

March 1944

STAND UP FOR STASSEN

STASSEN FOR PRESIDENT CONTACT COMMITTEE
1607 Pioneer Building
St. Paul 1, Minnesota

THE PEOPLE OF THIS STATE ARE BEGINNING TO REALIZE THE GREAT OPPORTUNITY WHICH MINNESOTA NOW HAS TO NOMINATE AND ELECT ITS NATIVE SON, HAROLD E. STASSEN, AS PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

He has achieved great national attention and enthusiastic support. His name has been entered in the presidential primary elections to be held early in April in Wisconsin and Nebraska.

WE IN MINNESOTA WHO BEST KNOW HAROLD E. STASSEN AND HIS GREAT RECORD AND QUALIFICATIONS MUST GIVE OUR UTMOST BACKING TO HIS SUPPORTERS IN OTHER STATES.

VICTORY FOR STASSEN IN THE NEBRASKA AND WISCONSIN PRIMARIES WILL PLACE HIS CANDIDACY IN A DOMINATING POSITION AT THE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION IN CHICAGO ON JUNE 26.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

1. Write a personal letter to every friend, business associate, relative, or acquaintance in these and other states urging them to support Stassen on the basis of your personal knowledge of his superior qualifications.

We attach three suggested letters which you may use, if you wish, as a basis for composing your letter. Use the information in all three letters if you wish.

2. Send us a list of those you have written letters, so that we may follow up with campaign literature.

3. Get your friends in Minnesota to also write letters, and give us the names of men and women in Minnesota we can ask to write, and who will write.

4. If you cannot write the letters yourself because of lack of time or facilities, send us your list and we will prepare the letters for your signature. Indicate on the list how you wish to greet the person, i.e., Dear Joe, or Dear Mr. Brown, etc. Furnish your stationery and envelopes if possible.

TIME IS SHORT - ACT NOW !!

CALL, WRITE, WIRE, TELEPHONE YOUR IDEAS TO STASSEN FOR PRESIDENT CONTACT COMMITTEE, ROOM 1607 PIONEER BUILDING, ST. PAUL. TELEPHONE CEDAR 4700.

WE CAN DO THE JOB - IF WE ALL JOIN TOGETHER TO PUT A MINNESOTA LEADER IN THE WHITE HOUSE.

STAND UP FOR STASSEN

Suggested letters - No. 1.

I am writing to tell you why I frankly believe our former Governor Harold E. Stassen is the man best fitted to be President of the United States.

When Harold E. Stassen became Governor of Minnesota he was faced with almost the identical problems most needing correction in America today, such as,

Overlapping departments and agencies.
Excessive number of government employees.
Insufficient checks on spending and mounting deficits.
Labor-industry strife and no state policy to end it.

By intelligent cooperation with the legislature, these and many other problems were solved quickly and efficiently. Minnesota was put on a sound basis by Governor Stassen's vigorous action. State payrolls, debt, cost of operation, and taxes were reduced, and a business manager system replaced free bureaucratic spending. Labor-industry clashes have almost vanished, intelligent conciliation replacing hasty strikes or lockouts.

Harold Stassen has an unsurpassed record as an administrator and leader. He is the new leader we need, and will do the job in Washington as he did it here in Minnesota. Harold E. Stassen would carry the advanced viewpoint of our great Midwest to the White House; our states can join together to bring this great midwestern leader to victory in the nation. Support him and get your friends to support him in your presidential primary. Stand up for Stassen.

* * *

No. 2.

You probably know that we in Minnesota are "all out" for Harold Stassen, our former Governor, for President. Here are a few of the reasons why:

Harold E. Stassen made a record in state government that compelled national recognition. In five years as our Governor he was twice chosen chairman of the Governors Conference, national organization of the Governors of the states, by his fellow governors; he was elected President of the International Council of Religious Education; he delivered the historic Keynote Address at the 1940 Republican National Convention in Philadelphia. These, and many other high honors, indicate his strong position as a forceful national leader.

