

Will Democrats Learn From GOP?

Writing from Chicago in the wake of the Republican convention, Allen Duckworth contributed a cogent thought for the oncoming Democratic convention. "The thousands of Texas and Louisianans who went into the precinct conventions found that their votes wouldn't be traded away by a political clique." Not of course that the clique did not try. And a comparable clique will certainly try at the Democrats' convention.

The issues that are the most important affecting the Texas delegations to both conventions are identical. They are as simple as they are important. In both cases, the precinct convention requirements were fixed by the state executive committees. In both cases, the voters complied with those requirements. In both cases, the delegations that won by top-heavy majorities were contested by relatively small minority groups that do not like the outcome.

The only big difference is visible in state control. The minority Texas GOP group ruled their state committee. The majority guides the Texas Democratic committee.

In both conventions the initial backgrounds have strong points of similarity. In both at least up to the convention floor the administrative machinery has reposed in the hands of party hacks who favor the minority side. In the GOP convention, that resulted in minority victories up to the floor where the will and conscience of the Republican party spoke out conclusively against minority rule. Whether Governor Shivers' Texas delegation will have as happy an experience at Chicago remains to be seen but is doubtful indeed.

Common sense should tell the most hidebound of administration Democrats that the best bet of the Democratic party is to absorb the lesson the Republicans learned. A party whose integrity is under suspicion needs to toe the mark. It would err by standing at Chicago with political crime. And surely the rejection of majority will by a party which has always claimed to be peculiarly dedicated to that principle can be nothing else.

Meanwhile, Texas Democrats jealous for the security of their own state rights must be sure to safeguard the control of their precinct conventions on July 26. Their fight will be fought and won in Texas, not in Chicago.