



What happen to the men and women who ran for vice president and lost the election. They had a brief rise to national attention and then they were gone from the spotlight. What did they do? How did they recover? Did they return to politics? This book looks at those characters in our history who lost an office described as not worth a bucket of spit.

They Never Had a Chance To Spit

Second Edition

by Rick Vaccarelli

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THEY NEVER HAD A CHANCE TO SPIT

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THOSE WHO LOST
THE RACE FOR VICE PRESIDENT?

SECOND EDITION

Rick Vaccarelli

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CHAPTER NINE

THE ONLY VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE DEFEATED BY A VOTE OF THE SENATE

Francis Granger was an active politician with roots in the state House of Representatives from New York. He was nominated as the vice presidential candidate of the Whig Party in a very odd strategically planned election of 1836.

The Whig Party was determined to defeat Vice President Martin Van Buren's presidential bid and decided to nominate regional tickets under their party label in order to drive the election to the House of Representatives, where they could elect the next president. Although planned to succeed, it failed. Granger would actually have two running mates; both would lose as well, but in the process he would also become the only vice presidential candidate defeated for the vice presidency by the U.S. Senate.

Granger, a congressman who had been elected in 1835, was nominated to run with Daniel Webster and William Henry Harrison as part of the Whig regional strategy. John Tyler, another Whig, was

selected as the running mate with Hugh White. In the end, Van Buren defeated Harrison overwhelmingly for the presidency by an electoral vote of 170 to 73. Hugh White and Daniel Webster received 26 and 14 votes, respectively.

Richard Mentor Johnson was considered a shoe-in for vice president based on the Van Buren result but, since the Electoral College is not bound by a state votes, Johnson would fall one vote shy of winning the second spot. The Virginia delegation casts its 23 electoral votes for Sen. William Smith. To this day, members of the Electoral College are not bound to vote as their state votes. The lack of a majority vote needed would lead to initiating the process as outlined by the 12th Amendment of the Constitution adopted in 1804, clearly stating that, if the vice presidential candidate did not receive the required majority, then the vice president would be elected by a majority vote of the U.S. Senate. The amendment spelled out that the top two contenders would be considered by the senators. When the Senate met, they easily selected Van Buren's running mate, Richard Mentor Johnson, over Francis Granger by a vote of 33 to 16. As of this writing, no other vice president in the history of the country has been elected this way. Francis Granger will go down in history as the only vice presidential candidate considered by and rejected by the U.S. Senate.

After his loss, he remained active in Whig politics, and continued to serve the remainder of his original congressional term. He was defeated for re-election to the seat, but would be re-elected to the seat after that defeat and serve in congress from 1839 to 1841. He was named the Postmaster General by his former running mate, President William Henry Harrison. This gave him the unique opportunity to follow in the family business, so to speak, since his father, Gideon, also had served as the Postmaster General under President Thomas Jefferson.

Granger stayed active in Whig politics, supporting the Compromise of 1850 and President Millard Fillmore in his efforts to hold off what would become the Civil War. He even helped to encourage the Whig Party to join efforts with the Constitutional Union Party in promoting peace and unity candidates in 1860. That movement led to a peace convention that would eventually fail to keep the country from splitting apart over the issue of slavery and states' rights.

He did not serve in elective office again and died in 1868.

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

THE FIRST REPUBLICAN VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

William Dayton was the first nominee of the newly organized Republican Party for the vice presidential nomination in 1856. Dayton defeated Abraham Lincoln for the vice presidential nomination. Four years later, that defeated vice presidential candidate would win the Republican Party nomination for president and become the first Republican president.

Dayton was born in New Jersey. He launched his political career in 1837 as a member of the New Jersey legislature. He was appointed to the U.S. Senate in 1842 to fill a vacancy, but would win election to the seat on his own in 1845. He was, however, defeated for re-election in 1851.

President Franklin Pierce was not re-nominated by the Democratic Party, as the delegates selected James Buchanan, from Pennsylvania, as their nominee for president. The Republicans, meeting for their first national convention in Pennsylvania, selected James Fremont as their nominee for president. This election also featured a former president, Millard Fillmore, as the nominee of the

American Party. The vice presidential candidate of the Democratic Party was John Breckinridge, a former member of the U.S. Congress and U.S. Senate representing Kentucky. He would go on to become the youngest Vice President of the United States. Oddly enough, after his term as vice president, he would go on to become a member of Jefferson Davis' cabinet, as the Secretary of War for the Confederate States. The American Party nominated Andrew Donelson to run with Fillmore. While the American Party ran a distant third, it did take votes away from the other candidates and many politicians believe had they not been in the race, the Fremont-Dayton ticket would have been elected. Dayton was the running mate of John Fremont, a military officer and one of the first U.S. Senators from California.

