HEADS PERSONAL STAFF

Vandenberg Key Aide of Ike at Convention

BY JAMES M. HASWELL


Ike calls Vandenberg his "chief of staff." "I'm hardly that," says "Young Arthur" Vandenberg, modestly. "I head up the personal staff Gen. Eisenhower assembled for this campaign to win the Republican nomination."

THIS IS NOT a new job for Vandenberg. He served many years as secretary to his father, and headed Senator Vandenberg's "personal staff" at the Republican National Conventions of 1936, 1940, and 1948.

In each of those conventions Senator Vandenberg was a presidential possibility, and the Vandenberg suite a major political headquarters.

This time the show is bigger. Eisenhower is installed on the fifth floor of the Blackstone Hotel, where Vandenberg presides over the staff and over workrooms which take most of the rest of the floor.

"Oddly, "Young Arthur" who "knows everybody" in Washington, says he only met Eisenhower once before enlisting in the Eisenhower campaign.

"IT WAS a social occasion in 1947 or 1948," Vandenberg recalls.

"Gen. Eisenhower came over to me and said he was a Vandenberg man, that he hoped my father would win the Republican nomination for President."

"And why are you now supporting Eisenhower for President?" Vandenberg was asked.

"I think Gen. Eisenhower's basic principles are almost identical with those of my father," he said. "I think the peace and security of the United States are at stake in this election. And I think Gen.

By ESTHER TUFFY

THE HERALD WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON—It was Vandenberg Day at the Pentagon Thursday. In the No. 1 spotlight was the youngest of the Vandenberg men, Arthur Jr., to receive the highest non-combative award, the Legion of Merit, from Gen. Carl Spaatz, commanding general of the Army Air Forces.

CAST AS merely onlookers were Arthur Jr.'s famous father, Sen. Arthur H. Vandenberg, and his equally famous cousin, Lt. Gen. Hoyt Vandenberg, Central Intelligence. With Mrs. Vandenberg, they heard the following citation read:

"Major Arthur H. Vandenberg, Jr., Air Corps, as assistant A3 and chief, Public Relations Division, Headquarters, Third Air Force, from Oct. 1946 to January 1948, Maj. Vandenberg demonstrated outstanding professional ability in carefully solving the complex problems of public relations with the utmost dexterity and delicacy. Maj. Vandenberg's outstanding..."

THE SENATOR looked on at the ceremony with pride. Determined to keep it "Arthur's Day," he refused even to pose for pictures with the General planning on the award.

In congratulating his son, the Senator voiced his envy and then turning to Gen. Spaatz, laughingly added, "a poor Senator, unlike a General, doesn't get a medal or a flag to fly on his car."

services reflect great credit upon himself and the Army Air Forces."

THE ONLY son of the Senator served as an enlisted man six months before attending quartermaster officer candidate school at Camp Lee, Virginia. He was commissioned Aug. 14, 1942 and served as an instructor at Camp Lee until his transfer to the Third Air Force in 1943.

He became assistant intelligence officer and chief of the Public Relations Division at headquarters of the Third Air Force in Tampa, Fla. He was discharged from the service on March 8, 1946.

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