His record in Minnesota proves conclusively that he is the man who can deal with the problems now challenging the strength of our nation. He streamlined the state government, and made it work more effectively on less money and with less employees. He cut labor disputes by 70% and replaced class warfare with a program of unity of all groups.

Harold E. Stassen can and will furnish the courageous leadership the country needs. He would carry the advanced viewpoint of our great Midwest to the White House; our states can join together to bring this great midwestern leader to victory in the nation. Support him in your presidential primary election, and get your friends to vote for him. For campaign literature write to Stassen for President headquarters in your state or in St. Paul. Stand up for Stassen.

* * *

No. 3.

I'm writing to tell you why we in Minnesota, through our Republican Central Committee, have endorsed our former Governor Harold E. Stassen as "qualified above all others" for President of the United States.

He started his career in Minnesota as Dakota County Attorney, shortly after he finished working his way through law school while still helping on his father's farm. Although unknown at first, his vigorous, dynamic, forceful campaign of frankness with the people and the championing of a sound government program brought him into the Governorship by the greatest vote in history. He made good on every one of his promises, and put the state government on a sound basis.

By the time the Governor left for active service in the Navy (he is now with the South Pacific Fleet on active duty) his forthright, clear cut, courageous analysis of national issues had brought him into outstanding prominence and demand as a speaker throughout the nation. Long before Pearl Harbor he recognized the need for and spoke frankly about intelligent American participation in world affairs.

Stassen's supporters are steadfastly working for his nomination and election as President. His name has been entered in two of the direct presidential primaries, in Wisconsin and Nebraska, and he is gaining support throughout the country. Harold E. Stassen would carry the advanced viewpoint of our great Midwest to the White House; our states can join together to bring this great midwestern leader to victory in the nation.

I urge you to support Harold E. Stassen, and to tell your friends to support him. On the basis of my personal knowledge of his qualifications and record, I can assure you that he is genuinely qualified above all others to win the election and do the job for America. Stand up for Stassen.

March 1944



REG. U. S. PATENT OFFICE

JOSEPH P. RYAN, PRESIDENT
265 WEST 14TH STREET
NEW YORK CITY

JOHN R. OWENS, SECRETARY-TREASURER
265 WEST 14TH STREET
NEW YORK CITY

International Longshoremen's Association

E. L. SLAUGHTER, *Vice-President*

LABOR TEMPLE
DULUTH 2, MINN.

Telephones: MELROSE 1288 (Days) — HEMLOCK 6718 (Nights)

Affiliated with American Federation of Labor and Trades and Labor Congress of Canada.

DULUTH 2, MINN.

Dear Harold:

Just a line to let you know that we up in the sticks are still on the beam and are thinking about you once in awhile. Just got ahold of your address and thought I would drop you a line. Got your address from T.E. Cunningham, ran into him in Chicago last week.

Have been reading about you in the paper a lot of late, the boys over here are sure doing a good job of booming you as the fair haired boy that will carry the Republican banner. If I had to do the picking, I can't think of a better man than Harold Stassen for the job. Now that might sound funny coming from me, but, insofar as Roosevelt is concerned ~~XXX~~ I'm off him like a dirty shirt. The National Service Act cooked me, not that I was any too hot for him as it was, but the war and other things that face us now had to come first. So, like others, I was going to go along, until this mess was over, but I have had a complete change of mind.

I want you to know that I will be in your corner pitching, if you come out with the nomination. It is needless for me to add that my fingers are crossed and I hope you win the delegates support at the convention.

Of course I have only one vote, but can make a hell of a lot of noise and in my travels throughout Wisconsin, and other states as well as our own I'll be in there with everything I've got. I still am not a republican, but as you know, it's the man with me that counts and you are it, this time.

The only thing I want out of it is, to know that the USA is not going dictatorship and to tell my grand children that I personally knew a President.

Some of the boys send their regards, Elmer Schaffer, Gus Nordin, Bert Duff, Bob Olseon, and others. I know that you cannot write too much on some matters, but why not drop us a line once in awhile? We, your friends would like to know how you are making out. We sure hope this mess will be over soon and that you and the others will return home safe and sound.

