

Behind the News

Who Nominates: Party or People?

By DAVID RIJNKEL
Editorial Editor

The introduction of the primary in the late 19th century by this state was an attempt to expand the role of the private citizen in the selection of men to lead the nation's numerous governing bodies by having them select the candidates for public office as well as electing the public officials.

This move appeared necessary as the two-party system became more stabilized in this country and public officials believed democratic procedures should be followed within political parties in the selection of candidates.

It is with this heritage that Pennsylvania citizens will trek to the polls Tuesday to select the candidates who will run for elected office in the campaign this fall.

PRIMARY REFINEMENTS

The primary is the method political parties use for selecting candidates in 49 of the 50 states. Some states have adopted refinements of the primary and now combine it with party conventions. These conventions are similar in structure to the national nominating conventions of the national branch of political parties, but they do not have the power to nominate party candidates directly.

Other states, mostly in the South, use a refined version of the primary — the runoff. In these states a second primary, the runoff, is conducted if on the first vote no one candidate receives a majority of the votes.

But Pennsylvania has retained the direct primary as the official means of selecting party candidates, although public sentiment has not always supported primaries. This is evidenced by a traditionally low vote in primary elections—usually between 40 and 50 per cent of the registered voters.

Some critics say that this small voter turnout is prompted by the fact that the voters often are not offered a choice of candidates — that the political party leaders select the parties' candidates at unofficial party conventions before the primaries — and that the primaries are just an okay of what has already been decided.

CRITICS' EVIDENCE

These critics seem to have history on their side in Pennsylvania primaries for state-wide candidates. In Pennsylvania this year there is a serious contest for only one of the eight state-wide candidacies. This is for the Republican gubernatorial nomination. And in only one other election is there even token opposition to the slates being presented by the party high command. This is for the Democratic gubernatorial candidacy.

While it may be conceded that the primary is a failure on the state-level, it must be recognized that the primary system operates successfully on the lower governmental levels as in the counties, the townships and boroughs.

The question of what makes the primary useless in a state-wide form and useful in the local level is often answered, and I believe so, by the state-

ment that financial conditions make it possible for a person without party support to conduct a state-wide campaign for the party's nomination.

FINANCES NEEDED

Heavy financial support is needed for a candidate to conduct a speaking tour throughout the state. Campaigning must be a full-time occupation, leaving the ambitious candidate without normal income during the primary fight. On the local scene, much of the campaigning can be done at night and travel expenses are low since the distances involved are usually short. Although the entire cause for the lack of contests in state-wide primaries cannot be attributed entirely to this factor, it seems to be the most important political scene, six of the eight candidates to be selected are already known and have been known since March. On the Democratic side, these are Joseph S. Clark, for U.S. Senator; Steven McCann, for lieutenant governor; and Genevieve Blatt, for secretary of internal affairs.

On the Republican side, these already selected candidates are James E. Van Zandt, for U.S. Senator; Raymond P. Shafer, for lieutenant governor; and Audrey R. Kelly, for secretary of internal affairs.

A seventh candidate, Richardson Dilworth, has only token opposition from two Western Pennsylvania men, Charles J. Schmitt from Girard, and Harvey F. Johnston from McKees Rocks, for the Democratic nomination for governor.

Of the eight party-endorsed candidates, only William W. Scranton faces stiff opposition for nomination. Scranton is opposed for the Republican nomination for governor by the State Grange-Master, J. Collins McSparran.

SPRING CAMPAIGNING

Both of these men have the financial support to conduct a state-wide campaign, and they have been criss-crossing the state this spring, meeting Republican voters and establishing local organizations for the fall elections as well as the primary.

Scranton and McSparran have been giving the issues of this election year a trial run-through. Besides personal attacks, the main issues being debated are the school reorganization bill passed by the state legislature last year, the decline of the Pennsylvania economy and the record of the present Lawrence administration.

Most of the so-called experts predict that the party-backed nominee, Scranton, will win the nomination over McSparran.

If these predictions are proven true by the Republican voters on Tuesday, it will reinforce the controlling position of the leadership of the political parties and strengthen the arguments of those critics who do not see any value of state-wide primaries.

FINAL QUESTION

The final question which is without answer now and perhaps forever is whether the political parties can afford to give the slate-making powers vested in the party leadership to the ordinary party voter and still maintain a strong and effective political party.

Walker Views University Education

The University has discovered these deficiencies, he added. As the result of a self-evaluation program that it is not as good as it thinks it is, President Eric A. Walker said yesterday. However, the University still is better than most people think it is, he added.

SPEAKING TO 268 members of the Faculty Women's Club, Walker said the evaluation program, which involves departmental introspection and review by special impartial groups of visitors, has pointed out weaknesses in some departments. The University is striving to correct

ing with students, Walker said. The evaluators then meet with Walker personally to relate their impressions of the department. They also prepare a written report for circulation within the department, he added.

To date, 15 of the University's 54 departments have been evaluated, Walker said. As the initial step, each department prepares a statement of what it believes to be its status, faults and needs. The department also nominates distinguished persons, not connected with the University, to evaluate it, he said.

The evaluators spend several days looking into all phases of the department's operations—observing classes, research work, and these projects as well as talk-

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① Should we maintain our part in the nuclear arms race?



Yes

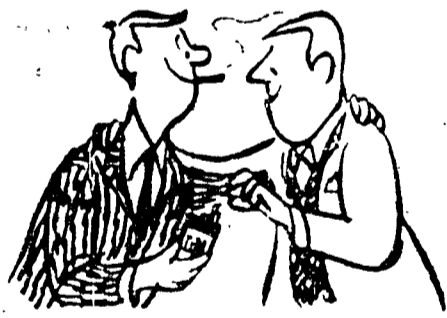
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② How do you feel about fraternities?



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③ What would convince you to switch to a different cigarette?



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| | | |
|--------------------------|-----|-----|
| Yes | 82% | 18% |
| No | 17% | 82% |
| Like 'em | 48% | 52% |
| Don't like 'em | 15% | 85% |
| Take 'em or leave 'em | 37% | 63% |
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