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Proceedings of the Democratic National Convention

The democratic national convention was called to order at noon, Tuesday, June 25th, by Norman E. Mack, chairman of the national committee. Following is the United Press report: At 11:49 the Connecticut delegation marched down the aisle to their seats. They carried a big blue and golden banner inscribed: "Our choice for president, Simeon E. Baldwin."

There was a scattering of applause, but it only lasted a second. The band, however, struck up "Dixie" and immediately a wild yell of approval went up from the floor and galleries. The "Star Spangled Banner" followed and while the delegates were standing in honor of it, Bryan came in by a side entrance and walked across the stage to shake hands with Cardinal Gibbons. He then sat down in a seat on the platform directly behind the cardinal. There was very little applause for the Nebraska leader, in fact, there had been up to this time very little genuine enthusiasm, the only warm reception being that given to Cardinal Gibbons.

The California delegation marched into the hall at 11:55. The delegates were preceded by a standard bearer bearing a picture of Champ Clark on a banner, under which was inscribed: "Special privileges to none; equal rights to all."

At noon most of the delegates were in their places, but the anti-Bryan leaders had not shown up. They were believed to be in conference with the national committee officers in the rear of the armory.

To avoid the crowds in the lobby of the hotel and the streets waiting to see the Nebraskan, Mrs. W. J. Bryan and her daughter, Grace, today left the Belvedere by the servants' elevator when they started for the armory. They were provided with platform seats by Mrs. Norman Mack, wife of the national chairman.

While the crowds waited, in the armory, Colonel John I. Martin, sergeant-at-arms posed for the photographers on the platform, holding the gavel which was later used by Chairman Mack in calling the convention to order.

At 12:10 National Committeeman Norman E. Mack took his seat at the table and a moment later Cardinal Gibbons took his place alongside. Most of the delegates were in their seats at that time, but Murphy, Taggart and Sullivan were conspicuous by their absence.

It was 12:17 when Chairman Norman E. Mack rapped the convention to order and directed the sergeant-at-arms to clear the aisles. This was a somewhat difficult task and, while the officers were at work, Judge Parker sauntered leisurely to his seat, apparently unnoticed.

Tom Taggart, the Indiana boss, strolled up to the platform and held a whispered conversation with Chairman Mack, while the convention waited. Taggart was very earnest in his conversation.

At 12:20 Mack rapped for order for the second time and this time he was aided by Colonel Martin, who had armed himself with a small gavel.

The galleries were only half filled, but this was due to the miserable arrangements for handling the crowds and there were more than 5,000 people standing in line trying to get in.

Delegate Davis reported to Mack that some delegates were standing outside unable to get into the hall and asked for delay that they might get in to vote for the temporary chairmanship. Mack said that he would do so. While waiting, the band struck up "Tammany," but it did not create the furor of former years, only the New York delegates applauding.

The New Jersey delegation brought a bunch of bananas with them for lunch and during the wait they munched the fruit contentedly.

At 12:30 Martin attempted to get order and get the crush out of the aisles, but made little

impression. An assistant sergeant-at-arms shouted that he could not make the crowd move. "Oh, well, do your best," said Martin.

Most of the crowd in the aisles were wearing assistant sergeant-at-arms badges.

At 12:34 Assistant Secretary Tom Smith, of New York, began reading the convention call. When he concluded, Mack introduced Cardinal Gibbons, who delivered the opening invocation.

Cardinal Gibbons, the venerable Catholic prelate, invoked Divine blessing in the following prayer:

"We pray thee, O God of might, wisdom and justice, through whom authority is rightly administered, laws enacted and judgment decreed, assist with Thy holy spirit of counsel and fortitude the president of the United States, that his administration may be conducted in righteousness, and be eminently useful to the people over whom he presides by encouraging due respect for virtue and religion, by faithful execution of the laws of justice and mercy and by restraining vice and immorality.

"Let the light of Thy divine wisdom direct the deliberations of this convention, and shine forth in all its proceedings, and enactments, so that they may tend to the preservation of concord and harmony.

"May authority be exercised without despotism and liberty prevail without license. May this convention demonstrate once more to the American people and to the world at large, that the citizens of the United States have solved the problem of self government by exercising and tolerating broadest and most untrammelled freedom of discussion in their political assemblies without dethroning reason and without invading the sacred and inviolable rights of law and public order.

