

Senator Burton Wheeler on the cover of Time, April 15, 1940

CAYCE'S PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

BY STANLEY JAFFIN

Who was Senator Burton Wheeler? Why did Cayce's source consider him not only qualified to be the next president but also the type of person whose election was necessary for the nation's well-being?

IN A MARCH 1939 LIFE READING, Edgar Cayce said that Senator Burton Wheeler, a third-term Montana Democrat, could be elected president of the United States in 1940! Ironically, Senator Wheeler never directly participated in any of the other Cayce readings addressing his candidacy. His friend, Milton W. Harrison, a member of the A.R.E. Board of Trustees (and later its president), not only requested Wheeler's life reading, but also asked the majority of the Wheeler-for-president questions in his own readings. One of these readings said Wheeler could be elected as either a Republican or Democrat. It was only after several of Harrison's readings were given, that Wheeler submitted his own questions.

Q. Is it indicated that I will be the next president of the United States?

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Q. Is there a destiny consistent with the nation's destiny that I be the next president?

A. Unless there be one such as this entity arising to direct not only the ship of state but the destiny of the peoples of this land, turmoils and strifes must increase. (1848-1)

A Yankee from the West

Burton K. Wheeler was born in Hudson, Massachusetts on February 27, 1882 and graduated from the University of Michigan Law School in 1905. Wheeler intended to live on the Pacific coast and began traveling westward. However, by the end of the year, he was admitted to the Montana bar and began practicing in Butte. He later jokingly referred to "choosing" Montana because he lost his shirt in a poker game and had no money to continue traveling. Wheeler served as a state representative from 1910-1912 and as the Montana U.S. district attorney from 1913-1918. He ran unsuccessfully for governor in 1920 but was then elected to the U.S. Senate as a Democrat in 1922. Two years later, he ran unsuccessfully as a third-party candidate for vice president. While in the Senate, he chaired the Committee on Indian Affairs and served on the Committee on Interstate Commerce. In the late 1930s, Wheeler considered running for the nation's highest office.

However in Cayce's view, these activities and accomplishments were not his main credentials for the presidency. Wheeler's biblical incarnation was his highest qualification for political office:

"We find the experience which is indicated as the outstanding activity of the entity – when the entity was the centurion, the keeper or the officer of the Roman forces stationed in Caesarea. There the entity, through the associations with those who had come in personal contact with the man of Galilee, began his seeking – through prayer – to know what was man's relationship to his Maker.

"Then there was the receiving of the vision as the warning that he, Cornelius, was to send for one [Peter] that would acquaint him with those truths which had been proclaimed by that representative of the heavenly kingdom. [See Acts 10.]

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and the call through the activity of the spirit of truth, made for that great change which came in the governing of that land; and the modifying of the authority of those who were put in power through the activities of the authorities in Rome; making it possible, with those of its fellows, that there would come the great opportunities for man in every walk of life to become acquainted with those truths that are a part of man's heritage through the promises of the Creative Forces in man's experience.

"Thus in the present may the entity, as one in authority, one in power, make for those activities in which there will be in the hearts of men and women everywhere the realization of the greater necessity, the greater need, the greater opportunity of the peoples becoming aware more and more of their need to turn again to those tenets, those truths; not because they are of that nature that would make men meek or lonely, but making them strong and meek in their strength! For in such comes the power and the ability of the entity from those experiences to not only lead and direct men of many a position or status, but to be a voice heard among the nations of the earth." (1848-1)

Wheeler's leadership and determination in a Norse life also contributed to his present abilities:

"We find the entity was among those who came to this land of present nativity, among the Norsemen with [Leif] Ericson.

"There we find the entity was among those who were of that Norse peoples, and venturesome – giving the assistance in the activities upon the sea, the building of the trustworthy crafts – as well as one given to the establishing of, or the attempts to establish settlements in the land.

"And there were the attempts made again and again to bring aid and help to that new-found freedom in a land in which there were plenteous opportunities of every nature, for not only the material attainments of the supplies for the physical but the opportunities for the mental and

spiritual advancement which was sought in those activities of the entity then – as Heth Erichlson.

