

Area Congressmen Hit Electoral College

Two Observant congressmen this week proposed a study and possible overhaul of the Electoral College and perhaps even the national convention process of nominating candidates.

Similar newsletters were issued by Republican Marvin Esch, whose 2nd District includes Plymouth, and Democrat William D. Ford, whose 15th District includes Garden City, Westland and Canton Township.

FORD NOTED one paradox

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ESCH SAID that when Congress reconvenes in January, "I intend to introduce legislation establishing a joint House - Senate committee to study the electoral system and the proposed solutions in detail."

In the U.S. Constitution as it applied to Michigan, "This state's popular vote -- and therefore its 21 electoral votes -- went to Democrat Hubert Humphrey, but if the Electoral College had failed to give either Humphrey or Republican Richard Nixon a majority, the U.S. House of Representatives would have picked the president."

In that case, Michigan's vote would have gone to Nixon, because the majority of Michigan congressmen (12 of 19) are Republicans.

Ford also noted that his survey of 11,600 voters last year showed that 81 per cent favored direct popular election of the president and vice president; 19 per cent were opposed to a change.

Moderates Run GOP In Oakland

Moderates will be firmly in control of the Oakland County Republican Executive Committee when it meets this week to pick a successor to Chairman Joe Farnham.

Farmington members elected last week will include Mrs. Isabel Haynes, chairman of the state women's federation, and Tom McMillan, a leader in the township GOP organization.

They were among seven persons elected from the 6th State House District. Others from that district include Mrs. Watson (Clarice) Stringer, Robert DuPree and Gordon Doule, all of West Bloomfield Township, and Marvin Voight and Wayne McDonnell, both of the Southfield area.

FARNHAM, A STRONG ally of Gov. Romney in many Oakland County battles with the party's right wing, will leave soon for Europe on a project for his employer, Chrysler Corp.

Also to be elected by the county executive committee are a vice chairman, secretary and treasurer.

The executive committee, previously consisting of only 38 members, has been expanded by a legal ruling to 52 persons -- a number that many party leaders consider unwieldy.

The previous 38-member committee consisted of the 1966 candidates for four State Senate seats, 10 representative seats, and five county office posts, a total of 19, plus 19 persons elected by delegates to the county convention.

The legal ruling added the 27 candidates for the Oakland County Board of Supervisors and another 27 persons elected by the county convention. A 1964 state law provided for equal party worker representation on the executive committee, which previously had been run by the nominees for office. The new total is 92.

THE 48 PARTY member seats were apportioned among the 10 state representative districts on the basis of the lumped party vote for the five county offices in the Nov. 5 election.

The 64th District, including Farmington city and township, produced one of the biggest GOP votes, hence had one of the largest blocs of seats.

Executive committee members were nominated at district caucuses and routinely confirmed by the entire convention on Tuesday, even though one district produced what is considered an anti-Farnham slate.

Farnhamites, however, believe they will have a firm majority when the time comes to pick a new chairman, presumably sometime this week.

His resolution will ask specific ideas to be reported back to Congress by Dec. 31, 1969. "This would allow sufficient time for both houses of the Congress and two-thirds of the state legislatures to ratify a constitutional amendment abol-

ishing this out-dated process before the 1972 presidential elections."

The Ann Arbor Republican also said the joint committee would be asked to make recommendations "to bring order into our presently confused system

of primaries, party caucuses and party conventions."

FORD SAID he, too, would ask a study of the convention process.

"The two major party conventions this year indicated a need for some changes to pro-

vide more participation by more citizens in the nominating process.

"Again, I am not certain just how this can or should be accomplished, but I do think that some serious consideration and study are in order."

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