

Regional Affairs



HOLDING A POST-MORTEM after the convention were (from left) State Sen. Sander Levin, Reform Commission Chairman William Haber and Democratic State Chairman James McNeely. They were disappointed that the presidential primary proposal lost but generally happy with the party's decision to "widen its tent to bring in more people," as Haber put it.

(Observer photo)

Dems To Benefit By Vote Reforms

By TIM RICHARD

Local party leaders generally agreed that the party would benefit from the proposed reforms. They said the reforms would make it easier for many auto workers, some of whom move back and forth between northern and southern states during economic cycles, to vote in any election for two years.

Reform Commission Chairman William Haber said voters with Democratic leanings are more mobile than Republicans and that the reforms are aimed at the needs of a mobile population. He said the reforms would make it easier for many auto workers, some of whom move back and forth between northern and southern states during economic cycles, to vote in any election for two years.

Reform Commission Chairman William Haber said voters with Democratic leanings are more mobile than Republicans and that the reforms are aimed at the needs of a mobile population. He said the reforms would make it easier for many auto workers, some of whom move back and forth between northern and southern states during economic cycles, to vote in any election for two years.

Local party leaders generally agreed that the party would benefit from the proposed reforms. They said the reforms would make it easier for many auto workers, some of whom move back and forth between northern and southern states during economic cycles, to vote in any election for two years.

Reform Commission Chairman William Haber said voters with Democratic leanings are more mobile than Republicans and that the reforms are aimed at the needs of a mobile population. He said the reforms would make it easier for many auto workers, some of whom move back and forth between northern and southern states during economic cycles, to vote in any election for two years.

Reform Commission Chairman William Haber said voters with Democratic leanings are more mobile than Republicans and that the reforms are aimed at the needs of a mobile population. He said the reforms would make it easier for many auto workers, some of whom move back and forth between northern and southern states during economic cycles, to vote in any election for two years.

How Area Democrats Split On Presidential Primary

By DENNIS PAJOT

On the key vote of the Democratic Party Political Reform Convention last weekend, the three congressional district delegations represented in Observerland varied their votes. When a compromise plan embodying features of a presidential primary and a reformed convention was proposed, the districts represented the opposing viewpoints and the middle road.

HERE IS HOW area delegations voted on the compromise proposal for a presidential primary:

- 15th District 49-12 for, 58-1 opposed. The Wayne County portion (Plymouth and Northville) favored it 5-1, despite the opposition of District Chairman Robert Dwyer. Ann Arbor area delegates gave it strong support.
- 18th District - 16 yes, 117 no. This labor-oriented district includes Garden City, Westland and Canton Township.
- 19th District - 65 for, 84 opposed. The Wayne County portion went 34-18 in favor.

The Oakland County portion voted 31 yes, 46 no.

- ON THE REFORMED convention proposal, Observerland delegates voted 5-25 for, 3 against. Thus, 11 votes shifted between the rallies.
- 19th District - 34 in favor, 75 against. Wayne delegates gave it only one vote, 39 opposed, but Oakland was in favor 41 to 36.

THE 19TH HAD heavily liberal delegates in the suburban Wayne County communities of Thomas and Royal Oak led by Wayne 19th District Chairman Ron Marderos. It also had many pro-labor

delegates in the Oakland County portion around Pontiac led by total-19th District Chairman Aldo Vagnozzi.

The liberals in the 15th were further divided between those seeking a pure primary and those willing to accept the compromise. Many Pontiac area blacks distrusted the primary proposal particularly after the "black caucus" voted against it.

THE 18TH DISTRICT contained only two avowed members of the New Democratic Coalition, which was the primary rallying force for a compromise. District leader was District Chairman John Canfield, Dearborn Heights mayor who was

opposed to the convention in the first place and did everything he could to make that fact known on and off the convention floor.

The 2nd District is comprised of five different counties reflecting city, suburban and rural parts of the state mostly just beyond the major Detroit suburbs.

District Chairman Robert Dwyer of Plymouth had the helm. He is a Secretary of State's office branch manager and as such was committed to oppose a primary.

Meanwhile, Ann Arbor area delegates, reflecting that city's liberal clamoring for a voice in politics, cast the predominant bloc of votes in the other direction.

What The Fight Was All About

Here are the three major methods of selecting national convention delegates that the Democratic state convention on political reform discussed last weekend.

1) PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY as proposed by the Haber Commission - the numbers of delegates supporting various presidential hopefuls would be set in proportion to the votes in a primary election, with the individual delegates selected by the candidates themselves or their representatives. Never came to a vote.

2) PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY compromise (also known as the Millender compromise) - the numbers of delegates supporting candidates would be set in proportion to their votes in a primary election, but the selection of the actual delegates would be done by adherents of each candidate at the regular party district caucuses. Defeated, 1013 to 1,280.

3) REFORMED CONVENTION procedure - precinct delegates who elect delegates to the state convention, who in turn select the delegates to the national convention, would be elected in the presidential election year instead of two years previously. Approved, 1,235 to 1014.

Petition Talk Is Revived By Primary Backer

By DENNIS PAJOT

John Reed Koza, of Redford, liberal Democrat who has been seeking a presidential primary for Michigan, called the party reform convention emphasis on that issue "phony." He said he believed the Haber Commission of the party, which led to the convention, served to defeat a petition drive that sought to put the question of a primary on the ballot.



JOHN KOZA Wants Changes

Koza, a member of the New Democratic Coalition, was the writer of the petition. He had previously drafted a presidential primary proposal which was presented to the state Legislature.

He asked the NDC caucus to commit itself, instead, to a petition campaign for a pure primary after the convention. His warning proved correct. The next afternoon, the presidential primary proposal was beaten, largely through the efforts of the union and black caucuses.

THE HABER Commission sought to have the party, instead, take the lead on determining its support or non-support of a presidential primary.

"It's phony to begin with," Koza told Observer Newspapers, "because the party is in the position of asking the union to give up its own power. If I don't think a regular party convention is the place to bring it up."

"It's an impressive show of the party's ability to control the political environment," Koza warned a Saturday night caucus of about 250 of the state NDC adherents to give up efforts to forge political strength by joining black liberals in a compromise primary proposal.

"There aren't enough delegates here to pass either the pure primary or a compromise. Every organization with power is against it, for good reasons."

Liberals split on the question of a pure primary or a compromise primary. The latter, though, was the conservatives win decisively in the end.

Convention Idea 'Wrong'—Canfield

By LEONARD POGER

DETROIT The 15th Congressional District of the Democratic Party shed no tears at the funeral of a proposed presidential primary plan to replace the current convention method of picking presidential candidates.

The 15th District, led by Chairman John Canfield of Dearborn Heights, voted overwhelmingly to reject any move to have a state-wide presidential primary.

The district includes Garden City, Westland and Canton Township. In a vote for accepting a proposal for a reformed convention system, the 15th District favored that plan by a 128-5 margin, providing one-third of the plan's final margin of victory at the state convention.

A COMPROMISE plan to adopt a state-wide presidential primary with a revised convention operations was rejected by the 15th District by a 117-16 margin. The convention delegates defeated the compromise plan by a much closer margin of 129-101.

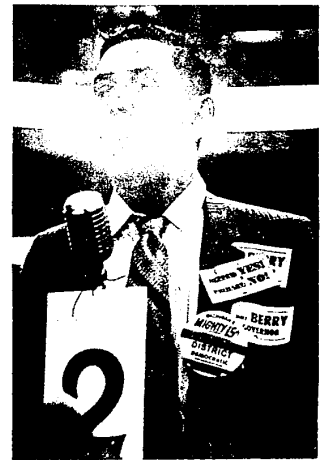
Only 30 to 35 district delegates attended each of the weekend sessions, but the voting results were projected to reflect the full 133-delegate strength.

The results of the 15th's feelings toward Democratic Party reform came as no surprise.

CANFIELD AND HIS supporters made it clear at a district convention in December that they were not reform-minded and that they did not want to lose any control over local delegates sent to state or national conventions to nominate presidential candidates.

Canfield, Dearborn Heights mayor and district chairman since its formation in 1964, reiterated his feelings toward the reform and the reform convention itself during an interview in his Detroit Hilton Hotel suite.