"In the experience the entity gained materially, gained mentally, gained spiritually – through its attempts to make for the great freedom, and yet remembering much of that which had been and was a part of its developments for not only itself but for others." (1848-1)

A third relevant past life was in ancient Persia:

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In these past-life experiences, Cayce described the sources of Wheeler's real qualifications for the presidency. In answering another of Wheeler's questions, Cayce addressed the heart of the issue:

Q. Is there any advice that you can give me as to whether or not I can give my greatest life service through the Presidency of the United States?

A. Here is the greater service – even as ye rendered not only thy nation as the ruler in Caesarea as Cornelius, but to all of mankind – because of the stand ye took then!" (1848-1)

In Roman, Norse, and Persian lifetimes, Wheeler stood firm with his principles and beliefs, and acted for the betterment of all, even at the cost of his own life in Persia. In America during the end of the Great Depression and on the eve of World War II, such leadership was needed again.

Wheeler's Cayce Connections

Senator Wheeler was not an A.R.E. member but two members served as his main contacts with Edgar Cayce. Milton W. Harrison served on the A.R.E. Board of Trustees in the late 1930s and as its president in 1941. Harrison, who was a railroad official and later a savings and loan executive, had frequent professional contact with Senator Wheeler's Interstate Commerce Committee. However, their present relationship derived from their "experiences as representatives of the Roman government in the Palestine land – during that period just following and during the activities of the man of Galilee." (1848-1)

Harrison asked Cayce about his own role in promoting Wheeler's presidential candidacy and was advised to continue working as he had with Cornelius in Palestine:

“Q. Shall I continue to remain in the background in the effort to advance Burton Wheeler?”

“A. ...even in that period...self remained in the background – by choice. In the household of that entity now called Burton Wheeler, ye made it possible for not only the acceptance of but the abilities for that entity to become the power through its authority to establish the first church in Rome – through a great deal of thy efforts. This, too, has been, was kept in the background.” (1151-23)

Harrison asked many questions in his own readings for and about Wheeler. Cayce further described the necessity of a Wheeler presidency and the basis of the Wheeler-Harrison relationship:

“Q. Am I following my best spiritual good, and the good of the country, in my activities and associations on behalf of the Burton Wheeler for the presidency of the United States?”

“A. ...in that entity, Burton Wheeler, is the policy of there being a united effort for the country in all of its phases, in all of its undertakings and its problems, its faults as well as its virtues – more than there may be in any other individual that

has, or as we find may be offered as one to fill that office.

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“Yet with the abilities of Burton Wheeler there is a basis for a uniting of these divisions, that is not found in any of the others – not even excepting the present incumbent of that office. [President Franklin Roosevelt]

“Q. Is there a close understanding and confidence established between Burton Wheeler and myself?”

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Wheeler's other main A.R.E. contact was Harold M. Sherman, a noted writer, researcher, and lecturer on psychic and spiritual subjects. Sherman conducted many experiments with Dr. J. B. Rhine at Duke University and decades later with Neil Armstrong, the first astronaut to walk on the moon. Cayce's source recommended Sherman as a participant in the "Mysteries of the Mind" radio program developed by Hugh Lynn Cayce and Thomas Sugrue. (254-102) Sherman was also a potential author of Wheeler's biography:

“Q. Was the contract between Harold Sherman and Burton Wheeler for the writing of the latter's biography correct and will it be a definite contribution toward our high objective?”

“A. It should be. As to whether this becomes a help towards the objective, of course, will depend upon the timing of same as to a part of the whole presentation of the purposes of the man, see? The

timing of same. As to the contract, it is well – and will be well done.

“Q. When should the book be completed?”

“A. By the time there are the beginnings of the first of those offered as the prospects for the filling of the office. By the middle of January or first of February, 1940.” (1151-23)

Sherman never wrote the book. The exact circumstances were not specifically documented, though in a reading for Harrison they were hinted at by Cayce:

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Events of Those Times

Although Franklin Roosevelt and the New Deal Democrats were overwhelmingly reelected in 1936, almost immediately their political alliances began to unravel. The recession of 1937 resulted in the loss of over 4 million jobs. Organized labor, a core Democratic constituency, was becoming increasingly independent. John L. Lewis, the United Mine Workers Union president and a founder of the Congress of Industrial Organizations (which would later merge with the American Federation of Labor and become the present-day AFL-CIO), openly called for Senator Wheeler to run as a third-party presidential candidate. The Supreme Court ruled several key New Deal laws to be unconstitutional, and a failed attempt to pack the Court further weakened Roosevelt's political standing. In the 1938 elections, the Republicans gained 81 House seats and eight Senate seats.

