

17th District Dems Placid; Suburbs Do Well On Board

By KATHY MORAN

The first convention of suburban and Detroit Democrats delegates from the new 17th Congressional District is over with no signs of rivalry or controversy. Delegates Saturday rubber-stamped a "unity slate" of officers and nearly all 20 resolutions that had been prepared by committees which met the previous Thursday.

Purpose of the convention was to reorganize the 17th District party and elect party officers and state convention delegates. The state convention is slated for Feb. 3 and 4.

Under reapportionment, the 17th district was expanded to include Southfield, Redford Township, Lathrup Village and Farmington City and Township as well as northwest Detroit.

The suburban areas make up 25 per cent of the Democratic district, according to Aldo Vagnozzi, former chairman of the 19th district which formerly included those areas.

PHIL GORAK of Detroit, an aide to Mayor Roman Gribbs, was elected chairman. Vagnozzi considered running against Gorak but decided against it.

Both Vagnozzi and Sandy Silver of Southfield, who was elected first vice chairman, were satisfied with the representation suburban areas got on the executive board.

A slate prepared in advance was confirmed by the convention delegates. It gave 36 of 80 positions to suburban Democrats.

The convention also gave its stamp of approval to 15 of 20 resolutions that had been prepared in advance.

Delegates seemed more dissatisfied with the poor printing job on the resolutions than with their wording and stumbled over just three.

THE MOST discussion was stirred up by a resolution asking U.S. Rep. Martha Griffiths (D-Detroit), who represents the 17th, to encourage and vote for any and all legislation to cut off funds for the war in Indo China.

Some delegates wanted to force a response from Mrs. Griffiths by sending the message by registered mail.

Vagnozzi rose to Mrs. Griffiths' defense, urging that instead of notifying her by registered mail, the district send a small committee of Democrats to talk to her.

"After all she is our Congresswoman and she's a powerful one at that," he said. "I've never had trouble

meeting with her in the past."

He said that the reorganization of the 17th district was an opportunity to establish a good relationship with Mrs. Griffiths.

Democrats from the old 17th, composed of northwest Detroit, have had a strained relationship with her, apparently stemming from a time when the party endorsed another candidate against Mrs. Griffiths in a primary election, Vagnozzi explained later.

He said later that he didn't like the idea of registered mail because "the last time I got a letter registered mail was when they were trying to recall me from the (Farmington) school board."

THE CONVENTION referred one resolution back to the executive board after delegates disagreed with its intention to decentralize completely Detroit schools and give budgetary control to the regional boards.

Another resolution stirring discussion reaffirmed support of the first amendment and urged that the district "oppose censorship and any and all other inhibition of the free flow of information to the people."

It was strengthened to read that all "members of the news media be completely exempted from any form of coercion to reveal their sources of news."

The convention opposed "currently proposed flood relief channels apparently developed without recognition of the ecological, environmental and aesthetic potentials of the (Rouge) river."

Other resolutions' support of equality for women, support of

low-income housing and veterans education benefits, as well as election of officers, slipped through smoothly, prompting one bored observer to complain, "This could have been done by mail."

Other local officers include Glenn Harisell of Redford, second vice chairman; Al Sipher of Farmington, fourth vice chairman; Steve Cooper of Southfield, recording secretary; Linda Hirschberg of Southfield, assistant recording secretary; Bill Wiley of Redford, assistant treasurer; Lawrence Brown of Redford and Joan Smith of Farmington, trustees; and Ken Brown of Southfield and Michael O'Shea of Redford, sergeants-at-arms.

State Central Committee member nominees and executive board members include Charles Deamund of Redford, Dan Berk of Southfield, and Jerry Friedman of Farmington.

State Central alternate nominees and members of the executive board include Joan Smith of Farmington, Barb Rom of Southfield and Mildred Rowlinson of Redford. Don Kadushin of Farmington was

also elected.

At-large board members are Brian Olmsted, include Robert Allegeyer, Ann Ogden and Vagnozzi.

Bernard McCloskey, Sue Appellacher, Frank Azzopardi board were Clayton Shackett and Daris Studien, all of Redford, Frank Bank of Redford, Southfield members Redford, Danielle Suser of Redford, Danell Suser, Betty Southfield, Dave Roberts of Singer, Carl Reissman, John Lathrup, and Ann Sipher of Shepherd, Walter Johnson and Farmington.

Bob Reese, Farmington

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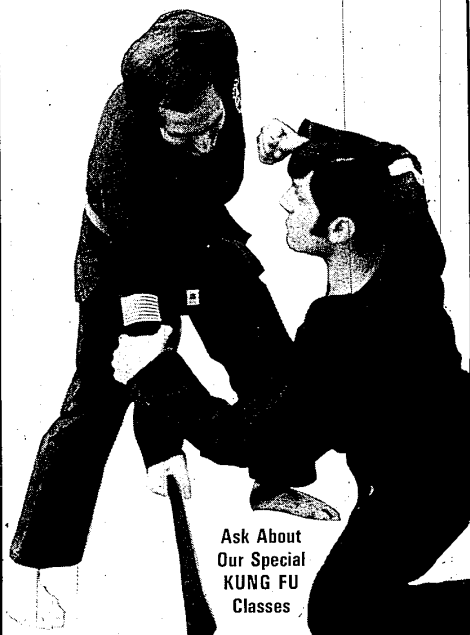
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