

Reforms Give Dems More Party Votes

By DENNIS PAJOT
 Observers and Democrats will gain five new seats on the party State Central Committee as a result of the January political reform convention in Detroit.

Many local precincts will gain additional delegates, too, as another convention decision is implemented.

For years, the state central committees of both parties have been represented by four persons—two men and two women—from each congressional district, regardless of the number of voters backing that party in the district.

THE CHANGES will be made to comply with the "one Democrat-one vote" principle adopted by about 2,500 delegates at the convention.

District chairmen have been directed to call meetings at which their district changes will be made.

The 2nd District, which includes Plymouth and Northville, will gain one State Central seat, with addition of a woman.

The 15th District, which includes Gardia City, Westland and Canton Township, will increase from four to six, with addition of a man and a woman.

The 19th District, including Livonia, Redford Township and Farmington, will increase to six with addition of a man and a woman.

The 15th and 19th Districts are to have meetings of precinct delegates to make the changes. The 2nd District has been directed to call a district committee meeting for the same purposes, as were all far-flung districts.

SECOND DISTRICT CHAIRMAN Robert Dwyer of Plymouth told Observer Newspapers, "I have no intention of doing it, because it's my contention the district committee hasn't the right to do this; that only the delegates have the right. I don't think the action is legal."

"I'm all for doing it. I would certainly like to see a mechanism that would give the 2nd District more representation, but I can't go along with this procedure."

Dwyer said he hadn't yet received a copy of the directive, nor an answer to his attempts to reach State Chairman James McNeely.

Dwyer said, "As for reapportionment of the precinct delegates, it's illegal in Wayne and Kent counties." He said it has been done every two years in every other county.

A STATE LAW was adopted in 1951 providing that in those two counties each precinct is to elect one delegate. Dwyer contends that State Central is loosely interpreting this to mean "at least one."

Aldo Vagnozzi, chairman of the 19th District, and John Canfield, chairman of the 15th District, haven't any qualms about the directives.

Vagnozzi said a precinct delegates meeting will be held about the end of March to elect State Central delegates and alternates.

About precinct delegate appointment, Vagnozzi said, "We're going to implement it but we haven't yet determined what formula we're going to use. It looks like quite a few of our precincts will have more than one delegate."

Canfield, who is mayor of Dearborn Heights, said he has already called a meeting of precinct delegates for March 19 to elect State Central delegates and alternates.

He said the "second part" would have to wait until another time. "We'll need a count of the votes from the county clerk, determination of

whether we're going to have any new precincts and then decide which formula to use," he said.

CANFIELD SAID he wouldn't buck the directive but

that "It's going to be cumbersome. I don't think it will work out in the long run."

DWYER SAID possible new State Central delegates hadn't yet been considered.

Present 2nd District state committeemen are Fernan Emerson of Lenawee County, Helen Bird of Monroe County, Vanzetti Hamilton of Washington County and Mrs. Mar-

ianne Cotter of Livingston County.

Present 19th District state committeemen are Otis Lawrence of Pontiac, Marianne Hampton of Waterford, Carolyn Maggio of Livonia and Ron

Madiros of Livonia. Alternates are Gerald Friedman of Farmington, Geraldine McNabb of Orchard Lake, Millicent Rowland and Charles Gillette both of Redford Township. Canfield said there hasn't

been any discussion of possible new delegates. Present 15th District state committeemen are Ben Dehart of Westland, Bill Siemaz of Taylor, Justice Chenever of Lincoln Park and Grace Hampton of Inkster.

Only the 19th District presently has alternates. All districts must henceforth have them, according to the reform convention decision and State Central directive.

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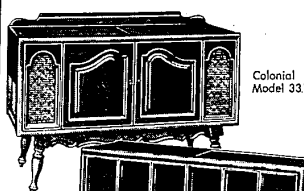


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