The chairman has stated repeatedly that he doesn't feel that the Democratic Party should hold a state convention at this time or the year when it should be devoting its time



JOHN CANFIELD, the 15th District statesman, was opposed to holding of the Haber Commission reforms and even to holding a special Democratic state convention to discuss them.

(Observer photo)

energies and monies to winning state elections this fall.

THE TIMING of the convention held last weekend "is all wrong," Canfield pointed out. "It should have been held after the November 1970 elections."

Another gripe of Canfield about the convention is that he never received a complete report of the Haber Commission which recommended the presidential primary although he was a member of the commission.

The commission was chaired by Dean William Haber of the University of Michigan. "There are some parts of the commission report I have and other parts I don't have," he said. "This is a policy-making convention, and we should

have had more time to debate the issues."

CANFIELD SAID that a presidential primary would do away with the political party structure with which he is concerned.

He pointed out that a candidate nominated in a state-wide presidential primary could lose in the general election "if he is not supported by Democratic voters."

He also commented that the local party workers, "the vineyard workers," work hard in non-presidential year elections and should be recognized at conventions.

Canfield also said that he is opposed to having the precinct delegates elected at a special vote in the spring or summer of each presidential year because of the cost of the special election.

THE HARRIS BROADCASTER

FASHIONS IN FLARE **SUPPORT**

Friday, January 30 - 7-30 p.m.

St. David's Episcopal Church

27500 Marquette

Tickets: Call Helen Blawett - 427-3744

Donation: \$1.75

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD BANQUET

Speaker: Attorney General Frank Kelley

January 22, 1970 - 6-30 p.m.

Wayne-Ford Civic League Hall

1661 Wayne Road

Tickets: Mr. Lance Johnson - 728-0169

Donation: \$3.75

SCHOOL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

January 28 - 10 a.m.

St. Matthews

United Methodist Church

30900 Six Mile Road - Livonia

Speaker: Mrs. Roselynn Yergan

Coordinator of School Volunteers, City of Detroit

Free

OBSERVER NEWSPAPERS, INC.

Your Hometown Newspapers

NEWSPAPER	Current Print Run	Certified Audit Circ. Audited Circulation
The Livonia Observer	29,500	25,294
The Dearborn Observer	20,700	20,351
The Farmington Enterprise & Observer	15,400	14,136
The Plymouth Mail & Observer	9,700	8,887
The Westland Observer (Wed. only)	18,000	8,889
The Garden City Observer (Wed. only)	11,400	11,842
Total	108,200	92,189
Total Sunday	78,800	71,669
Fred Wright, Circulation Director	261-3800	

Fred J. Levina, Advertising Director

Art Long
Classified Advertising Manager
422-9900

Retail Advertising
422-3175

What Local Democrats Did On Haber Group

Six persons from the Observerland political scene served on the Haber Political Reform Commission that proposed the reforms considered this past weekend by the state Democratic Party in convention.

Observer Newspapers interviewed the five that attended the convention.

SPEAKING JUST as the convention adopted a reform convention procedure and decided its highlights, one member, former Congressman Bill S. Farnum of the 15th District, said:

"We had a good spirited debate. This was the reason for the convention. The Haber Commission was printed. I wasn't in either the majority or minority report on the national election delegate selection reform question."

"With a primary, a person doesn't have to go through all the machinations of a convention to have a voice."

"But I don't see a primary as the end-all of reform in Michigan politics."

After a compromise plan had failed, she said that a reformed convention passes. "I'll be very disappointed."

MAYOR JOHN CANFIELD of Dearborn Heights was for the reform convention. Although Mrs. McNabb and Farnum were active participants in the Haber Commission, Canfield was not.

He was opposed even to holding the convention. "The timing is all wrong," he said. "It should have been held after the November 1970 elections."

ROBERT DWYER, 2nd Congressional District chairman and Plymouth branch manager of the Secretary of State license office, said he attended all but one of the 12 plenary sessions of the Haber Commission.

It was a far better than average record, because of the 102 members, only 28 to 30 attended any one meeting, on the average.

Power was active in the campaign for the reform primary although he was not a delegate.