

# 19th Dems Back Presidential Primary

By DENNIS FAJOT

By a 41 to 13 vote, 19th District Democrats approved support for a statewide presidential primary Friday in district special convention at Eagle School in West Bloomfield.

The vote didn't, however, endorse any particular primary plan. A later 30 to 18 vote backed the presidential primary proposal of the majority of a Democratic Reform Commission with amendments offered by a district study committee.

The amended commission version calls for a public ballot to select national convention delegates chosen by the state party to represent presidential candidates.

The original commission proposal would allow the candidates to select their own delegates in the state.

ALAN SULTAN of Farmington Township, a U-D law professor who served on the reform commission, urged district endorsement of the amendment.

He said early criticism convinced him the original version cannot be approved at the state convention, due to worry that party strength would be weakened by allowing the candidates to dictate national convention stances on more than just nominations.

Sultan chaired the district study committee that drafted the amendment.

It helped the reform commission primary proposal pick up support from New Coalition Democrats, (NCD) who dominated the convention.

SULTAN, WHO has often linked himself with this group, thereby avoided an open fight on the primary issue.

The NDC is currently attempting to gather 200,000 signatures on a petition to force legislative action, or a referendum vote, to inaugurate a different primary plan in Michigan. Reports are that 60,000 signatures have been secured thus far.

Petition backers have expressed fears that reform commission primary proposal may dilute support for their plan, which is aimed at ratification in time for the 1972 elections.

OF THE 13 VOTES against 19th district support of a primary of any kind were those of Livonia's Sid Diamond and Nick Iatrow and Redfordites Charles Deamud and William C. Ford, all party "regulars."

The vote, however, was merely a showing of strength within the 19th district and didn't defeat the commission proposal as written.

Final action must await the Jan. 17-18 Democratic state convention.

At that time, the party will decide whether to adopt numerous reform commission proposals as party policy and whether to seek legislation for changes of law suggested by the commission.

## Regional Affairs



**EARLY CHRISTMAS** — As the finale to a "Project Joey's" toy drive for underprivileged and orphaned children, Wonderland Center, Plymouth at Middlebell in Livonia, invited Rene, 9, and Darryl, 5, to pick out toys from among those donated by the community. The toys were stored in a building after an overwhelming two-month response. The U.S. Marine Reserve will be distributing them in Detroit and surrounding communities. The council also contributed gifts to the youngsters. (Observer photo by Vince Wittek)

## How Hart, Griffin Split On Taxes

Michigan Senator Philip A. Hart (D) voted for final passage of the much-extended federal tax reform bill last week.

Sen. Robert Griffin (R) voted against it.

Both had taken pro and con stances on various proposals to modify the original House bill, some of which were added to the final measure.

- A 15 PER CENT increase in social security benefits and a \$200 increase in personal income tax exemptions, both proposed by Democrats, were contained in the final version. Hart voted for both, Griffin against.
- An alternate Republican-sponsored amendment to spread the exemption increase over four years, rather than two as approved, was defeated. Hart voted for it, Griffin against.
- Indeed, Hart and Griffin were opposed on 13 significant amendments as well as the final document.
- HART CAME through with the majority more often than Griffin voting for measures that were approved six times to Griffin's once. The Senate failed to adopt three measures Hart supported and three Griffin supported, in the loss column.
- In addition to the social security hike and the personal exemption amendments, Michigan's senators lined up as follows:
  - Tax credits to parents of
- college students—passed with Hart for and Griffin against.
- A 7% tax credit on investments for business earnings under \$20,000 a year—passed with Hart for and Griffin against.
- Real estate industry exemption replacement—passed with Griffin for and Hart against.
- Reopening oil industry depletion allowance—defeated with Griffin for and Hart against.
- Permission for single persons to pay taxes at the same rate as married couples filing jointly—defeated with Hart for and Griffin against.
- Hart amendment to cut anti-trust violation damage payments by one-third—defeated with Hart for and Griffin against.
- Closing of a gas pipeline company loophole—defeated with Hart for and Griffin against.
- Stoppage of use of union and other organizations dues for political purposes—defeated with Griffin for and Hart against.
- Permission for foundations to grant tax deductible funds for voter education and registration purposes—passed with Hart for and Griffin against.

