

# Fight for No. 3 spot sparks GOP convention

By SUSAN L. SILK  
DETROIT — Only a surprise floor fight for the attorney general spot on the Republican ticket saved the party's state convention from being routine last weekend.

Gov. William G. Milliken's choice for the third place on his 1974 reelection ticket, black attorney Myron ("Mike") Wahls, 42, of Detroit, succeeded in winning that candidacy. But for a brief, tense time doubts prevailed.

Into the early morning hours Saturday, Wahls met with delegations from all over the state. At convention time most expected his selection to be orderly.

UNEXPECTED, however, was the growing drive of conservative Republicans to place the name of Grosse Pointe attorney Richard Durant on the Nov. 5 ballot.

Milliken's staff, Wahls and his supporters worked frantically most of Saturday quelling rumors circulating about their liberal candidate.

In nominating Durant, Mrs. Alice Schoenholtz, mayor pro tem of

Royal Oak and 18th District conservative leader, charged that the party did not want a candidate "haunting membership in a separatist group."

The reference was to a ring worn on Wahls' small finger of the left hand, bearing the symbol of the Republic of New Africa (RNA), a black separatist organization seeking to establish an independent nation in the southern United States.

Wahls explained to approximately 2,000 convention delegates that he had received the red, black and green-colored ring as a Christmas gift from his mother.

"If Dick Durant has any reputation it is that he steps on toes and he stamps on them," Durant told the audience during a two minute speech. About half the crowd were on their feet after the rostrum-pounding remarks.

"I'M A BLACK man," an exhausted Wahls told the same, overwhelmingly white gathering. "You're a white man."

"But we all care about drugs, we all care about crime, we all care

about the safety of our wives and children," Wahls said, denying that he would be a "token black or Republican."

Even louder cheers and applause greeted Wahls.

Before the vote totals could be announced (1,372 for Wahls, 460 for Durant), Durant rushed to the stage to suggest that the nomination of Wahls be made unanimous.

AS THE convention ended Saturday evening the 1974 slate included:

- Incumbent Gov. Milliken and his running mate, James Damman of Troy for lieutenant governor;
- Myron Wahls for the attorney general position;
- Former State Sen. N. Loraine Beebe of Dearborn, unopposed for the party's secretary of state candidacy;
- Incumbent Justice John Fitzgerald and Circuit Judge Allan Miller of East Tawas were nominated without debate to run for two seats on the Michigan State Supreme Court;
- Incumbent James O'Neil of Livonia and Florence "Jo" Saltzman of Franklin were nominated for the State Board of Education;
- GOP nominees for the Michigan State University Board of Trustees were incumbents Frank Merriman of Deckerville and Ken Thompson of East Lansing.



Typically inattentive convention delegates could be spotted throughout Cobo Hall turning their attention from convention issues and debate to morning newspapers, chatting with friends and renewing acquaintances.

## Costs low in primary

Anyone looking for a Watergate-type election scandal in the 14th county convention district can go home early.

The Aug. 6 primary cost a grand total of \$17, all of it spent by Democratic challenger Richard Snood. Incumbent Commissioner Henry Hoot (R-Troy) didn't spend a dime in winning the GOP nomination.

their party's nominations. Although Snood, a member of the Troy Board of Education for nine years in the 1960s, spent \$17, he did not itemize his costs. Election expenses of less than \$100 need not be detailed in campaign reports.

The 14th district covers the eastern third of Bloomfield Township and the northern two-thirds of Troy. Hoot was elected to the seat in 1972.

## Equipment bid accepted

BLOOMFIELD HILLS — Bids were awarded by the Bloomfield Hills Board of Education for science equipment and science and athletic facilities at Andover High School.

Work is expected to begin immediately and will be completed next spring, according to Dr. Fred D. Thorin, superintendent.

K. Pemberton Construction Co. was awarded its low bid of \$520,980 for additions to and alteration of existing science space and stor-

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