

JUL 15 1972

7/12/72 Note on TV convention coverage. I zonked out last night after supper and while watching the proceedings, just before Wallace completed his angry remarks. (His face, to me, is even more bitter and evil since his tragedy, his eyes seeming deeper and closer, his natural snarl more apparent, and what seemed new, a different set to his features in profile, again accenting the nastiness so in conformity with his verbal expressions.) I was so far out of it that I tried several times to rouse me so I could hear Askew, who was making what she this a.m. described as quite a speech. She couldn't get me conscious and I have no awareness of anything he said. When she told me this this a.m. I made it a point to stop work prior to the 7 a.m./ CBS TV news. I also heard the two newscasts at the beginning of the 8 a.m. portion of the Today show. Ebs once had a short paraphrase of what Askew said, no more. They had taped selections from Wallace three times, once in the opening, a shorter version, and twice thereafter, once in each half-hour, of the more vicious part of what he said of bussing. In context or out, this avoidance of Askew's keynoting keynote speech is bad journalism, electronic or printed (nothing in our early Washington Post, which has recently had as its main story a lengthy report on something that happened at 9 p.m., I think the Supreme Court decision on credentials). Askew seems to have said what typifies this convention and distinguishes it from others, what symbolizes the McGovern phenomenon, what youth and all the minorities wanted said, what the country needs, and this he became unnewsworthy in a medium that has always given inordinate attention to the cliches that have usually characterized such speeches. This may be a forecast of things to come. HW