**WHETHER DEMOCRAT** Hart or Republican Griffin will win in the long run depends on two things:

- First, a House-Senate joint



SEN. ROBERT P. GRIFFIN



SEN. PHILIP A. HART

## After Token Challenge, Aldo's Rule Is Smooth

After an early but apparently unorganized challenge, Aldo Vagnozzi, 19th District Democratic party chairman from Farmington, won election as district convention chairman Friday.

Harmony prevailed thereafter in the seating of a unified Wayne-Oakland convention slate.

Vagnozzi received 12 votes for the chairmanship to four for Ernie Seay of Pontiac, who is considered an Oakland supporter of Wayne-19th Chairman Ron Mardros of Livonia. Seay himself voted for Vagnozzi. Nomination of Seay came from Dan Doyle of Livonia before Mardros and most of the Wayne delegation arrived.

"I THINK IT was just a spur-of-the-moment thing, I didn't put too much significance on it," said Vagnozzi of the Seay nomination.

Seay had been backed by the Mardros group when he ran against Vagnozzi for the permanent district chairmanship at last February's state convention. Vagnozzi won easily, 71-43.

After assuming the chair from temporary chairman George Gogolian, Oakland County Democratic chairman, Vagnozzi put forth a slate of convention officers representing both counties. The slate gained unanimous approval.

Mardros thus became convention vice chairman, and Mardros' recent rival Owen Cummings of Redford became convention secretary.

Redfordite Joseph Patchett, treasurer under Mardros, and long-time Mardros supporter, was named to the credentials committee for the upcoming state convention.

Billie S. Farnum of Drayton Plains, former district congressman, was named to state convention rules committee.

To the state convention committee on the political reform commission proposals was appointed Mrs. Geraldine McNabb of Orchard Lake.

Alternates were named to this committee that will be meeting several times to screen amendments to the reform proposals for which the state convention was called.

They were Alan Sultan of Farmington, George Smith of Pontiac and Willie Brown of Redford, any one to sit in for Mrs. McNabb if she should be absent.

MRS. McNABB is the first choice of New Democratic Coalition Democrats to run against incumbent Republican Rick McDaniel for the congressional seat next year. She served on the 102-member Democratic Political Reform Commission that drafted the proposals on which the state convention is meeting.

The other pre-convention appointments also represent 19th district support of New Democratic Coalition elements.

Patchett is considered an independent but is close to NDC ally Mardros. Seay, Smith, and Mrs. Brown are members of the NDC.

Only Farnum has yet to be closely knitted to NDC.

## 19th - Dems Endorse Lucas

The Wayne 19th District Democratic party executive committee is supporting under sheriff William Lucas to succeed Roman S. Gribbs as sheriff when Gribbs becomes Detroit mayor Jan. 1.

Seay, a black, and Patchett were appointed by Vagnozzi to select a youth piece to serve as state convention pages.

Vagnozzi announced the convention schedule, in which the main events will be held at the Detroit Masonic Temple the afternoons of Jan. 17 and 18.

IN A SPEECH praising district unity, urging Democratic victories at the polls and open-mindedness at the state convention, Vagnozzi said directives of the State Central Committee had been 100% implemented.

In this he referred to State Central requirements for recognition of the Wayne 19th organization, of which Mardros won leadership in January of 1969.

Vagnozzi explained that the Wayne executive board committee had been expanded from 31 to 42 members with the

slating of 11 persons nominated by Mardros opponents, including endorsed Owen Cummings of Redford as a vice chairman. Cummings had opposed Mardros for the Wayne 19th chairmanship in January.

The Wayne members appointed during the convention Friday by Vagnozzi had been the choices of this new integrated Wayne 19th executive committee, said Vagnozzi.

WITH THIS BACKDROP and use of the "open delegation" rule by both the Wayne and Oakland portions of the 19th, a repeat of the spring state convention credentials battle seems unlikely.

In the inevitable rally call, Vagnozzi labeled Republican U.S. Rep. Jack McDonald "a member of Nixon's silent majority" and the Republican 14th District State Senate incumbent as "nolsy George Kuhn."

He said that McDonald has not sponsored "one piece" of major legislation all by himself in three years as 19th District congressman, nor pushed "one piece" of social legislation.

About Kuhn he said, "I've recommended the most resolutions with the least contribution to the state's well being," his latest being a questioning of the record of Detroit Recorder's Court Judge George Crockett."