"May the delegates assembled to select a candidate for chief magistrate be ever mindful that they are sons of the same heavenly father, that they are brothers of the same national family, that they are heirs of the same heritage of freedom, and may it be their highest ambition to transmit this precious inheritance, unimpaired, to their children and their children's children. May the consciousness of this community of interests banish from us all bitterness, hatred and ill will and inspire them with sentiments of genuine charity, and benevolence.

"We recommend likewise to Thy unbounded mercy all our brethren and fellow citizens throughout the United States that they may be blessed in the knowledge and sanctified in the observance of Thy most holy law; that they may be preserved in union and in peace which the world can not give, and after enjoying the blessings of this life, they may be admitted to those which are eternal."

As soon as Cardinal Gibbons concluded, the silence broke into applause and cheers. Mack again ordered the aisles cleared, but his directions were jeered by the crowds, who simply refused to move.

Taggart was standing at Mack's right and kept up a running fire of conversation with him throughout.

Mack then announced the temporary officers, as suggested by the national committee. They were headed by Alton B. Parker and the mention of his name started applause from the New York, Illinois, Indiana and other eastern delegations. The band started up but, on a signal from the platform, ceased playing.

Urey Woodson was named as temporary secretary and Colonel Martin as sergeant-at-arms. Colonel Bryan came to the platform and there was a wild yell from the floor, which was joined in by the galleries.

Bryan was very pale and his face was set and rigid. He shook his head in a deprecating manner and raised his hand in an attempt to still the audience, but they were not to be denied. The cheers swelled across from delegation to delegation and at last the galleries took it up.

The delegations from Ohio, Wisconsin, Texas, New Jersey, Nebraska, Kansas and Oklahoma were on their feet, but the big New York, Indiana and Illinois delegations sat stolidly in their seats.

Bryan appealed to Mack to restore quiet and finally he was able to begin.

"Gentlemen of the convention," he said, "I rise to place in nomination for the office of temporary chairman, the name of Hon. John W. Kern of Indiana."

The mention of Kern's name started the applause again.

"In thus dissenting from the judgment of our national committee," Bryan continued, "I recognize that the burden of proof is upon me to overthrow the assumption that the convention can claim that it is representing the wishes of the party in the nation. I remind you that the very fact that this convention has every right to reject, is conclusive proof that the wisdom of the convention is the last word on this matter.

"If any ask for my credentials or why I, as a delegate from one of the smallest states, should presume to present a name, I beg to tell you that in three campaigns I have been the champion of the democratic party's principles and in those campaigns I have received the votes of six million and a half of democrats. This, I feel, shows that I have the confidence of the democrats of this nation. Confidence carries with it responsibilities. I would not be worthy of the trust of the democrats of this nation if I were not willing to risk humiliation in their defense.

"A man can not carry on a political warfare in defense of the people for sixteen years without making enemies. I recognize that these enemies have attacked me. The fact that I have lived is proof that I have not deserted the people.

"I take for my text a quotation the committee was kind enough to place there on the walls for my use:

"He never sold the truth to serve the hour." "That is the language of the hero of Monticello. I would not be worthy of the support I have received, if I were unwilling to do less.

"We are told it is disturbing harmony to dissent from the committee's recommendations. Is there any other delegate who tried earlier than I to secure harmony. I began several weeks ago, I announced to a subcommittee that I was not a candidate for temporary chairman. I was told I could serve without immodesty. It was urged that at the end of sixteen years of battle, when I find the things I fought for, triumphant, not in my own party, but in the republican party, that I be permitted to preside here. But I refused it. I advised the committee to consult the two leading candidates. I asked this committee to get the two leading candidates to agree on a temporary chairman. I asked them to allow two-thirds of the convention a word in its voice. In the sub-committee the Clark and Wilson forces could not agree. In the full committee last night the Wilson men supported Mr. James, the Clark choice, but yet the choice of the Clark men was not chosen.

"When I admit that the plan that I followed was for harmony, while the committee's plan was not for harmony, let me present the qualifications of order filed for this occasion. This is an epoch-making convention. We have had such a struggle as was never seen in politics before. I know the sacrifice that has been required; I know of men working in the railroads, who have angered the railroads, and risked their bread and butter to aid the fight. Business men have been threatened if they did not sell their citizenship, but I have seen them defying the demands of predatory wealth and voting for the masses.

"I have seen men give up everything to aid in this fight of the people. Now that the hour