



Madison Square Gardens became a sea of wildly waved placards as delegates showed their support for their candidates. (Photo by Doug Ashley)

Mich. Dems split again - over F3c

By TIM RICHARD

NEW YORK — The rhetoric was impressive but Michigan Democrats didn't change their minds on the so-called open convention rule.

The Carter and Kennedy camps trotted out their big guns Monday morning for the Michigan caucus. For Kennedy, the big guns were lawyer Edward Bennett Williams, who said "Keep the delegates free," and New York Gov. Hugh Carey. For Carter, the gun was HUD Secretary Moon Landrieu.

Former U.S. Rep. James O'Hara, now a Washington lawyer, also argued for the rules change. Maintaining the closed convention, O'Hara said, "would turn a convention from one in which the delegates are king and select the candidates to one in which the candidates are king and select the delegates."

O'Hara said the 1980 rule (officially, rule F3c) would allow a candidate to "pull a delegate from the floor."

But despite the rhetoric, the Carter camp in the Michigan delegation remained almost unanimously loyal as the outcome of the rules change vote paralleled the outcome of the April state party caucus, 71 for Kennedy and 70 for Carter. Kennedy forces couldn't pick up enough support among other delegations either, as the 'open convention' rule tied and F3c was affirmed by a vote of 1,936-4 to 1,390-8.

Carter delegate Stuart Hertzberg, a Bloomfield Hills lawyer, said: "The purpose of the rule (F3c) is to protect the integrity of the delegate selection process. Here we are in New York City after 19 million people have participated. And now Morley Winograd and the Kennedy people want not an 'open' convention, as the media reported, but a brokered convention."

U.S. Sen Carl Levin, who hosted a breakfast-coffee for Michigan delegates Monday morning, said, "I haven't talked to the Carter people. I purposely have avoided doing

it. But if I were a Carter delegate, I'd vote for an open convention.

"A closed convention will set a bad precedent. We'll have to fight this battle every time there's a close convention," Levin said.

Carolyn Forrest, a Kennedy Delegate from Westland, said: "Kennedy people would work for him (Carter) if it were truly the choice of the convention," Ms. Forrest is administrative assistant to Douglas Fraser, president of the United Auto Workers.

This is the first Democratic convention in recent history in which the UAW president has not been a delegate.

Suzanne Freund, a Kennedy whip from the 2nd Congressional District, was wearing a very common button depicting a robot with the insignia "F3c" on the robot's chest and a red international "Prohibited" sign across it. The message is that bound delegates are robots.

Prior to Monday's rules vote, an anonymous delegate in describing "one hell of a thunderstorm" said, "It was the wrath of God and an omen (bad said he) of things to come."

The Michigan delegation vote did not fall completely along the party caucus results; two crossover delegates each other out. Kennedy delegate Bard Young of the 15th District voted for a closed convention and Marvin Druker, a Carter delegate from Kalamazoo voted for an open convention.

The following is the text of the convention rule F3c which was passed.

"All delegates to the national convention shall be bound to vote for the presidential candidate whom they were elected to support, unless released in writing by the presidential candidate. Delegates who seek to violate this rule may be replaced with an alternate of the same presidential preference by the presidential candidate or that candidate's authorized representative(s) at any time up to and including the presidential balloting at the national convention."

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