

A grand old party Bush to help Landon hit 98



Landon

Wiry-haired and fragile, Alf Landon remains an optimist. "I'm still crippled," he said hoarsely yesterday, referring to a fall from bed on Aug. 21. It's got him sidelined but won't interfere with plans for his 98th birthday Monday. "I'm really tied up," said the 1936 Republican presidential candidate, who lost in a landslide to Franklin Roosevelt. "I've got things to do and I'm meeting with some people now."

Unusual for a gent turning 98? Not for Landon, who spends most of his time keeping up with the news and, as always, the Republican Party. Yesterday he started a round of interviews with local and national media folks eager to pin him down on whom he feels will be the next President. The grand old guy just mentions names of people he thinks might be running, including Vice President Bush, who will visit Landon Monday, hoping for the elder statesman's blessing.

Landon will get a telephone call from President

Reagan, whose election Landon predicted before the experts did. Last year, on Landon's 97th, Reagan called and got a pep talk from Alf, who said: "In all my 97 years I don't know of a President who has occupied such a strong, stout-hearted position of leadership that you do."

Yesterday Alf said nothing had changed. "I still have great faith in President Reagan and you know the world is going through some vast changes right now," he told us. "If I could talk about all the things on my mind you'd be listening to me all day and night. But I have faith in people. Alf and his wife, Theo, will be toasted by Republicans Monday on the lawn of his Southern-style mansion.

He'll be his humble self, probably describing himself as before, "an oil man who never made a million, a lawyer who never had a case and a politician who carried only Maine and Vermont." One better than Walter Mondale.

Making book on Marilyn

Hollywood bit actor Ted Jordan says his new book on Marilyn Monroe will be published by Penthouse owner Bob Guccione in the spring. It will include portions of Marilyn's diary that mention prominent names, and supposedly reveal she was done in by elements linked to the mob. Guccione, who paid Jordan \$100,000 for the book, would only say yesterday: "Those are our plans." Jordan, who was turned down by numerous publishers before he met with Guccione, dated Marilyn when she was 16. He has said she was murdered and that the investigation of her death, called a suicide, was a coverup. Yesterday, he told the People Page: "I'll never get a bit of work in this town (Hollywood) ever again and many people will hate me but the truth must come out."

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