Will ring off for now, but just wanted you to know how some of us feel toward you.

With lotsa luck

Yours

Buster

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ "MINNESOTA HAIL TO THEE!" ★ ★ ★



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CEDAR 4709

MINNESOTA REPUBLICAN VOLUNTEER

Stassen-for-President

ASSOCIATION

1607 PIONEER BUILDING SAINT PAUL, MINN.



March 4, 1944

TO THE INSURANCE PEOPLE OF MINNESOTA:

Again the insurance people of Minnesota are going to have the opportunity of supporting their favorite son and former governor, Lt. Com. Harold E. Stassen -- this time for President of the United States.

But there is much work to be done before convention time and much of it can be done very effectively by the insurance people, who really get around -- probably more than any other occupational group. Here's your first job. Get votes for Harold E. Stassen in the Wisconsin and Nebraska primaries which take place on April 4th and April 11th respectively.

And here's how. Simply ask your friends, business associates, relatives and acquaintances who live in Wisconsin and Nebraska to support and vote for Stassen in the coming primaries. Just write these folks a letter, preferably on your own stationery, and tell them about our former governor and ask them to give him their support.

If you are wondering what to say, perhaps the three suggested letters inclosed will give you some ideas. Also, if for any reason, you cannot get the letters out, we will do it for you. Just furnish your list in accordance with the suggestions contained in the inclosed instruction sheet headed "STAND UP FOR STASSEN". But the time is short so act now.

We can do this job, if we the insurance people, all join together and help in this nationwide movement to put Minnesota's greatest governor in the White House.

Yours for Stassen,

Chairman, Insurance Division,
STASSEN FOR PRESIDENT ASSOCIATION

21944
Saturday March 11

Dear Harold,

Got your letter of March 1 on March 9, record time. It was swell. I am writing Mrs. Reid as per the enclosed. The Herald-Tribune has been rather nasty in its coverage of Minnesota, Wisconsin and Nebraska, going out of its way to create trouble. I'm leaving tomorrow night for a day in Madison March 13 and enclose a copy of the speech I plan to give. Had a tough time writing it, as I wanted to meet some of these questions without going defensive. Think I finally hit on the right approach, with Betty's help. It was about the fourth try.

Wendell has been putting out the story that you promised to support him before going into the Navy, which of course we know is untrue, altho I think W has convinced himself it is true. I think Wendell is virtually out of the picture. He has been off the beam for months and apparently unable to get back on, and if he trails in the early primaries, he may even fade out completely by the time of the convention.

Dewey continues to gain, Bricker has picked up some and MacArthur shows surprising strength in polls with so far little indication of translating it into delegates. The odds still look very tough to me, but I am more convinced than ever that none of the others could make the grade and none measures up to the job. My distrust of Dewey's opportunism has deepened. I'm not at all sure I wouldn't prefer Bricker, who at least has intellectual integrity. It looks now like Dewey will become an active candidate a month or so before the convention and he will not be easy to stop this time, altho I still feel the poll reflects a belief that D will win rather than any real enthusiasm for D. Much depends on Wisconsin and whether the Bricker and Dewey people get together. There are some things against that. Bob Taft, whom I have come to like and respect, has my own feeling about Dewey, and I rather think he will make the decision. I'm not sure that in a showdown Bob would not prefer our man. He probably still has ambitions himself. Bob has intellectual integrity, courage and is more liberal than labeled. His lack is imagination.

COPY

McNary's death has raised a leadership issue in the Senate. I am supporting a continuance until January of our present setup with Vandenberg chairman of the conference, Wallace White floor leader and a steering committee of nine to be appointed. Otherwise we get into a fight which is premature and can only hurt.

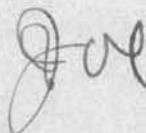
Situation back home looks better. Walt has finally taken hold of the delegate picture. Jones is still a sore spot and I think Doc is definitely out as committeeman but believe we can probably beat Dunn and ~~take~~ get Sydney Anderson to take it. John Cowles has been a bit dirty and I agree on the Look piece. I haven't paid any attention but plan to tell John what I think when I see him.

