

HOBSON'S CHOICE FOR U.S. DEMOCRATS

The rubber ducky of the Democrats replaces the Republican elephant in Philadelphia, as the party now in power meets to nominate its presidential candidate. This time it faces a near insoluble problem, for, to be sure of victory, the party must find a superman.

Sixteen years ago, in nineteen thirty two, the Democrats wrested the Presidency from Republican Herbert Hoover. Their candidate was Franklin Delano Roosevelt. For thirteen years, Roosevelt was the Democratic party. From the outset he carried the American people with him....out of the worst labour slump in history along the path of work... and his New Deal.

Wall Street speculation gave way to vast projects built and paid for by the people...and for the people. Typical of these was the great Tennessee Valley scheme, T.V.A. Under Roosevelt, the Democrat, big business slowly recognized its debt to labour. Steadily but surely from the chaos of the slump, the United States passed from recognition of domestic responsibilities to the wider issues of a world struggle.

Roosevelt, Democratic President of the United States, played an unforgettable role in world affairs. His leadership placed the United States at the head of the great nations whose destinies affect the course of the whole world. Facing the Democratic Party Conference is the problem of finding a man of Roosevelt's stature. Only possible claimant to this title is General Dwight Eisenhower. With his great figure at its head, the Democratic party might have marched to certain victory, but Eisenhower refused all pleas.

So, for the Democrats, only one choice remains. The Convention nominates Truman to fight Governor Dewey. In Harry S. Truman, even the most ardent party members, find little resemblance to his great forerunner. Thrust into high office by fate, he has struggled to achieve an impossible task, to assume the mantle of the man who made the Democratic party great. Faced with the natural swing of public favour over sixteen years, few are confident of Truman's chances in November.