

How 2 Area Dems Won Party Compromise For A Primary

By TIM RICHARD
Two Farmington Township Democrats were architects of a compromise plan for a presidential primary and spring precinct delegate election that was endorsed last weekend by the Democratic State Central Committee.

"My personal opinion is that the party leadership is happy to see this passed," said Gerald Freedman, "but for various pressures they couldn't come out and say so."

"Allen Sipher should get the real credit," Freedman added, referring to his local colleague in the 59-58 victory.

SIPHER, 33666 Heritage Hills, Farmington, is by occupation a partner in the Al-Mar Telephone Answering Service. Politically, he is chairman of the subcommittee on the presidential primary of the Michigan Democratic Party.

Freedman, of 30178 Muirland, Farmington, is a partner in the law firm of Altman and Freedman in northwest Detroit and a member of the State Central Committee. The compromise resolution passed Saturday was dubbed the "Freedman Plan" by House Speaker William Ryan, but Freedman himself hopes his name will be dropped and that it will be an acceptable compromise to Republicans, too.

"The leadership," said Freedman, "looked like they were going just for a new election of precinct delegates. Al Sipher came over to my office last Friday, and we began working on the rough draft" of the compromise plan.

"Late Friday a few people got together in Detroit and I was up to 5:30 in the morning on it. At 6 in the morning, it was mimeographed off, and at 9:30 I was up there in East Lansing to



GERALD FREEDMAN
Man with a Plan

present it."

UNDER THE Freedman-Sipher compromise, Michigan would have a May presidential primary in which voters would directly pick up their favorite candidates.

At the same time, a new batch of precinct delegates to county conventions would be selected. They could either carry designations of their presidential preferences or run uncommitted—which Freedman called a distinct advantage over the party leadership plan.

Speaker Ryan represented the party leadership, which had been pushing for a new spring election for precinct delegates in order to let 18-year-olds into the political structure prior to the national presidential nominating conventions. The leadership

had opposed Gov. Milliken's call for a "pure" presidential primary without a new election for precinct delegates.

"The youth was for the pure primary," said Freedman, "but the resolutions committee opposed this because party rules say that you (a candidate) can't hand-pick delegates and must elect them at the local level. So that plan (in effect, Milliken's) was voted down."

THE RESOLUTIONS committee gave 6-5 support for Freedman's compromise, but Ryan offered the party leadership proposal as a substitute plan when the full State Central Committee met later in the day.

The leadership substitute was voted down and Freedman's approved by a single vote, 59-58.

Observant DSCC members voted this way on the Freedman compromise: 2nd District, unanimously in favor; 15th District, unanimously opposed; 18th District, 5-2 in favor; and 19th District, 4-2 in favor.

ONE OF THE speakers in favor of the Freedman compromise was Aldo Vagnozzi, 19th District chairman and editor of the AFL-CIO News-hence, a person involved with the labor caucus and party leadership, both of which opposed a direct primary.

"That was really something for Aldo to do. It was a brave act. It belongs in Profiles in Courage," said Freedman.

Vagnozzi recalled that a majority of 19th District delegates to a 1969 reform convention supported a presidential primary. Calling Milliken's primary plan a "sham," Vagnozzi supported the compromise because it provides for proportional representation and for wider participation in the precinct delegate election.

The youth caucus swung behind the Freedman plan, and Freedman quoted Sen. Coleman Young (D-Detroit), Democratic national committeeman, as saying he favored it and that he and Republicans would go along.

IT WAS A particularly satisfying victory for Freedman, a Farmington Township resident for 12 years who has occasionally run for office without success in this predominantly Republican suburb.

It seems that as an 18-year-old Wayne State University student, he helped found a Young Democrats Club on campus at a time when university rules didn't permit political clubs.

Today, however 18-year-olds can not only vote, but they may even get a crack at picking a political party's presidential candidate under the "Freedman Plan."

Engineering Firm Has New Prexy

Joseph J. Grum of 23580 East Newell Circle, Farmington, has been named president of Engineering Service, Inc. of America, product design and manufacturing engineering firm at 21556 Telegraph Rd., Southfield. Grum replaces Clyde T. Mooney.

Succeeding Grum as vice president is Kenneth C. Martens of 37734 Colfax, Farmington, former

secretary-treasurer. Elizabeth B. Kent has been named secretary-treasurer of the 31-year-old firm. Martens joined Engineering Service Inc. in 1941, and Grum in 1955. Grum is a manufacturing engineer by training, and Martens is a body sheet metal die and iron casting pattern design expert.



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