The SatEvePost piece was on the need for better liaison between President and Congress on foreign policy, checking the next move up to the President. It got quite a bit of attention. I sold another to Colliers on "Are We Losing the Peace?" which I am afraid we are. Everything points to spheres of influence and power politics as dominating the moves being made, with the U.S. sucking the hind tit on the power deals and doing nothing about fighting for a better solution. It wouldn't be quite so bad if we were really playing our hand in the power politics game, but we are not even doing that-- just drifting. Drives me nuts and I may explode one of these days. We seem to be scared to say Boo to Russia and trail along with the British supinely. We desperately need some courageous leadership.

The Pacific right now looks in better shape than the other show, where we seem to be stalled except upstairs.

As always,

P.S.- Believe new regulation on politics issued by White House yesterday changes picture some on statement. Particularly on timing. Also on other primaries if Wis and Neb go well. Joe



COPY

March 11, 1944

Mrs. Helen Reid,
Publisher, the New York Herald Tribune.

Dear Mrs. Reid,

Harold Stassen sent me a copy of his letter to you, from which I gather you are concerned over our pushing Stassen's candidacy for the Republican nomination.

My own position is very simple. Harold never asked nor received any kind of commitment from me except my own determination to do what in my judgement was best for the country and the party. I also know from Harold that he never gave any kind of commitment to Wendell.

I have had opportunities to observe all the possibilities in both parties, and I am convinced that no other possibility in either party comes anywhere near Stassen in measuring up to the tremendous tasks the next president will face. But I also recognize that his being in the Navy and other factors were and are serious handicaps to his candidacy. Willkie was my second choice and was free of those particular handicaps. I deliberately held up any statement on my own position until I was convinced that Willkie stood no chance for the nomination. I reached that conviction in January and have since been doing all I can to advance the Stassen candidacy.

I am doing it solely on the basis that it is imperative for the nation's future to defeat Roosevelt with a candidate who will lead this country in the right direction. I enclose a copy of a speech I am going in Wisconsin along this line.

Yours very sincerely,



State of Minnesota
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Saint Paul

EDWARD J. THYE, GOVERNOR



Zone 1

March 11, 1944

Lt. Commander Harold E. Stassen
c/o Commander, South Pacific Force
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

Dear Harold:

At a little dinner of our entire Senate body last night we thought you might like a little word of greeting from those assembled at our dinner and we couldn't find anything much cheaper than a napkin belonging to the Athletic Club on which you will find our signatures.

Words will fail to express our sincere gratitude to you and we wish you much luck and a speedy return from your present location wherever it may be.

Ed is doing a fine job and has made a host of friends.

With sincere best wishes,

Senator Ancher Nelson

P. S. Senator Nelson as long as he used his own napkin had to borrow ours during the whole dinner. Good luck.

March 13, 1944

Dear Harold:

From time to time recently I have seen a number of your friends and they apparently are very active and quite enthusiastic on their campaign for your nomination.

Apparently they placed reliance on some Wisconsin friends who let them down and discovered two days before the close of filing that petitions were not being circulated as promised. They then put forth great effort and were able to get delegates filed in most districts but fell down on some, especially the ninth where Doc mailed petitions for a Western county which did not arrive at Madison until the day after the filing closed, thereby losing two in the ninth which is the central district in Western Wisconsin.

News reports indicate that Senator Ball spoke at Madison today and made a very good impression and is to speak tonight on the radio and at another meeting tomorrow. Congressman Maas is to be there on the 20th and Governor Thye on the 17th. A large group of people were over there yesterday, Sunday, and met with the delegates. With four slates of candidates filed, the result will probably be quite split up. Willkie is spending thirteen days in the state.

The slip-up occurred because of reliance on people there who had given repeated assurances and despite memorandums and urgings ala Johnston. Similar emphasis has been placed on letter-writing, tabloid and like matters. Governor Goodland appears now to be enthusiastic in his support.

Your friends also say that the prospects are quite good in Nebraska with only one opponent in the preferential primary, although there are two or three slates of delegates, none definitely committed.

