

HEADS PERSONAL STAFF

Vandenberg Key Aide of Ike at Convention

BY JAMES M. HASWELL

Of Our Washington Bureau

CHICAGO—Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's right-hand man in Chicago is Arthur H. Vandenberg, Jr., son of the former statesman and senator from Michigan.

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.

Eisenhower can preserve the peace and security of the United States better than any man in either party today."

VANDEMBERG SAID he wrote Gen. Eisenhower last October offering his services. In January he took a leave of absence from the International Basic Economy Corp. of New York and became operating head of the "Citizens for Eisenhower" movement.

"This was formed to channel and direct the grass-roots Eisenhower sentiment of the country into effective action, and to combat the strong political sentiment for Taft," he said.

In the 4½ months he headed the movement, Vandenberg says he created an organization with active branches in every state, and some 1,500 Eisenhower clubs in all.

There are more now, but this was the score when Vandenberg left to meet Ike in Paris and take over the General's personal campaign.

THERE IS NO question the "Citizens for Eisenhower" movement stirred the grass-roots of America. The story of this National Convention is a story of political delegates who find the folks back home demanding they nominate Eisenhower.

A lot of the grumbling you hear from Chicago is the grumbling of politicians being forced to obey the wishes of the voters.

Ike's personal convention staff numbers two-score people. The list includes Miss Geraldine Creaghan, of Grand Rapids, who served as secretary to the Vandenberg, father and son, in Washington.

It Was Vandenberg Day

By ESTHER TUFTY

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-combat 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 A2 and chief, Public Relations Division, Headquarters, Third Air Force, from Oct. 1944 to January 1946, 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

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 15, 1946.

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 pinning 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."

This material may be protected by copyright law (Title 17, U.S. Code). This copy is made available solely for private study, scholarship or research. Permission to quote from, publish, reproduce, display, digitally transmit or deposit in other institutions must be obtained from the copyright holder and the Bentley Historical Library. Citations must identify the Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan.