

Political Conventions May Undergo Drastic Changes Because of Video Demands

Republicans Could Help To Improve Public Shocker

By LYLE C. WILSON
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Washington — (U.P.) — If Republican party bosses have the wit to follow and improve on a Democratic lead, it may not be necessary after all to refer to next year's national conventions as "The Vulgarities of '56."



The sample of convention processes served up to the TV public in 1952 was a shocker and eye-opener. The viewing public did not like a lot of the awful goings on by which political parties select their presidential tickets.

Convention processes had been bad. TV made them worse by inviting political nobodies to various strategies to get their faces and names on the air. Now, Democrats have made a tiny start toward reform, knowing that insulting adult intelligence is no way to make votes for a party candidate.

Democratic party Chairman Paul M. Butler has approved a suggested regulation of the process of polling state delegations. Hereafter the poll will be taken privately by a representative of the convention chairman who would appear among the polled delegation and take down the names.

Tiresome Polls
Meanwhile, convention business would proceed. The old system which so offended those present and the television viewers in 1952 was to conduct the poll from the rostrum in full view and hearing of all. Show-offs often forced polls merely to get a fleeting peek at the TV camera lens and to hear their names over national hookups. Even the legitimate polls were tiresome.

But, for resolute vulgarity, there is no match for the so-called demonstration in behalf of an individual just proposed for nomination as president or vice-president.

These sweaty parades usually are phoney. So are the aspirations of most of the political scene stealers who permit some payroll from back home to rise before the convention and propose them for nomination. The convention should demand a money forfeit if such a time waster failed on the first ballot to poll a fixed percentage of the total vote.

There have been demonstrations of real political impact, such as the bedlam which helped stampede the 1940 Republican convention to nominate Wendell L. Willkie, a recent Democrat, who went down for the

Free Anti-Polio Vaccine Program for All Children Unnecessary, American Medical Association Declares

Washington — (U.P.) — The American Medical Association charged today that a Democratic plan to provide free polio vaccine to all children is "completely unnecessary" and would involve an "unreasonable" expense for American taxpayers.

"In accordance with the great traditions of medicine," it asserted, "no child will be denied a vaccination because of inability to pay a physician's fee."

AMA spokesmen told the Senate Labor Committee the physicians' organization would reluctantly accept the President's more modest \$28,000,000 proposal to furnish free vaccine only to youngsters whose parents cannot pay.

Local Problem Solution
But they said that no new legislation or federal program really is needed. Physicians and local health authorities, they said, can solve the vaccine problem.

Count in the ensuing campaign when Harold L. Ickes tagged him as "a barefoot Wall Street lawyer."

Smith Vs. McAdoo
There was nothing phoney about the rival demonstrations in 1924 when Alfred E. Smith and William G. McAdoo knocked each other out after 103 ballots and left the worthless Democratic presidential nomination to John W. Davis. That was a blood feud.

But most of them are fakes and a nosy voter could look into the wings or back alley during any of the more recent political clambakes and see the stooges lining up with their banners for the next parade. The stooges usually number 200 or so and they are non-partisan, appearing in all demonstrations just for the hell of it or, maybe, for five bucks.

There was grumbling among the TV millions during and after the vulgarities of 1952 and there will be more in 1956 unless some sense of the dignity of the occasion wins over the indecent trumperies which have overgrown the convention machinery like rank and poisonous weeds. If reform is accomplished, TV can take the bow. Not until 1952 did some millions of citizens get a peek at the tawdry processes they expected to underwrite with their votes on election day.

Not First Triumph
It would not be the first such triumph for the science of electronics. Back there in 1932 the national conventions got their first real radio hookup. Sen. Lester J. Dickinson was Republican keynote speaker. He droned on for two hours and fifteen minutes, boring and disappointing millions of listeners.

The radio public screamed in protest. You will note, now, that political speeches in and out of conventions usually run about 30 minutes. Radio takes the bow for that.

lem under the government's voluntary distribution plan.

The AMA's position was outlined by AMA Trustee Julian P. Price and past President Walter B. Martin in prepared testimony before the Committee.

Basil O'Connor, president of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, also was called as a witness as the vaccine hearings entered their second and final day.

Foundation sources said O'Connor would not take a public stand on the rival free vaccine plan.

30-Day Registration Provision Applies To City Elections

Because of the 30-day provision on registration of voters in Oregon laws, only those residents already registered to vote will be eligible to cast ballots in the annexation and budget elections July 5, it was pointed out today.

Oregon law requires that the poll books be closed for 30 days prior to an election. Names of residents who did not vote in either of the two previous elections, the primary or general elections of 1954, were deleted from the registration books recently, and the voters involved were notified. If they did not reinstate themselves as registered voters, they will not be qualified to vote in the special elections July 5.

The questions to be voted on at the two elections that day are: 1. Annexation of two areas, totalling more than 3,000 acres, in the city of Medford. Residents of these two areas will cast ballots on the proposal.

2. Approval of the city's budget which this year for the first time in many years exceeds the 6 per cent limitation on increases; and approval of a city charter change to increase the limitation of general fund levies from 12 to 15 mills. Residents of the city may cast ballots.

Morse Introduces Bill To Start Juniper Project

Washington — (U.P.) — Sen. Wayne Morse (D-Ore.) said today he had introduced a bill calling for the construction of the Juniper diversion of the Wapinitia irrigation project in his home state.

The Wasco county project would include a dam at the head of Clear creek and would cost a total of \$500,000. It would provide irrigation water for 2100 acres.

Unknown commercially until the early 1930's, glass fiber is now one of the most versatile manufacturing materials.

cine plans of the Democrats and the administration. But they said he was ready to discuss the whole vaccine controversy in which the organization has been deeply involved.

'Socialized Medicine'
In testimony Tuesday, Health Secretary Oveta Culp Hobby bluntly branded the Democratic

proposal as a "back door" route to "socialized medicine" and said it would cost \$130,000,000.

Sen. Paul R. Douglas (D-Ill.) retorted today that the Democratic plan has "nothing to do with socialized medicine." "It's a question, he said, whether the government will supply free

vaccine to 22 per cent of the nation's children under the administration proposal or to all of them under the Democratic plan.

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Flying Tiger Line Mechanics on Strike
Burbank, Calif. — (U.P.) — Aircraft mechanics, members of the AFL machinists union, were on strike today against Flying Tiger Airlines terminals in the United States and Canada.

Machinists set up picket lines here last night on orders by John Sweeney, grand lodge representative of the International Association of Machinists. Machinists walked out at the company's Newark, N.J., terminal three hours earlier.

In addition to Burbank and Newark, Flying Tiger Line, Inc., operates terminals in San Fran-

cisco, Chicago, Detroit, and Canada.

Company officials said planes were operating as scheduled despite the mechanics' walkout. "We expect no interruption of service," the officials said.

The union and company broke off negotiations here last Thursday. The union, which represents about 300 Flying Tiger employees is seeking journeyman pay scales comparable to those of larger passenger airlines, a general increase of 4½ cents hourly and vacation improvements.