Efforts on mailing are quite general and quite good, they say.

Committeeman matter is a headache apparently to many local Republicans. S. A. has been suggested as a compromise and Joe, Walt, and Warren are actively for that. They have been shown Johnston's views. Apparently they feel the other is impossible and they may be right. Ed concurs with them. It would appear that this is not likely to muddy the clear water but outcome in doubt. Not much Johnston or his little helper can do about it.

After the Wisconsin shortcoming the headquarters was peopled with Minnesota people and that is undoubtedly best.

We have had some late March winter and had snow the last few days.

With best wishes,

RELEASE - After 8 P.M. Monday, March 13, 1944

I am here to urge Wisconsin Republicans to support Harold E. Stassen, former Governor of Minnesota, in your presidential primary April 4th.

Most of you in this neighboring state are familiar with Stassen's accomplishments as Governor of Minnesota. Many of you have heard him speak or met him. And, if you are interested in politics, you also know that while Stassen is clearly of presidential caliber, many questions are being raised about our campaign to nominate him this year in the face of several obvious political handicaps.

Stassen is now a Lieutenant Commander in the Navy, serving in the South Pacific. He can take no part in the pre-convention campaign, cannot speak on current developments, although I know him well enough to be sure that if nominated he would request inactive duty in order to discuss with the people the grave national and international issues of this campaign. But his absence now is a severe political handicap. Stassen is from a relatively small mid-west state, not one of the populous "pivotal" states from which the two parties normally choose their nominees, another political handicap. Stassen is young, 37 years old. He can have his chance later, to push him now may hurt his political career, it is said. Of course, we know that years are no accurate measure of maturity and wisdom, and at 37, Stassen already has twelve years in public office and a year of active service in the Navy behind him, and his service was during the depression years when our governmental problems were the toughest in many decades.

In the face of these obvious handicaps, why urge the nomination of Stassen? There can be only one answer. We are not concerned with Stassen's personal career nor with the usual weighing of political assets and liabilities. We are concerned with what happens to the United States of America for the next four years. The kind of leadership exercised by the President we elect next November will determine whether we and our allies drift down the road of imperialism and militarism to World War III and its inevitable destruction of our civilization or whether the United Nations really unite to build a just, democratic and durable peace. The leadership of our next President will determine whether the United States continues to drift toward monopoly and federal control of all our activities or whether we solve the problems of reconversion and full employment within the pattern of our American enterprise system, preserving the political and economic liberties for which we fight.

Beside that great issue, the future welfare and security of America, normal political considerations fade into insignificance. It is our job, it is our responsibility to our fighting youth who are dying to preserve our system, to select a President who measures up to this tremendous task of leadership.

I am convinced that Harold Stassen possesses to a remarkable degree the qualities America needs in our next President. That is why I am here.

What are those qualities?

First, our next President must present to us a clear program for America to solve the vast international and domestic problems facing us. We are living through a revolutionary period in the world's and our history. The political and economic institutions of free men which have developed over the past five centuries are on trial, not just on the battlefield, but as we face domestic issues at home and at the international conference tables where the pattern of the peace after this war is now being shaped. It is a time which demands a clear understanding of the fundamental principles of democracy and justice and steadfast devotion to long-range policies and programs to apply those principles effectively. The present administration's vacillation, its preference for improvisation and expediency over fundamental principle, heads straight toward disaster for democracy.

Stassen's statements of principles to guide our domestic and foreign policies, even though made over a year ago, still stand out today as a rock of truth amid the confusing welter of speculation and surmise and hazy generalities on the future policies of America. He said that a democratic organization of nations with strictly defined and limited authority to administer and enforce a few agreed upon rules of international conduct is the only sane and democratic answer to recurring wars of ever greater magnitude, which will destroy our civilization and our liberties unless the world community devises effective means of preventing them. As President, he would throw the great

weight and influence of America behind such a solution to the problem of peace. He would do it out in the open, recognizing that the great strength of democratic and just principles is that they can stand the light of public scrutiny and gain by it, whereas imperialistic, power politics deals cannot.