The Republican Party was only a year old. Fremont was a controversial military man, an individual who did not win re-election to his California Senate seat and a Catholic. Dayton was part of the ticket of the new party that was committed to opposing the Kansas-Nebraska Act and the growth of slavery in America. Timing was not in favor of the Republicans, who would be accused by the Democratic Party of leading America to a possible civil war. Overall, the Fremont-Dayton team did well in the north by winning the 11 states. Unfortunately, Fremont did not win his home state of California, and Dayton did not carry his home

state of New Jersey. Both states accounted for 11 electoral votes. The ticket did not win any southern states. When the electoral votes were counted, the Democratic ticket won, and Dayton was defeated for his chance to be vice president. Breckinridge would become the youngest Vice President of the United States, winning 174 electoral votes to Dayton's 114. Donelson collected eight votes.

After the election, Dayton would serve as the Attorney General for New Jersey from 1857 to 1861. The man he defeated for the vice presidential nomination at the Republican Party convention, Abraham Lincoln, would name him to the post of Minister of France in 1861. In his role as Minister to France, Dayton would serve Lincoln well, as he is credited with persuading Napoleon III not to recognize the Confederate States of America. Had he done so, it would have given the Confederate States a major boost and allowed them to use French ports for commerce. Dayton died in Paris in 1864.

CHAPTER THIRTY ONE

THIRD CHOICE FOR THE VICE PRESIDENTIAL BUT IMPACTS AMERICA FOR DECADES

Earl Warren was not the first choice of Thomas Dewey to be his running mate, nor the second. Third choice is more like it and, although he lost, he would enjoy an incredible career after the defeat. His career following the vice presidential election continues to impact America to this day. Most speculation is that Dewey wanted Gov. Dwight Green of Illinois to be his running mate, while his campaign team wanted U.S. Senator Charles Halleck of Indiana. In the end, Dewey selected an equally popular governor. He selected Earl Warren, the Governor of California. Put in political perspective, the two candidates were popular governors from two of the largest states in America, New York and California. It was a strong winning combination. Even the media agreed, not only for that reason, but because the Democratic Party split at their convention. President Harry Truman was renominated as the official candidate, but two major factions bolted the convention and nominated their own candidates. Gov. Strom Thurmond and former Vice President Henry Wallace decided to run

separate campaigns for president. It was the perfect storm for the Democrats and a Republican victory seemed assured, with technically three well-known Democrats running national campaigns for the presidency. In the end, it proved to be one of the biggest upsets in modern political history, and three vice presidential candidates would fail to get an opportunity to spit.

Earl Warren was destined to be vice president. He looked like a vice president, and he was running with the dynamic Governor of New York, Thomas Dewey. The Democrats nominated Sen. Alben Barkley from Kentucky as their vice presidential choice. The States Rights Party, splitting from the Democrats, organized and nominated the Governor of South Carolina, Strom Thurmond, for president and Governor of Mississippi, Fielding Wright, for vice president. The Progressive Party nominated former Democratic Vice President Harry Wallace for president and Sen. Glen Taylor of Idaho as his running mate.

Fielding Wright, an avowed anti-segregationist and governor of Mississippi, carried four states as the vice presidential nominee of the States Rights Party. He and the presidential nominee, Strom Thurmond, had hoped that capturing the southern states would ensure that the election would be deadlocked. That, of course, did not happen. After

Wright lost the vice presidential campaign as a third-party candidate, he served as governor until 1952, and would return to practice law. His running mate, Thurmond, would go on to continue to serve in the U.S. Senate for 48 years and was a major political force in American politics.

The media wrongly assumed that the Dewey-Warren ticket would win. If it had, it is possible that major rulings that have impacted, and continue to impact America, may never have come about. Warren, an attorney, rose through the ranks of county government, becoming the District Attorney of Alameda County in California. In 1938, he was elected the Attorney General of California, and in 1942 he successfully ran for Governor of California. As the governor he supported the internment of Japanese citizens during World War II and was very progressive in terms of education, health care, and prison reform. He was re-elected in 1946.

Warren was a very active campaigner for the ticket in 1948. The campaign was dramatic, with basically three Democrats running against the assumed winner, Thomas Dewey and Warren. Truman and Barkley stunned America by winning the election. Major newspapers were reporting that Dewey had been elected and had to run retractions in their next editions.

In the end, Warren would be defeated for the vice presidency by Alben Barkley by a 303 to 189 vote. Fielding received 39 votes. The Progressive Party candidate, Glen Taylor, running with former democratic vice president Wallace, received no electoral votes.

By far, Warren, historically speaking, had one of the most impactful political careers after his defeat for the vice presidency. He and Franklin D. Roosevelt both had impressive post-vice presidential careers. Warren remained popular throughout America. He was re-elected Governor of California in 1950 and with this win and national contacts became a serious contender for the 1952 Republican Party nomination for president. At the 1952 convention, a fellow Californian, Richard Nixon, had promised him support for president, but threw his support elsewhere, causing him to lose the nomination to Dwight D. Eisenhower. This act would forever cause a rift between the two that lasted up to the day Warren died. He never trusted Nixon after that and was not shy about believing that Nixon was not a good person.

