

State Democrats Give HHH Edge

RFK Asks Michigan Meeting With Delegates; McCarthy Drive Waning

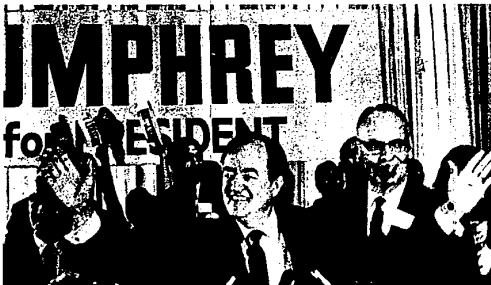
By DON HOENSCHELL

Michigan's 102-member delegation will go to the national convention heavily weighted for Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey but technically free to join a Kennedy-McCarthy breakthrough.

Backers of all three claimed varying shades of victory but an unofficial count showed:

- Humphrey -- 67.
- Kennedy -- 18.
- McCarthy -- 2.
- Uncommitted -- 15.

But party leaders and district chairmen almost unanimously sustained the fiction of impartiality, pleading for time to see whose bandwagon leaves the station first.



VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY was flanked by Secretary of State James M. Hare as he spoke to Michigan Democrats in Cobo Hall last weekend.

THE CONVENTION hotel was alive with campaigns for all three. Hospitality rooms abounded. Literature and bumper stickers flew about like confetti.

Kennedy people, headed by the Wayne County chairman of Citizens for Kennedy, William H. Merrill, said his "realistic" figures showed 52 for Kennedy, 48 for Humphrey and two for McCarthy.

Merrill said:

"Robert Kennedy wanted an uncommitted delegation, and this is what he has. We are pleased at the results of the Michigan Democratic Convention."

"Humphrey men on the scene were claiming more than 70 per cent—a fraction over 70 solid votes of the 100."

"McCarthy people were claiming a moral victory, stating the delegates apparently favored Kennedy -- but certainly not Humphrey."

THEY ALL SAID the California primary results will make a big pre-convention difference. A Big Kennedy win would change a number of minds, but few expected it.

"Party spokesmen called Detroit Mayor Jerome P. Cavanagh for publicly endorsing Kennedy. Cavanagh had made a series of radio and TV spots in favor of the Senator, the Observer learned.

"If he thinks it will influence the delegation, he's

wrong, but he may have in mind its impact on the national campaign," said one Observerland district chairman.

Atty. Gen. Frank J. Kelley, first considered a backer of Kennedy, said he is now uncommitted, but lent his support to RFK forces seeking to spread the word of non-commitment by Michigan Democrats.

"I remain uncommitted, which is the position of all members of the Democratic leadership in Michigan," he said. "I feel that the Michigan delegation remains uncommitted at this date."

"I realize there are personal preferences, but as of now, the Michigan delegation is not wrapped up for anyone."

KELLEY, REMINDED that he took part in Kennedy campaign affairs at the convention, said he went to events sponsored for the others.

"McCarthy's people in Detroit said they will later go into detail on the 'violations of statutes and normally accepted procedures used against McCarthy delegates and the younger Democrats desiring to join and work within the Democratic party."

Presumably, this would include the 6th and 12th Districts credentials fights, which were highlighted by ruckuses which brought the police.

The newly-formed Black Caucus pressured for and received 20 black delegates to Chicago, double the number of 1964.

For the first time in many years, former Gov. G. Mennen Williams, now ambassador to the Philippines, and UAW President Walter R. Reuther were left off the at-large delegate roster.

Former State Chairman Zoltan Ferency, who sparring the Sixth District revolt on the floor and is a cheerleader for the Michigan Conference of Concerned Democrats, will be an alternate.

The Black Caucus got three at-large seats in a list heavily sprinkled with UAW and AFL-CIO people.

THE MAIN CREDENTIALS fights took place in Cobo Hall at the district conventions Saturday night.

The Sixth District—Ingham, Jackson and Shawassee counties—had the biggest Kennedy-Humphrey-McCarthy fight and took a two-caucus, two delegation fight to the state convention.

THE ONLY CANDIDATE to make the scene was Humphrey, bubbling and confident during a one-hour speech following a Saturday morning brunch in Cobo Hall.

"My credentials for liberalism are not a short and frenzied burst of emotion, but a steady dedication of a lifetime,"

Harold Julian of Farmington, all alternates.

EACH CONGRESSIONAL district sends four delegates and four alternates, for a total of 76 of each. Twenty six other persons represent the state at large.

The 102 delegates will split 94 votes among them. National Committeeman Nell Staebler and National Committeewoman Mildred Jeffries have a full vote each. The other 100 have 94/100ths of a vote each.

he told the 2,000 brunchers.

"We are not sunshine patriots. We've been there when the going was rough."

Humphrey cited his record in the Senate and as vice president on civil rights, reapportionment, education and health. He said he would as president "broaden" the goals of the Kennedy and Johnson administrations.

HE SAID HE WOULD expand medical care for children, Head Start programs, job finding and job training programs and "the search for peace at home and abroad."

"If you help me, I'll see to it that we win this election, because we can beat these Republicans," he said.

Humphrey's spear carriers at the caucus and corridor-huddle level were former Postmaster General John Gronquist and Adlai Stevenson III.

They formed a Congressional group for Humphrey which included Reps. Martha Griffiths, James O'Hare, John Dingell and others.