In the domestic field, Stassen advocated the two federal steps which are essential if free enterprise is to have a fair chance in our postwar economy to provide full employment. One is a federal labor relations policy, fair to both management and labor and to the various groups within organized labor, pulling all agencies dealing with these complex problems into one setup and establishing clear procedures for the settlement of disputes. Rights of the individual workman should be guarded against abuse by either employer or union leaders. Minnesota adopted such a labor relations law and under Stassen's administration work stoppages in Minnesota were reduced to a fraction of the national average. Both management and labor know their rights and get the speedy decisions to which they are entitled.

Stassen's attitude on this extremely important issue grew out of his experience as county attorney, when a strike of packing-house workers in South St. Paul threatened to erupt into violence. Stassen went to the union meeting, told members and leaders what their legal rights were as to peaceful picketing and promised to protect those rights. But he also told them that if violence occurred, he would prosecute those guilty. He won the respect and cooperation of both employees and management and there was no violence.

The other essential change in federal policy urged by Stassen is a reversal of the present punitive, harassing attitude toward all business, and particularly toward new and smaller enterprises. It is futile to expect free enterprise to survive unless that attitude is changed. Stassen urged a shift of taxes from production to consumption, changes in the Securities Exchange Act to facilitate raising of venture capital and strict enforcement of anti-monopoly laws to really give smaller business a chance. With the tremendous concentration of American industry in a few large corporations which has taken place during the war, these policies are more important than ever if we really want to preserve smaller business in America. It does not stand a chance under present federal policies.

The second quality we need in our next President is administrative ability. The present nightmarish confusion of overlapping bureaus and agencies, conflicting authorities and bickering and intrigue for power in Washington is a very real and serious postwar problem. Our next President faces a tremendous job in untangling the mess and establishing clear lines of authority centered in departments created by law and not emergency agencies created by executive order.

Stassen's record in efficient administration is superlative. In four and a half years as Governor he turned state deficits of \$10,000,000 into balances of \$35,000,000, reduced the number of state employees from nearly 17,000 to 10,000, cut the state debt \$31,000,000, and at the same time increased and improved state services, built more highways and increased state school aids by \$1,500,000. He did it simply by applying recognized principles of good administration. With the legislature he worked out a reorganization of executive departments, replacing boards and commissions with single executives and placing a state business manager in charge of such business functions as purchases and budgeting. He made it work by picking able executives, giving them authority to do their jobs and then holding them responsible for results. He would do the same thing on the federal level, where it needs doing very badly.

The third quality we should demand in our next President is leadership, which is another name for political courage. The people finally decide all basic issues in our democratic republic. But the people can decide intelligently only if they know the facts and the possible alternative solutions. Public opinion does not just happen, it is formed by leaders, of business, agriculture, labor, the professions and leaders of government. The President, who has a tremendous responsibility for leadership because of the wide audience he can reach, can play it politically safe and wait for the various pressure groups to organize public opinion and then go along. Or he can step out himself and help build public support for essential programs. We need the latter kind of leadership today, and we are not getting it in Washington.

Stassen feels keenly this responsibility of public office. Although he could have dodged the then controversial foreign policy issue, he told Minnesota and the nation long before Pearl Harbor that this was a war between tyranny and freedom and that no free nation could hope to avoid war eventually if tyranny continued to win. He scorns the safety of political expediency when the welfare of the state or nation is at stake. I have seen him on scores

of problems, from his labor relations program to his reorganization of state government, first consult with all interested groups and individuals, then decide the policy that would best serve the state and go to the people with the facts. It is a habit with him to try to foresee future problems and have ready a program to meet them. In 1942, for instance, months before the War Manpower Commission got around to it, Stassen saw the farm labor shortage looming up and had in operation a state program to meet it.

The fourth major qualification we should demand in our next President is political understanding and a desire and capacity for teamwork. As events in Washington are demonstrating, the powers of our government are divided between the executive and the legislative branches. Unless they function together as a team, constructive accomplishments are unlikely.