Wheeler had helped defeat Roosevelt's attempt to pack the Supreme Court. He also opposed Roosevelt's policies towards Japan that included an

embargo on shipments of crude oil and steel. These embargoes were one of the main causes of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

As the 1940 presidential election approached, there was growing opposition to an unprecedented Roosevelt third term. War was raging in Europe and Asia as the Democratic and Republican national conventions approached. Senator Wheeler's picture appeared on the cover of the April 15, 1940 issue of *Time* magazine with the caption: "The Democratic Party Has a Great Future." Contingent upon Roosevelt not seeking reelection, Senator George Norris (D-NE), a leading New Deal supporter, endorsed Burton Wheeler for the Democratic presidential nomination. With Wheeler's candidacy virtually assured, Harrison again sought Cayce's assurances and advice:

“Q. Is there anyone more desirable and advisable for president of the United States than Burton Wheeler?”

“A. Of course, the most advisable would be Charles Hughes at this time; but as this is out of the question in the mind of Hughes...we find that there are few – or no other one – with the whole purpose that is in Burton Wheeler. Some may be as stepping-stones, but not as well. [Charles Hughes was the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, a former New York governor, and the anti-war Republican presidential candidate in 1916.]

“Q. Can Burton Wheeler be elected if the right plan is evolved for him?”

“A. He can. For, he is the only one that may prevent more than the regular party

candidates being in the field.

“Q. Will Franklin D. Roosevelt be nominated?”

“A. This depends upon what are the developments before the time for such nominations. Of course, such as these are as questions in the minds and activities of others, rather than such that can be foreordained, or that have been as yet determined in the minds of others.

“Q. Is it possible and advisable for Burton Wheeler to secure the Republican nomination?”

“A. Would be most advisable.

“Q. Is it possible?”

“A. It is possible.

“Q. Is it preferable to securing the Democratic nomination?”

“A. Would be preferable, under existent circumstances.

“Q. Can you give further directions for Burton Wheeler's campaign, and what part ought I to play in it?”

“A. The united effort on the part of labor and capital to center on an individual.” (1151-25)

Regardless of party label, Cayce was very obviously most concerned with a presidential candidate's personal integrity and demonstrated ability to do what is right, as well as the capacity for uniting the nation. Burton Wheeler had honed and demonstrated these qualities over several lifetimes.

The Outcome

In the summer of 1939, there was a lot of speculation about whether President Roosevelt would seek a third term. In

a private meeting, Wheeler advised Roosevelt not to run but also stated that he would support the president if he did run. Wheeler was concerned that a reactionary Republican or Democrat would be elected and would undo the New Deal. When World War II began in Europe in September, any reticence on Roosevelt's part quickly evaporated.

Wheeler's popularity among democratic officeholders remained high, with many believing he could run with Roosevelt if he wanted to do so. Wheeler appealed to and was trusted by both liberals and conservatives, labor and capital. Many believed if Roosevelt was nominated the convention would nominate Wheeler for vice president and he would accept. However, Wheeler plainly stated that since the president was going to take the country into a war that he currently opposed, he would not campaign for any office which would compromise his principles. A Wheeler-for-president Committee had been set up but when Roosevelt declared his intentions to run for a third term, Wheeler supported him and declined all offers of the vice presidency.

Roosevelt chose his Secretary of Agriculture, Henry Wallace, for vice president. Wendell Willkie, the Republican nominee, received John L. Lewis's support since Willkie was also opposed to entering the War. Roosevelt easily won a third term.

In 1944 similar circumstances led to Wheeler again being discussed for the

(Continued on page 47)

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Cayce's President, cont. from page 21

vice presidency. The field of major candidates narrowed to Burton Wheeler and Harry S. Truman, a Democratic senator from Missouri. Several other candidates were openly critical when Truman was selected, but Wheeler approved. He had supported Truman when he was first elected to the Senate in 1934 and had helped to obtain committee memberships for the freshman senator from Missouri. The rest is history.

