

GOP Looks To 'Committee' For Unity In 1968

From a Staff Correspondent
WASHINGTON — Republican party leaders today hailed their political coordinating committee as a unifying factor as they head into another election year.

The committee, melding both conservative and liberal elements, was formed to wrest national control away from Goldwater forces in 1964.

Operating like the "shadow cabinet" in Great Britain, the committee has blurred ideological differences among Republicans and allowed the party to speak with one voice during the Johnson administration.

Michigan Gov. George Romney said House Minority Leader Gerald R. Ford, charter members of the committee, joined in its praise.

"At a time when the party does not occupy the White House, the committee is an indispensable instrument," Romney said.

The task of writing a 1968 platform acceptable to all Republicans will be simplified because of policy positions taken by the committee, he declared.

Romney sought to influence GOP planks on civil rights and extrajurisdiction at the 1964 Goldwater convention. Falling at this, he divorced himself from Goldwater and was re-elected governor with a plurality of 392,000 votes while Goldwater was losing Michigan by 1,076,000 votes.

Rep. Ford said it may be necessary to change the committee format if Republicans win the presidency. But he lined up with Blais and Senate Minority Leader Everett M. Dirksen of Illinois in favor of a permanent coordinating committee.

The committee's success has been attributed to its inclusion of all the sources of power within the Republican Party. Members include former GOP presidents and presidential nominees, plus representatives of the national committee, GOP governors and Republicans in Congress.

A similar committee which Democrats organized during the Eisenhower administration was viewed with suspicion by the then Democratic leaders of the Senate and House, Lyndon B. Johnson and the late Sen. Rayburn.

The Democratic committee spoke mainly for the party's liberal wing and was severable to make its influence count with the party's more conservative leadership in Congress.

In contrast, the Republican Coordinating Committee includes as members such conservatives as Goldwater, Sen. George Murphy, R-Calif., and House GOP whip Leslie C. Arends of Illinois. Among liberals on the committee are Sen. Thomas H. Kuchel, R-Calif., Sen. Hugh Scott, R-Pa., and Gov. Nelson Rockefeller of New York.

Monday's session, the 13th since 1965, followed a self-established format.

Committee members aides started assembling at 8:15 a.m. over breakfast in the Mayflower Hotel. At 9 the committee went through closed doors to hear four tape-recorded reports.

At noon, Blais, Ford, Dirksen and Rhode Island Gov. John H. Chafee, chairman of the Republican Governors Association, held a press conference.

In the afternoon, more reports were taken up, including one by John B. Martin of the Republican Party. Members include former GOP presidents and presidential nominees, plus representatives of the national committee, GOP governors and Republicans in Congress.

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Among governors likely to seek a committee assignment are Ronald Reagan of California, Spiro T. Agnew of Maryland, Tim Babcock of Montana, James A. Rhodes of Ohio and Harold LeVander of Minnesota. Reagan, Agnew and Babcock presently are alternate representatives to the coordinating committee.

Blais told newsmen he plans to appoint the temporary platform committee for the 1968 convention within 10 days. He reportedly still opposes a GOP governors association move to have one of its members serve as platform co-chairman with Dirksen.

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Gov. Chafee contended the hearings would not duplicate the work of Blais' platform committee. "We need lots of fresh ideas," he held.

The meeting may have been the last one for Romney, although he was instrumental in creating the committee, he will have served four years at the end of 1968 and there will be pressures from other governors who want a turn.

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County Studies Student Learning

Thirty-seven Wayne County educators have begun to study "special learning disabilities" which affect an estimated 15 to 20 per cent of all school age children and severely impair their ability to function in school.

Headed by Dr. William B. Cansfield, assistant superintendent of the Nankin Mills Schools, these educators are serving with the Wayne County Study of Children With Special Learning Disabilities.

It is sponsored by the Wayne County Intermediate School District's Innovation Project, an ESSE Title III project.

Children with special learning disabilities are not "special education" children in the usual sense of the term; they do not have sensory or mental handicaps; they do not have motor disorders; they are not emotionally disturbed, nor are they culturally deprived.

THESE CHILDREN simply do not learn as adequately and as efficiently as most children. They need more "trials" than do most children and some don't seem capable of learning certain things at all.

Little is actually known about the disabilities from which these children suffer, but it is estimated that there are a minimum of 12,000 to 14,000 such children attending schools in Wayne County.

The study headed by Dr. Cansfield includes both public and non-public educators and will continue for two years. Its goals are to:

- Assemble, evaluate and disseminate research relating to learning disabilities.
- Locate and evaluate current programs and practices for children with learning disabilities.
- Encourage local public and non-public schools to establish services, practices and programs to benefit learning disabled children.

Mrs. June England of the Wayne County Intermediate School District (WCISD), is executive secretary to the study committee. Five subcommittees have been formed. These are: 1) Responsible for survey of present programs and practices; 2) Responsible for evaluation of programs, and survey of diagnostic instruments and procedures; 3) Responsible for communication and dissemination; 4) Responsible for a county descriptive study of children with special learning disabilities; 5) Responsible for a county descriptive study of children with special learning disabilities.

Dr. William Cansfield, chairman.

DR. E.J. McLENDON (WCISD), Jim Mathieson (Redford Union), Dr. Arnold R. Meier (Region 9, Detroit), Dick Merriker (WCISD), Dr. William Miller (WCISD), William Myers (Taylor), George O'Brien (Wayne), Dr. Stuart Rankin (MOREL);

Phil Robinson (River Rouge), James H. Rossmann (Plymouth), Mrs. Helen Shumate (Gibraltar), Ron Somers (Wayne), Mrs. Ruth Sprague (River Rouge), Mrs. Margaret Wareing (Taylor) and Dr. William Wattenberg (Detroit).

The study committee will communicate with the profession and with the public through mass media news releases, newsletters and conferences.

The Wayne County Intermediate School District's ASSIST Center has established a section of its Information Services to collect and disseminate information relating to special learning disabilities.

State Ready On Road Jobs

LANSING — The State Highway Commission plans to take bids in June to improve the operation of US-23 at Long Rapids Rd. and Johnson St. in Alpena. The project is part of the Commission's continuing highway safety program.

Two Farmington women who are members of the Farmington Musicale were among those attending the Michigan Federation of Music Clubs annual convention in Detroit recently.

Mrs. Edwin Savely and Mrs. George Richey represented the Farmington group at the four-day convention, which included both concerts and meetings.

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