

# Dewey Favored At Republican Get Together

Best Bet for '48 If  
Choice Made Now

By CHARLES T. LUCEY  
Scraps-Howard Staff Writer  
WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.—If the 1948 Republican national convention were held today Governor Thomas E. Dewey of New York easily would be the best bet for the presidential nomination.



Mr. Dewey

That's the way it appeared to most observers at the Republican national committee meeting here last week. There was a good deal of talk for Senator-elect John W. Bricker of Ohio and considerable scattered support for Harold Stassen of Minnesota. There was surprisingly little talk for Senator Robert Taft of Ohio; some agreed he was an able party leader but expressed the private view that he lacked what it takes to be elected.

Senator Arthur Vandenberg of Michigan and Senator-elect Baldwin of Connecticut were the men most often mentioned as dark horses. There was some difficulty in judging the position of Governor Earl Warren of California, though some westerners believed he would have important strength if he became an avowed candidate. There were a few rooters for Senator Saltonstall and Senator-elect Lodge of Massachusetts.

## Dewey Out in Front

But Tom Dewey was the man most of the professional politicians rated out in front. The president-makers always like a man who has demonstrated he can carry New York state, and Mr. Dewey's walloping November victory made an impression.

The view that Mr. Dewey is the party's strongest man today was not limited to political leaders who always have been for him or to any one section of the country. Some who named others as their personal No. 1 choice for the nomination said, nevertheless, that Mr. Dewey was strong in their states.

Leaders from the Missouri-Kansas area said the New York governor was favored there. Mr. Stassen has been rated fairly strong in Wisconsin, next door to his home state, but Governor Dewey was said to be at least even with him if not leading him there.

## A Little Early for Predictions

Governor Warren was given first call on California, of course, and Mr. Stassen rated highly there, but Governor Dewey's strength has West Coast momentum, too. One far westerner said Mr. Taft was the weakest candidate in that part of the country. An influential New Englander saw the battle between Mr. Dewey and Mr. Taft, with the New Yorker ahead.

Some of the committeemen said too much could happen between now and mid-1948 to make firm predictions at this point, but Mr. Dewey's friends obviously were pleased that their man was making such a showing this early. The old party tradition of never nominating a once-defeated presidential candidate, they said, would mean little this time.

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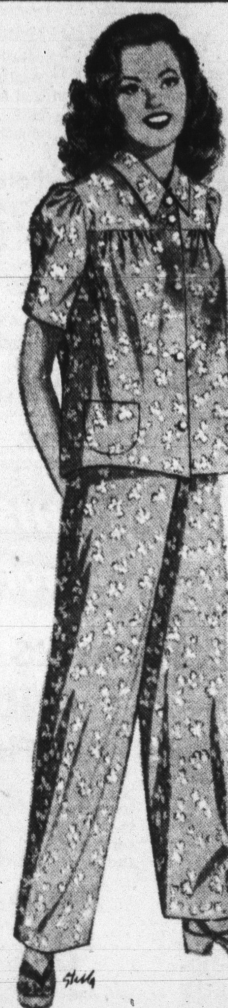
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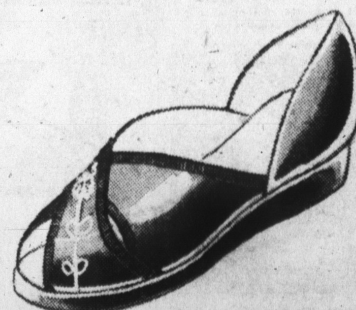
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