KENNEDY SENT his brother, Senator Edward Kennedy, of Massachusetts, as his trouble-shooter to Michigan. He visited the caucuses and conventions, spoke at a reception for entertainers and sports stars, and paused for quick interviews in the corridors.

His main points were to ask Michigan Democrats to hold an open convention and send an uncommitted delegation to Chicago. Delegates listened politely and mounded a delegation to give their own preference.

The younger Kennedy also asked Michigan to allow Robert Kennedy to come to Michigan before the National Convention to meet with the delegates.

The same courtesy accorded the vice president."

OF THE OREGON defeat, Kennedy said that 85 per cent of the voters there (for Kennedy and McCarthy) wanted to change administrative policies, to which Humphrey earlier irrevocably pledged himself.

Kennedy said Michigan shares with Ohio, Pennsylvania, Illinois and a handful of others the designation of key states for all candidates.

"There's no doubt there's an effort to stop Robert Kennedy," Edward Kennedy said. "It was started over two weeks ago and it has been evident since that time."



SENATOR TED KENNEDY held impromptu press conferences as he visited local Democratic delegations seeking support for the presidential aspirations of his brother, Robert.

Black Caucus Wins Bigger Batch Of Votes

Michigan Democrats will send 20 black delegates to the Aug. 26 National Convention in Chicago to give Negroes a voice in the solution of the race crisis in the cities.

The move came in a carefully-prepared pressure move which took form as the Black Caucus at the state convention in Detroit.

State Rep. David S. Holmes led the campaign and worked out the proportion in the traditional Midnight Caucus of party leaders Saturday night.

"I think the fact that the state officials were ready to meet the black problem with black people had a great deal to do with it," Holmes said.

A BREAKDOWN of the black delegates shows eight from Detroit, four from the districts, two from labor, one party official (Vice Chairman Kenneth T. Hylton), two congressmen and three from the Black Caucus.

The move doubled the number of black delegates Democrats took to the last national convention in 1964. The at-large delegation was used to arrive at the figure for 1968.

They include U.S. Reps. Charles C. Diggs and John Conyers; Nelson Jack Edwards, Tom Turner and Black Caucus Members Vera Griffith, Albert Wheeler and Holmes in addition to Hylton.

Alternates black at-large delegates are Reps. Daisy Elliot and Ray Hood and Lansing Councilman Joel Ferguson.

HOLMES SAID the Black Caucus is shooting for four members of the Democratic National Committee to provide a minority voice in a nation shaken by civil unrest.

"We want them there to provide the Democratic party with some dialogue. They would be four black people, two male and two female, to help solve the nation's gravest problem, racism."

He said the spread of riots and burnings has just started in the cities and that white-oriented attempts to solve the problem have been fruitless.

"This, I think, is even more essential in the next four years," Holmes said. "The cities are either going to be totally destroyed or totally rebuilt."

"The president of the United States has to be made fully aware of this."

He said previous attempts, by whites to establish a dialogue with blacks have failed "and where they think they have a dialogue, they don't."

Local Delegates Analyzed Suburbs Lean To HHH

Democratic National Convention delegates from five congressional districts, elected at last weekend's state convention in Detroit, are leaning heavily to Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey.

The margin is about 11 to 1, according to the best information available.

ALL FOUR delegates from the 15th District (which includes Garden City and Westland) and all four from the 19th (which includes Redford, Livonia and Farmington) are either known or reliably suspected to be leaning to the Humphrey cause.

Three of the four 2nd District delegates are Humphrey men, and one, from Ann Arbor, favors Sen. Eugene McCarthy.

In many cases, the delegates didn't declare themselves. The conclusion that they're Humphrey backers is based on the fact that most state convention delegates at district caucuses

who know them considered them as such.

EIGHT OBSERVERLAND residents will be either delegates or alternates at the national convention, which opens in Chicago Aug. 26.

None was elected at-large, although 19th Congressional District leaders wanted to push former Rep. Billie S. Farnum for a statewide post.

Farnum, however, renounced any ambition to be part of the delegation on the ground that his job as deputy national chairman in charge of voter registration programs requires his neutrality between the presidential hopefuls.

THE EIGHT LOCAL persons in the Michigan delegation will include:

Robert Dwyer, Plymouth secretary of state branch office manager, an alternate from the 2nd District.

Thomas Brown, mayor of Westland, delegate from the 15th District.

Aldo Vagozzini of Farmington and Jerry Raymond, Livonia city councilman, both delegates from the 19th District. Vagozzini is editor of the Michigan AFL-CIO News and district chairman. Raymond is an attorney and chairman of the Wayne County portion of the 19th.

Glen Hartsell of Redford, Charles Deamus of Redford, Paul Kadish of Livonia, and

Harold Julian of Farmington, all alternates.

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House OKs Study Of Juvenile Center

State Rep. Vincent Pettipren (D-Westland) says he has succeeded in amending an appropriation bill to get preliminary studies and planning of a new regional juvenile detention facility in Wayne County.

The amendment was adopted on a voice vote without dissent. It goes now to the senate.

"We have all known for some time," Rep. Pettipren said, "that the current facility was

terribly over-crowded and that something had to be done if we were to provide the county with adequate detention and rehabilitation facilities. This is the first step in the long process which I hope will lead to the construction of a new juvenile center."

"The facility operated last year with an average daily population of 308 with bed space for only 215."

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