his first ballot favorite son commitment. The UPI reported this as a mere technicality and most radio and TV commentators concurred. The Mirror News was one of the few which carried a complete account of what really happened inside the California delegation.

Harry Truman and I have not always seen eye-to-eye—as he has made quite clear in the past. But he did not exaggerate the other day when he said that this convention has been rigged in a manner not in keeping with the Democratic process of free and open conventions.

Illustration: Kennedy forces have been permitted 36 telephones from the convention floor direct to Kennedy headquarters. These connect with 6 lines each to the Massachusetts, Michigan, Illinois, New York, Rhode Island and Wyoming delegations. Other candidates were not permitted this all-important means of communications until the last minute when they registered vigorous protest.

I have attended many political conventions of both parties. They are held in the great American tradition of open balloting. No other country in the world holds these political demonstrations of democracy by delegates from all the people.

But at this convention I have met delegate after delegate who has reported that he has been confused, misled and blitzed by completely erroneous information. They have reported that they have been influenced not by the merits of the candidates, but by the psychological warfare conducted by one of the candidates.

This is part of the story which was to have been told on the Lytton Savings TV program on Channel 9 KHJ-TV Monday night—but which was barred from the air.