Perhaps it all can best be summarized in Cayce's prophetic 1938 reading:

"Q. Does it look probable that Burton Wheeler will be the next president of the U.S.?"

"A. It's very probable that Burton Wheeler will be the next president if he chooses to accept." (1151-15)

Due to his refusal to compromise his principles and beliefs even to be vice president, Senator Wheeler twice chose not to accept the nomination. Wheeler proved that he would rather be true to his ideals than be the nation's president or vice president.

Epilogue

In 1946 Senator Wheeler ran for a fifth term and was defeated in the Democratic primary. Having carried every Montana city and county in two prior elections, he underestimated the scale and success of the slanderous tactics his opponents were using against him. He was accused of being unpatriotic because of his opposition to entering the war prior to the attack

on Pearl Harbor. President Truman had taken what was then the unusual step of supporting Wheeler in the primary. Even knowing of growing unrest among former supporters, he further compromised his chances by remaining in Washington, D.C. to work on legislation, instead of campaigning in Montana. He lost the primary by less than 6,000 votes. However, several months later, his "victorious" opponent, ironically named Leif Erickson, was defeated in the general election.

Wheeler joked with his family about being unemployed. They remembered how substantial losses in the 1929 stock market crash had required years of a lower standard of living in order to pay off their debts. Senators were then paid \$7,500 per year and Wheeler had told his wife and six children that he would earn a living as a senator, attorney in private practice, or a railroad worker.

After his defeat in 1946, he was offered an annual salary of \$75,000 to represent the liquor industry. When he refused, the offer was raised to \$100,000, which was also refused because his personal influence was not for sale. Wheeler instead started a law practice in Washington,

D.C. with his son Edward involving regulatory law, and began pleading cases before the Circuit Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court. In 1948 he refused a \$20,000 fee from organized labor to direct a campaign against congressional supporters of the Taft-Hartley Act. In his first 10 years of private practice, he made more money than during all of his 36 years in public life and, most important, it was for causes consistent with his values. That was paramount for Wheeler.

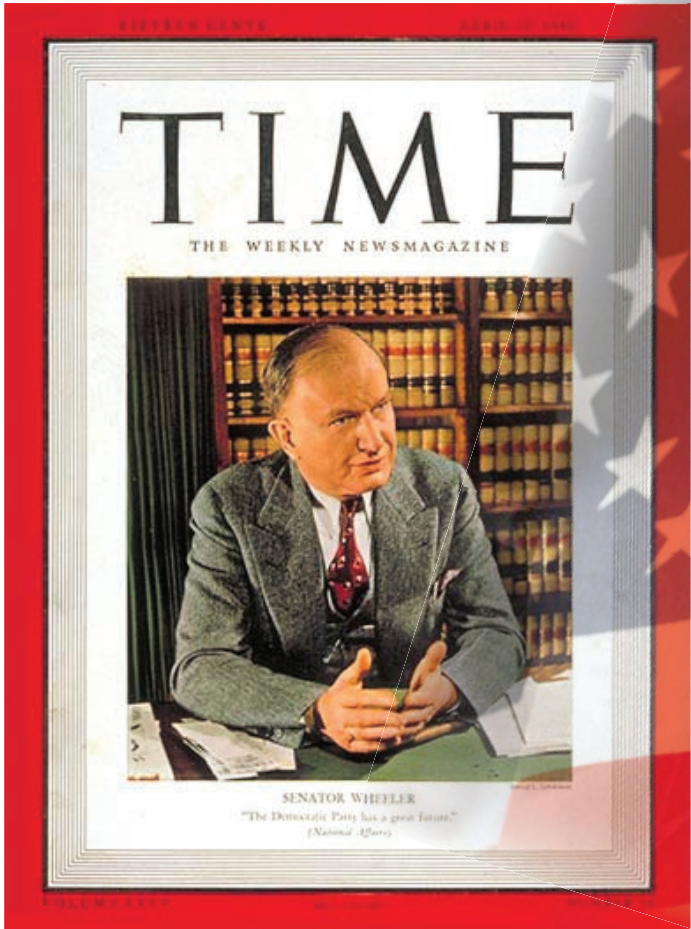
The vast majority of questions about his presidential candidacy were not asked by Wheeler, but by Milton Harrison in his own readings. We will never know if Cayce's answers might have differed in any way if Wheeler had either been present or had personally asked the questions. Wheeler's autobiography, *Yankee from the West*, written in 1962, does not mention the A.R.E., Edgar Cayce, Milton Harrison, or Harold Sherman.

