

news

CAMPAIGN '80 GOP Convention

Party outlook marked by conservative trend

By Walter Mears
AP Special Correspondent

DETROIT (AP)—Conservative qualms notwithstanding, George Bush is no flaming Republican liberal.

He might be a smoldering moderate—and that's enough to make him suspect among some in a GOP world that has turned toward the right.

It also is enough to convince pragmatic conservatives that it might be a good idea for Ronald Reagan to make him No. 2 man on the 1980 ticket, to balance and broaden its appeal.

Some balance. Bush agrees with Reagan on almost every issue. There's more symbolism than substance to their differences. They are both conservatives, differing only in degree.

Dean Burch works with Bush; he was Barry Goldwater's Republican national chairman. William E. Timmons is deputy campaign manager for Reagan; he engineered the takeover that made young Republican organizations into Goldwater cadres 16 years ago.

At the Republican National Convention, men whose political roots are deeply and firmly conservative are billed, suddenly, as the new moderates.

That's because the convention that nominated Reagan for president is, in fact, more conservative in outlook than the San

Francisco convention that nominated Goldwater.

In Goldwater's time, there was a liberal wing, identified with his arch rival, the late Nelson A. Rockefeller. Goldwater trounced him for the nomination, rubbed it in with conservative rhetoric, and lost the election to a Lyndon B. Johnson landslide.

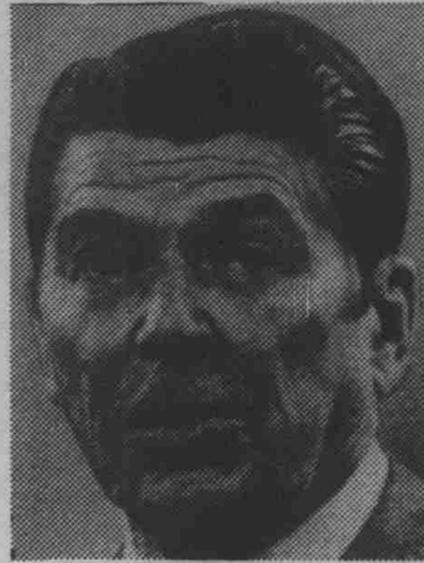
At this convention, there are few survivors of the Rockefeller wars. Sen. Jacob K. Javits of New York is one: he's for Reagan, although not for the more conservative planks in the GOP platform. Former Michigan Gov. George Romney is another, but he's not saying much.

That's why critics of a Republican platform that withholds endorsement of the Equal Rights Amendment couldn't muster the support of six states Tuesday night to get the platform debated on the convention floor.

At the 1964 convention, there was ample minority support to force fights, although losing fights, on the equally symbolic issues of that GOP campaign: extremism and civil rights legislation.

It was in the debate on extremism that Rockefeller was booed by conservative delegates when he argued that a radical minority "alien to the middle course...the mainstream" was trying to take over the party.

Mainstream—one of Rockefeller's favorite words in that campaign—means



Ronald Reagan

something different now. "The whole country has moved to the right, so the Republican Party finds itself in the mainstream," said Gov. Al Quie of Minnesota.

Edwin Meese, Reagan's chief of staff, said "the mainstream thinking" of the nation has moved toward conservatism, so that the views of the voters parallel those of the former California governor.

So it was nostalgia with a message when Goldwater took the cheers of the convention Tuesday night, for a speech that sounded the themes of his 1964 campaign.

"A prophet in his own time?" said Rep. Barry Goldwater Jr., R-Calif. "You're damn right. In our hearts, we knew he was right."

Helms wants conservative vice president

from staff and wire reports

To Sen. Jesse Helms, his conservative crusade is not just a matter of right vs. left but right vs. wrong. And George Bush is among the wrongs.

Helms is a second-term senator of unbending conservatism. To his critics, he is a leader of the party's radical right and a potentially troublesome factor if Ronald Reagan is to keep his appeal broad enough to appeal to independents and Democrats.

Helms already has left his imprint on this Republican National Convention, rewriting the party's platform last week and getting "99 percent of what I wanted."

"I think the best course to follow is the principled course," said Helms. "If it's so bad to be a conservative, why is he (Reagan) where he is? Why should you say a heartbeat away from his presidency is someone who is not the same?"

Although Helms earlier had expressed little personal interest in the vice presidency, he now says he feels he could "block bad legislation" if he were vice president.

And if he fails, Helms said the effort may yet achieve one purpose.

"If it does nothing else, it will serve as a reminder, 'don't go too far afield,' to Reagan's advisers," he said.

Bush, the former presidential candidate, has become the principal opponent of Helms' vice presidential effort. Bush, says Helms strategist Tom Ellis, fails the conservatives' litmus test.

