GOP Alters Rules Despite Protests of Women, South

By JOSEPH A. LOFTUS
New York Times Writer

CHICAGO, July 10—Overriding protests from women and southern delegates, the Republican convention voted Thursday to give a national committee seat to state chairmen whose states vote predominantly Republican.

As a battle of the sexes, it was rather one-sided. The women made the speeches and the men got the votes. One woman protested that the rule would "make women voters for the Democrats."

The decision came on the adoption of rules that will govern the party for the next four years. Several other changes in the rules were made.

Under the old rule, each state had two national committee members, one man and one woman. Under the new rule, a "bonus" seat with full voting rights will go to states which at the preceding election cast a majority of their votes for the Republican presidential nominee, elect a Republican governor, or choose a majority of Republicans for the state's seats in the Senate and House.

The "bonus" seat would go to the state chairman. Since these are commonly men, the balance of the sexes will be upset.

Obviously, too, few southern states can qualify for the "bonus" seat, but the southern men left the battle to their women.

Mrs. John E. Messervy of South Carolina, a picture of outraged southern womanhood, cried that this was "a proposal to stack the cards against us, and with a marked deck at that. For too long we southern states have been treated as stepchildren at family reunions . . . we hope for sympathy and understanding and not discrimination."

Mrs. Beryl Meyers of Idaho, not to be out-raged, declaimed: "Hear ye, hear ye, ladies of this convention; gentlemen lend me your ears and your courtesy."

But Mrs. Meyers hardly had a chance to overcome the din of convention disorder. Many of the delegates did not know what was going on, as requests for explanations on the vote indicated later. Copies of the proposed rules changes did not become available until after the decision was made.

Mrs. Katharine Murdock of Pennsylvania, who led off the women's fight to kill the "bonus" seat proposal, declared, "I will vote to defend the equal rights of women serving on the committee."

Mrs. Murdock persuaded her own delegation of the righteousness of her cause, for Pennsylvania cast its entire 70 votes against the full report of the rules committee.

When the motion to strike out the "bonus" seat proposal was put to vote, Massachusetts asked for a roll call but could not muster the necessary support of five other states.

A voice vote was taken—two of them, in fact, because the chairman couldn't figure out the first one—and the women were outshouted.

On the question of accepting the full report of the rules committee, Florida asked for a roll call. By that time, the committee opposition was better organized. The committee was upheld, however, 683 to 513.

Marcelino Romany . . . Gives up seat as Puerto Rico delegate.

P. R. 'Delegate' Loses Seat, Keeps Cheers

Chicago Tribune Service

CHICAGO, July 10—Marcelino Romany of San Juan, Puerto Rico, who furnished more entertainment than an elephant act at Wednesday's session of the Republican convention, learned Thursday that he is not a delegate.

"All right," he said with a shoulder shrug when informed of the ruling to that effect. "I give up," and went back and sat with the alternate delegates.

Single-handed, Marcelino, to the roaring delight of delegates, the gallery, and radio and television audiences, got a poll of the Puerto Rican delegation of three, and whipped the convention by enforcing his demand to vote.

Marcelino, who is a lawyer and a little gamecock of a man, was blazing mad when he arrived at the convention Thursday. He was brandishing a newspaper which termed him "star comedian of the convention."

"That is too much," he said. "I am not a comedian. I do not care a damn what American newspapers think of me. I am what I am."

Displays Congratulations

He displayed a fistful of telegrams from Eisenhower supporters congratulating him on his courage in demanding the right to vote for like. His vote was for the seating of the Eisenhower Georgia delegation.

"That is good," he said of the telegrams. "But I shall vote for Stassen and I shall continue to vote for him until he releases me."

This was before he had learned that he was not a delegate.

Romany told a reporter that his wife, Maria, was in the mezzanine when he took his stand and stood off the entire convention. He said she stood up and shook hands at him like a prizefighter.

"I think she was proud," he said.

Just Local Politics

He explained at some length how two groups of delegates came to crowd the Puerto Rican contingent.

"It was just local politics," he said. "Although, in a way, it was national. It was a fight over statehood, although both parties were for statehood.

"As a matter of fact," he continued, "it was the state chairman, Celestino Iriarde. It came down to this: We did not like him. So we threw him out."

(Or didn't, in view of the fact that Romany turned out not to be a delegate.)

He said that Hector Gonzalez Blanes, also an attorney, chairman of the Puerto Rican delegation, just tried to vote all three votes "no" on the issue at stake.

"I guess," Marcelino said, "that he thought I would not say anything."

A Good Friend

About 53 million people, if television estimates are right, can testify how wrong Blanes was.

"Blanes is a good friend of mine," said Romany. "He is a good attorney. Sometimes he goes in punching."

"A man after your own heart?"

"No," said Romany judiciously, "I do not punch."

Politics are that way in Puerto Rico, he said, just like the United States.

"Sometimes," he noted, "we punch."

Amazed at Turn

Romany was a little amazed that two radio programs moved right into his bedroom and put him on the air. He observed that Puerto Rican night clubs are not as good as Chicago's, "just a singer or two," and noted that baseball is much the same in his homeland.

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