Regardless of the outcome, should Burton Wheeler in a future incarnation seek a life reading that includes his 20th-century incarnation as a U.S. senator, it will again include laudatory phrases like "...because of the stand ye took then."



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

DR. STANLEY JAFFIN, an A.R.E. life member living in Maryland with his wife Ann, has interests in some of the lesser-traveled paths in the Cayce readings. Based on a long-standing study of Atlantis and extensive explorations of the Bimini area, Stan has presented his Earth changes and Atlantis findings on numerous occasions. He is currently completing a research project on the 20 Cayce readings given for eight members of his extended family.



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As the 1940 presidential election approached, there was growing opposition to an unprecedented Roosevelt third term. War was raging in Europe and Asia as the Democratic and Republican national conventions approached. Senator Wheeler's picture appeared on the cover of the April 15, 1940 issue of *Time* magazine with the caption: "The Democratic Party Has a Great Future." Contingent upon Roosevelt not seeking reelection, Senator George Norris (D-NE), a leading New Deal supporter, endorsed Burton Wheeler for the Democratic presidential nomination. With Wheeler's candidacy virtually assured, Harrison again sought Cayce's assurances and advice:

“Q. Is there anyone more desirable and advisable for president of the United States than Burton Wheeler?”

“A. Of course, the most advisable would be Charles Hughes at this time; but as this is out of the question in the mind of Hughes...we find that there are few – or no other one – with the whole purpose that is in Burton Wheeler. Some may be as stepping-stones, but not as well. [Charles Hughes was the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, a former New York governor, and the anti-war Republican presidential candidate in 1916.]

“Q. Can Burton Wheeler be elected if the right plan is evolved for him?”

“A. He can. For, he is the only one that may prevent more than the regular party

candidates being in the field.

“Q. Will Franklin D. Roosevelt be nominated?”

“A. This depends upon what are the developments before the time for such nominations. Of course, such as these are as questions in the minds and activities of others, rather than such that can be foreordained, or that have been as yet determined in the minds of others.

“Q. Is it possible and advisable for Burton Wheeler to secure the Republican nomination?”

“A. Would be most advisable.

“Q. Is it possible?”

“A. It is possible.

“Q. Is it preferable to securing the Democratic nomination?”

“A. Would be preferable, under existent circumstances.

“Q. Can you give further directions for Burton Wheeler's campaign, and what part ought I to play in it?”

“A. The united effort on the part of labor and capital to center on an individual.” (1151-25)

Regardless of party label, Cayce was very obviously most concerned with a presidential candidate's personal integrity and demonstrated ability to do what is right, as well as the capacity for uniting the nation. Burton Wheeler had honed and demonstrated these qualities over several lifetimes.

The Outcome

In the summer of 1939, there was a lot of speculation about whether President Roosevelt would seek a third term. In

a private meeting, Wheeler advised Roosevelt not to run but also stated that he would support the president if he did run. Wheeler was concerned that a reactionary Republican or Democrat would be elected and would undo the New Deal. When World War II began in Europe in September, any reticence on Roosevelt's part quickly evaporated.

Wheeler's popularity among democratic officeholders remained high, with many believing he could run with Roosevelt if he wanted to do so. Wheeler appealed to and was trusted by both liberals and conservatives, labor and capital. Many believed if Roosevelt was nominated the convention would nominate Wheeler for vice president and he would accept. However, Wheeler plainly stated that since the president was going to take the country into a war that he currently opposed, he would not campaign for any office which would compromise his principles. A Wheeler-for-president Committee had been set up but when Roosevelt declared his intentions to run for a third term, Wheeler supported him and declined all offers of the vice presidency.

Roosevelt chose his Secretary of Agriculture, Henry Wallace, for vice president. Wendell Willkie, the Republican nominee, received John L. Lewis's support since Willkie was also opposed to entering the War. Roosevelt easily won a third term.

In 1944 similar circumstances led to Wheeler again being discussed for the

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