"Mr. Bush just represents the Northeastern Republican establishment," said Ellis, a Raleigh lawyer. "They are the losers in this year's battle. They were the winners in 1976, and Jesse went out and made speeches in 20 states for Gerald Ford."

Helms gained the attention of delegates with his efforts on the platform—stressing military superiority and reciting for the platform committee what he regards as the evils of the Panama Canal treaties.

But if he has gained a reputation as the conservatives' field marshal, the positions are nothing new to him.

In the Senate, Helms positioned himself firmly as the leader of efforts to block the canal agreements; to allow prayer in the schools; to protect Taiwan, and to oppose SALT II. In his first term, he accused President Nixon of appeasing China.

Such stands have won him admiration from conservatives in both parties in his home state, and made him the darling of television evangelists.

Helms, 58, went to the Senate in 1972 after a career as a radio and television editorialist in Raleigh, where he gained a wide and devoted following. He supported a state law in the 1960s that banned communists from speaking on college campuses, often rallied against university liberals and was regarded as a segregationist by some as he opposed civil rights legislation.

Always outspoken, Helms once called public schools an "intrusion of socialism," and he compared school busing for integration to police state powers.



Helms

Convention votes platform approval

By Gregory Nokes
Associated Press Writer

DETROIT (AP)—The Republican National Convention voted overwhelming approval Tuesday night for a 1980 campaign platform that blames President Carter for economic mismanagement and military weakness and pledges "a new beginning for America" behind Ronald Reagan and the Republican Party.

The approval of the 78-page document by voice vote by the 1,994 delegates came with only a smattering of objections.

A motion by the delegation of Hawaii to suspend the rules to discuss the platform failed because there was no other support. The delegation from Massachusetts tried to obtain a roll-call vote on the platform, but that was declared out of order by convention chairman and House Minority Leader John J. Rhodes of Arizona.

A small band of supporters of the Equal Rights Amendment gave up an attempt to write a pro-ERA stand into the platform on the convention floor.

Reagan said earlier in the day he is satisfied with the platform's stance on women's rights, even though it withholds endorsement of an ERA-type amendment to the Constitution for the first time in 40 years. Without his support, any attempt to amend the platform was doomed in this Reagan-dominated convention.

Approval of the platform was the last major item of business before the convention prior to the nomination of Reagan as the party's presidential nominee Wednesday night.

"We believe this platform reflects the concerns and aspirations of the American people," said Sen. John Tower, R-Texas, the platform committee chairman.

Tower read to the convention the preamble to the platform which says that under Carter, the nation is drifting perilously toward chaos. "Should the trend continue, the 1980s promise to be our most dangerous years since World War II," it says.

"We go forth to the people with ideas and programs for the future that are as powerful and compelling as they are fresh. Together, we offer a new beginning for America."

Gov. Robert D. Ray of Iowa, a Republican moderate, said pro-ERA delegates had decided against pursuing the last-ditch effort for support for ERA. "It doesn't mean everyone's going to agree," Ray said. "I think they're very anxious to go out and win an election."

The handful of delegates admitted they lacked sufficient votes to

bring the issue to the floor. Sen. Charles Percy, R-Ill., also failed to get enough support to change platform wording that urges appointment of judges who opposed abortion.

He needed the support of six state delegations to get a vote to suspend the rules to consider a change in the platform. After that, a two-thirds favorable vote of the delegates would have been needed to actually suspend the rules to allow a debate, an impossible number.

Percy, a moderate, said he couldn't get any states, even his own state of Illinois, to support his proposed change, an indication of the strength of Reagan's grip on the convention and the low status of liberals and moderates here.

Although the delegates generally sat quietly during a long reading of sections of the platform, they applauded loudly at mention of the party's opposition to mandatory busing to achieve racial integration of schools and its support of non-denominational prayers in schools, two emotional stands that have long appealed to many party conservatives.

They also applauded the platform's commitment to "an immediate increase in defense spending" and a pledge that the United States will eventually achieve military superiority over the Soviet Union.

Reagan stood firm in his opposition to the ERA at a meeting earlier in the day with a group of pro-ERA women Republicans, including his daughter Maureen, even though he was told it could cost him votes in November.

Reagan issued a statement after the meeting promising that if elected president, he would "do a number of things to advance, guarantee and promote equal rights for women." But he strongly defended the platform's stand on women's rights.

He also said he would not rule out a vice presidential running mate who supported the proposed constitutional amendment, according to Rep. Margaret Heckler, R-Mass., who asked for the meeting after the platform committee's decision against a pro-ERA plank.

Reagan was nominated as the party's candidate for president Wednesday, and the platform was the major policy document for his campaign, as well as the campaigns of other Republicans. Some moderates and liberals were expected to have problems running on the conservative-oriented platform.

The platform also backs Reagan's call for a tax cut and expresses dissatisfaction with the strategic arms limitation treaty negotiated with the Soviet Union.