The election of 1948 was the only election that Warren would lose, but life was not over after his vice presidential defeat; his national imprint on America would be forthcoming. In 1953, he was nominated by President Eisenhower to be the Chief

Justice of the Supreme Court. This court would initiate interpretations and rulings that impacted America for decades. In 1954, the Warren court issued the *Brown vs. Brown* ruling that declared it was unconstitutional for separation of public school children according to race. The 1962 Warren court, *Engel vs. Vitale*, prohibited mandatory prayer in schools. The Warren court also ruled in the *Peterson vs. Greenville* case that struck down local ordinances prohibiting racial segregation in public places, such as hotels and restaurants. In the 1964 Supreme Court case *Watkins vs. United States*, the court gave the right of a witness to refuse to testify at a Congressional committee. Also in 1964, the Warren court ruled in the *Reynolds vs. Sims* case that legislatures must do their reapportionment on the basis of population and not geography. The landmark Warren court case *Miranda vs. Arizona* in 1966 made it necessary for police to advise criminal suspects of their rights.

Warren will always be associated with shepherding the court in these major rulings, but he is also known for heading the commission to investigate the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. The Warren Commission ruled, to the dismay of many that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone.

Warren would resign from the court in 1969 and watch his nemesis, Richard Nixon, appoint his

successor. He actually advised President Lyndon Johnson in 1968 that he was planning to retire, expecting Johnson to fill the seat, which due to political maneuvering did not happen. Warren would continue to give speeches and actively comment on issues around the country. In one of his final acts in opposition to President Nixon, it was comments made by the former Justice Warren that actually encouraged the court and Congress to successfully push for the resignation of Richard Nixon as president. He died July 9, 1974. Nixon resigned one month later, August 9, 1974.

CHAPTER THIRTY FIVE

VICE PRESIDENTS USUALLY VANISH FROM THE POLITICAL WORLD, SO DID THIS CANDIDATE

William Miller was the brunt of many jokes, including his own, after virtually disappearing from the political landscape after this defeat for vice president. Miller was as conservative as Barry Goldwater when he accepted the second spot on the ticket that would lose by a landslide to Lyndon Johnson and Hubert Humphrey in 1964.

The election of 1964 came within a year of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, and it was highly unlikely that voters were going to make a change. Surprisingly, before the death of President Kennedy, polls had indicated that he was going to have a tough re-election campaign ahead. Barry Goldwater, a staunch conservative, was going to give voters a real choice of moving the control to the left or to the right. The assassination changed the political landscape dramatically, and Lyndon Johnson rode the wave of Kennedy's New Frontier program, his Great Society idea, the split of the Republican Party, and sympathy to an astonishing landslide victory.

With the liberal and conservative wings of the Republican Party split at the nominating convention, Barry Goldwater made no gesture of uniting the factions when he selected a congressman from New York to be his running mate. William Miller, an attorney, had a conservative background and did nothing to unite the two factions. After law school and brief military service, he started his career in government serving a future U.S. Supreme Court Justice, Robert Jackson, as an assistant prosecutor for the Nuremburg Trials. He would eventually be appointed by Gov. Thomas Dewey to serve as the District Attorney of Niagara County in New York. He would go on to win election on his own to the post. As a congressman, he managed to make contacts nationally when he had served as the chairman for the Republican Congressional Campaign Committee. The successful campaign of Republican candidates in the congressional campaign would lead him to be elected the National Chairman of the Republican Party. In that role, he proved to be very aggressive in making ongoing verbal attacks of President Kennedy and the Democratic Party. His wit and snide remarks served to annoy those supporting the new programs. Miller would serve seven terms before joining Goldwater on the ticket.

The ticket did very poorly, as Johnson was re-elected with over 60 percent of the vote, carrying 44 states out of 50. The Electoral College would elect

Hubert Humphrey vice president over Miller by a vote of 486 to 52. The man with the sharp tongue would end his political career and disappear from national politics. The former seven-term congressman, former National Chairman of the Republican Party, and national candidate just seemed to blend in to the woodwork, avoiding interviews and any conversations regarding political matters. He would return to practicing law locally, becoming more local than national with life.

In a stroke of marketing genius, Miller would have one final opportunity to enjoy the national spotlight after disappearing from public view. In 1975, American Express, aware of the mystery of whatever happened to William Miller, ran a national advertising campaign featuring William Miller asking the public if they knew who he was. He would then point out that he could not be recognized without his American Express card. In later years, William Miller would point out that he was known more for having an American Express card than being the running mate of one the most famous conservatives in American history. Miller died in 1965, and Barry Goldwater praised him for the person he was.



What happen to the men and women who ran for vice president and lost the election. They had a brief rise to national attention and then they were gone from the spotlight. What did they do? How did they recover? Did they return to politics? This book looks at those characters in our history who lost an office described as not worth a bucket of spit.

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