Harold Stassen was in public life and politics for fourteen years. He knows government from the township, county and village through the state and federal levels. The three legislatures with which he worked in Minnesota were the most productive of constructive results in our state's history. Not because the legislature was subservient to the governor. On the contrary, there were substantial, sometimes majority groups in one or the other house opposed to Stassen politically and to his programs. Some proposals he advocated were defeated. But by constant conferences with legislative leaders, by recognizing their responsibility to the people as well as his own, and by seeking with them a basis on which they could move forward together, he made possible the tremendous progress our state has made in the past six years.

I know that Stassen would do the same thing on the federal level, and I also know how desperately such a cooperative attitude is needed. So great is the suspicion and antagonism toward the present Chief Executive existing in Congress that a deadlock on both foreign and domestic postwar policies is almost a certainty if a change is not made.

Harold Stassen grew up on a farm, working his way through college and law school. The opportunities and the liberties which make our nation great are in his very fiber. With all his great abilities, his achievements, he is today a simple, deeply religious man, devoted above all else to justice and right in the service of America. He has faith in the people and in the democratic institutions through which the people govern themselves.

He has to an exceptional degree the qualifications and abilities that we need in our next President. He can and would do the job ahead for America. It is on that basis that I appeal to you to support the Stassen delegates in the Wisconsin primary April 4th.



29-S. Hawthorne Rd
Duluth, Minn.

Our Christmas tree,
taken Dec. 30-1943



Living Room at
29-S. Hawthorne Rd
Duluth

Taken Dec. 30-1943



W. C. SMITH, INCORPORATED

CONSTRUCTORS

BRADLEY BUILDING
DULUTH, MINNESOTA

March 15, 1944

Lt. Commander Harold E. Stassen ,
c/o Comm. South Pacific Fleet,
Fleet Post Office,
San Francisco, California.

Dear Harold:

Even though I have not heard from you directly, I have succeeded in hearing a great deal about you and I am always interested as you know. I know you are very busy and I do not have much time for letter writing but I do hope that some day I will at least get a short note.

At this time of the year, as you know, the pot is boiling again. It is quite interesting here and the same old story. Of course, I think, and this is just my own opinion, that Doc. has made quite a mistake and the 'tail is wagging the dog.' The issue is so much more important than personal gains or anything else that to have left 'well enough alone' as far as Roy is concerned would have been far preferable to the confusion resulting. The big battle is on here and little Sammy is leading the parade here again by trying to pull a fast one and putting dear Rollo in as chairman. Sammy was disgusted because of not enough support of Roy so he wishes to take control of everything. The results will be known on Saturday night.

I was in Milwaukee about three weeks ago, visiting my folks and I had an opportunity to see a few people on the State Committee there. One happens to be a friend of mind. We went to school together, so I did my bit. My brother-in-law at Fond-du Lac is also interested in making the fight. His only opposition is W.W. versus H.S. They found that most of the gold is buried at Fort Knox but a little found its way into that area.

I called Esther on my return from a business trip in Nebraska. She was fine and little Glenn answered the telephone. I asked her to remember me to you. I spent sometime in Lincoln and in Omaha and found the building business quite active there. I am taking another trip into Nebraska to do some promotion work in our line and I expect to spend at least ten days there.

On April 2nd I am leaving here for Los Angeles. We have established an office there and I will probably be on the

Lt. Com. Harold E. Stassen

3-15-44

West coast for three or four weeks. Billy Jr. is going with me. You would hardly recognize him, he has grown so tall. He has had a great deal of fun this winter going up to our cabin on the North Shore and trapping. He loves the outdoors and is looking forward to spending the summer in Pendleton again where he has his own horse. If you should happen to be in San Francisco (which I doubt very much) contact me in Los Angeles at W. C. Smith Incorporated, telephone number Mutual 8407.

We have had an exceptionally beautiful winter, not more than a dozen days of real cold weather and the lake hasn't frozen over at all. They expect to start the shipping season very soon.