"IMMEDIATE CHALLENGE for the party," however, according to Vagnozzi, is the political reform principles to be discussed in the Jan. 17-18 special state convention.

"The Democratic party of Michigan is the only party of modern times to take a probing look at itself," he said.

"I hope we will all approach the convention with an open mind that change is needed, but without a feeling that we need to accept every word of the Haber Commission report.

"Let us resolve all our factions... and leave the Democratic party a better organization," said Vagnozzi.

State Senator Coleman Young of Detroit failed to make his scheduled address to the district convention, being called to another meeting the same night in Battle Creek.



DONALD YERKS Washington Board

## Student Wins Trip To Capital

Donald Yerks, 17, son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald E. Yerks, 9624 Roseland, Livonia, will attend a President's Classroom week-long government class in Washington, D.C.

He will be sponsored by the 19th Congressional District Democratic Party.

To qualify, Yerks won an essay contest among students of Livonia Franklin High school and rated highest in interviews by a student-faculty board.

Yerks' essay made the point that "I could represent young people who had a plan as well as criticism."

## 99,000 Deer Is Estimated 1969 State Take

LANSING Michigan's 1969 firearm deer harvest has been gauged at 99,000 animals, closely comparable to last year's kill, under a preliminary estimate made by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

In 1968, sportsmen took 101,540 whitetails from Michigan's fields and forests.

This season's preliminary deer kill figure is based on traffic counts tallied by the DNR along major north and southbound highways. The department will make a final estimate on the season's harvest next spring when it finishes a study of returns from the annual postcard survey of licensed deer hunters.

Under results of the traffic survey, which will hold up until than as the most accurate information on hand, the DNR estimates that Michigan hunters this season harvested 63,500 bucks and 35,000 antlerless deer.

That compares with 64,230 bucks and 37,290 antlerless deer taken in this state last fall.

A BREAKDOWN of this season's totals points to a kill of 14,000 bucks and 9,000 antlerless animals in the Upper Peninsula. That region's buck take held up well with the 1968 figure of 14,830, while its antlerless deer harvest dropped from the year-ago level of 11,890.

The decline reflects the size cut made by the DNR in this season's antlerless deer kill quota for the Upper Peninsula to allow for last winter's whitetail losses in various areas above the Straits.



ALDO VAGNOZZI

## All Agree

## Reps Vote Hike In Cigaret Tax

LANSING All six state representatives serving Observersland communities voted in favor of a four-cent per pack hike in the cigarette tax when that portion of Gov. Milliken's education reform package came to a House vote last week.

They helped provide the 65 to 34 decision toward implementing this important funding measure of the proposals.

THUS CASTING a rare unanimous vote for northwestern Wayne County suburban residents were:

- Rep. John Bennett (D-34th District), Redford Township.
- Rep. Marvin Stempien (D-35th District), Livonia and Northville.
- Rep. James Tierney (D-36th District), Garden City part of Westland, City of Plymouth, Plymouth and Canton Township.
- Rep. Vincent Petlipren (D-37th District), part of Westland and Wayne.
- Rep. Raymond Baker (R-64th District), Farmington and part of West Bloomfield.

gain concurrence of the Senate, which has been considering Milliken's proposed five-cent-a-pack increase.

A four-cent hike will place the total tax at 11 cents a pack and add about \$38 million to state revenues. It would go into effect March 1.

This measure, along with other measures, including a proposed increase in state income taxes, would be put toward the estimated \$150 million to \$200 million cost of the proposed 1970-71 state school aid payments.

The House approved a three-cent-a-pack cigarette tax increase in 1967, only to have the Senate kill it while approving the fiscal reform inauguration of the state income tax.

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**CIRCULATION DATA**

NEWSPAPER	Current Press Run	Certified Audit Circulation as of 9-30-68
The Livonia Observer	29,500	28,094
The Redford Observer	20,750	20,351
The Farmington Enterprise	15,000	14,139
St. Joseph Mail & Observer	9,000	8,917
The Westland Observer (WFO, only)	16,000	9,898
The Garden City Observer (GCO, only)	11,000	11,823
<b>Total Wednesday</b>	<b>105,250</b>	<b>92,188</b>
<b>Total Sunday</b>	<b>75,000</b>	<b>71,500</b>

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