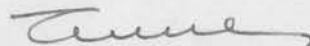
I am enclosing a couple kodak pictures that I thought you would enjoy of the inside of our home. On the piano you will notice a photograph of Commander P. S. Rudie, who has been in the southwest Pacific for eighteen months. Your photograph and his are the two gracing the piano. Dr. Rudie is getting shore leave and expects to be back in this country in about a month. Have you ever run across him? He is a surgeon and has done a wonderful piece of work.

Phil Hoghaug, from Devils Lake, North Dakota, is also in the Southwest pacific. I had a very nice letter from him a short time ago. Do you remember the night at our home when you and Phil were there? We miss you very much. Many times I would like to take the phone and talk to you as I have done in the past and consult you on many of the problems arising, but, of course, that has been an impossibility.

You will have a birthday on April 13th. I am sending you a card and I hope it reaches you somewhere near that date.

My very best to you.

Sincerely,



Anne Smith

CONCORD BEVERAGE COMPANY
CONCORD STREET
SOUTH ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

March 18, 1944

Lt. Comm. Harold E. Stassen
Care Of Commander
South Pacific Fleet
Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

Dear Harold:

Well, we have apparently about completed our winter, although March has been about as wintry a month as we have had. We have had some snow but today is a bright, clear day and probably about the end of winter.

Yesterday was St. Patrick's Day and the Irish, as per usual, observed same with fitting ceremony and fullness. So, all your Irish friends, in your absence, extend to you the best, and you know that it comes from the heart from the Irish on St. Patrick's Day. If you can get any Irish Whiskey out there, throw one down for us (or a couple).

Talked with Esther today and she is serene and well as usual. Your kids apparently have escaped, so far, the epidemic of measles which is quite prevalent.

The beverage business has come along fairly well, although struggling as a non-essential activity without a visible head would do in war time. It has now reached that stage where there are a number of unknown factors which will only become apparent when a count is made. As I have heretofore advised, the sales were not too well grounded in Wisconsin because too much reliance was placed upon the management there - and too little checking done. In view of these factors, discovered late, the result today is not bad, although I do not profess to be a prophet or the son of a prophet. The tabloid advertising is set for both important areas and insistence has been observed upon production early enough to allow full effect considering present state of mails, etc.

I think Tom is still the best salesman in the eastern territory but having only about 15 agents and having definitely indicated a policy of disapproval, it is difficult to predict outcome. Wen is, of course, going to make an active sales campaign for 12 or 13 days and the outcome is problematical on that. There is apparently a considerable genuine anti feeling towards him. Joe and Ed have been there. Mel and Judd are coming and Joe is returning later. Mailing efforts have been fair.

Some of your Republican friends tell me that the committeeman matter is a mess, and I am not too hopeful about that, but do not believe it will muddy clear water locally.

In the more southerly crucial area the result will depend a lot on how strong the anti feeling is toward the only other entry, and I am inclined to be hopeful.

Walt has been extremely nervous and his effectiveness extremely reduced but it is hoped that others on the sales force will be able to keep the sales moving. Fred, Bob Smith, Ancher, Ade Giere of the bank and others are functioning to the east. S.A. is OK and helpful, as is Julian.

Substantial difficulties are extreme. George and Walt have gone in themselves to see it through, but there is hope there too now, I believe.

State feeling is unanimously good allowing for the normal deviations. Suppose there is little use in giving you these details about the beverage business but they are rather engrossing and I am passing them along.

Regards and best wishes.

Al

March 21, 1944

Dear Harold,

The AP and UP just called giving us your statement to the Secretary of the Navy. It is a splendid statement and very typical of HES.

I am enclosing copy of statement Ed is making and the services are getting comments from other Republicans. "The Merry-goRound goes merrily". Will write you more soon.

Best of luck

Les

Me too

Katy

Statement by Governor Edward J. Thye

March 21, 1944

"In his typical, straightforward method of openly stating his position former Governor Stassen has clearly expressed his attitude on the matter of his possible nomination. His statement is complete and forthright and I do not believe it is capable of any misinterpretation."

0-3-21-3
9-1-3-1-3
1-2-3-1-3
1-2-3-1-3
1-2-3-1-3



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