

Gov. Smith's Nomination by the Democrats Makes Klan A Political Outcast

Its Overthrow as Impressive as That of Know-Nothingism in 1856 - Anti-Catholic Forces Worked Covertly at Houston, But Were Scored By Delegates, Chiefly Non-Catholics By Gratian Kerans.

(Staff Correspondent, N.C.W.C. News Service)

Houston, Tex., June 28.—Governor Smith's nomination here as Presidential candidate for the Democratic Party by the largest majority ever given on first ballot to an aspirant not actually serving as President, was something very much greater than the selection of a candidate; it was a vindication of a vital provision of the Federal Constitution which sectarian, organizations sought to nullify in the process of preventing the nomination of a Catholic.

The almost unanimous vote of the Democratic convention and the tremendous demonstration which signified Gov. Smith's victory were proofs that religious bigotry had lost a five year fight not only to defeat him, but to proscribe his religion. Blow As Deadly As That of 1856.

The convention, moreover, re-committed the Democratic Party to the principles and traditions which prompted it, in the middle of the Nineteenth century, to wage a successful warfare against malignant anti-Catholicism and racial prejudices. Ku Kluxism has received a blow as deadly as that which was dealt to Know-Nothingism in 1856, when the Democratic Party denounced and routed the nomination of James Buchanan. The Democratic Party in its platform of 1856 leveled a strong and specific condemnation at Know-Nothingism, and then chose a Protestant candidate. The Democratic Party in 1928 has met the issue of religious intolerance, not by declaration in its highest office in the Catholic to the highest office in the country.

There is profound significance in the fact that Governor Smith's nomination was a free, faithful and generous expression of convictions held by several hundred delegates not of his faith. Even in the delegations which withheld their votes from him—notable among them, Missouri—there were individuals who favored his selection as their party's candidate as a rebuke to bigotry. And these delegates unquestionably represented public sentiment in many sections of the country and among many classes and creeds. Only a handful of Southern delegates remained steadfast in their opposition.

Blas Phrased, But Scored.

Anti-Catholic forces were covertly but actively at work to thwart Governor Smith's nomination and thus not only gratify their hatred of his religion, but gain a mastery over one of the two dominant political parties. That is why the refusal of the delegates to surrender to the demands of prejudice means more than a choice between several contenders for a political preferment. Its true significance is that the Democratic Party has reaffirmed and applied, so far as its power permitted, the doctrine that there shall be no religious tests for office under the United States.

These anti-Catholic cabals were busy to the very eve of Governor Smith's nomination. But they masked their motives by a pretense that they were fighting him as a "wet," and not as a Catholic. Within a few hours of the balloting, a band of these scoundrels met in a Baptist church, proclaimed their intention of opposing Governor Smith's selection and his election, and marched to the Coliseum to impress and intimidate certain former Democratic spokesmen for the Ku Klux Klan were making the rounds of the hall in an attempt to rally Southern delegates to a last attack.

Then they presented to the convention a petition, obviously misleading, urging the nomination only of a candidate who was a friend of prohibition and who had not professed willingness to repeal the Eighteenth Amendment of the Volstead Act.

But the temper of the delegates, with a few exceptions, preordained failure for all these devices of bigotry.

Klan Now Political Guerrilla.

The delegates had long before heard and ignored these and other appeals to exclude a Catholic from the right to have the nomination for President. Most of them had come to Houston resolved to crush intolerance within the ranks of their party. They could hear that determination voiced in almost every gathering of delegates before the convention.

From the Democratic house at the Boy Life Bureau School at Cliff Haven, New York, for the opening of the first course. The second session of the Cliff Haven School begins August 3. Applications for registration are now being received for several schools and a large enrollment is expected this summer.

now as political guerrillas and under their own flag. In some cases expediency, and in other instances disgust, has prompted many Democratic leaders to withdraw the aid and comfort they formerly gave the Klan, and their party as whole has repudiated it.

Governor Smith's nomination—and the overthrow of Ku Kluxism that it connotes—would not have been possible if a great revulsion against religious fanaticism had not already occurred through the country. Democratic politicians found that to be true when they came in contact with delegates hailing from every section of the Union. Younger members of the party, men and women, showed plainly that they intended to rid the party of the bigots who had ruled the convention of 1924.

Extent of Revolt Against Bigotry.

The nature and extent of this revolt against an alliance between the Democratic Party and Ku Kluxism is revealed in the votes of the various Southern delegations at the convention. Oklahoma gave some of its votes to Smith on the first ballot—the only one taken. In 1924, Oklahoma delegates voted for nearly every candidate but Smith. Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi and Louisiana remained hostile to Smith throughout the convention four years ago, but this time cast all or a share of their votes for him. The same was true of some of the Western States.

Had the non-Catholics of the Democratic Party been swayed by religious prejudice, they could easily have prevented Smith's nomination. In many of the Southern and Western States, Catholics are a mere handful. They could not have influenced the selection of delegates if they had tried. And in the convention they were not above a third of the 1,100 delegates.

The nomination of Smith, therefore, signifies a wholesome change of sentiment among non-Catholics, and spells the loosening of the grip which the Klan and other anti-Catholic conspiracies had on the Democratic organization in Southern, Western and Southwestern States from 1921 until recently.

Boys' Work Notes

The first circle of Columbian Squires to be established in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the second in New England, was instituted under the auspices of Home City Council No. 63, in the beautiful Springfield Municipal Auditorium on Sunday afternoon, June 24.

The ceremony of investiture of thirty-two of Springfield's leading Catholic boys of fifteen years of age and upwards, was very impressively carried out by the Boys' Work Committee of the Council, assisted by a number of the officers. The institution of the new circle was witnessed by an enthusiastic gathering of Knights of Columbus which included members of the Clergy, representatives from the Supreme, State and neighboring Councils.

At the close of the ceremonies, the Columbian Squires' emblem-pins were distributed by four of the visiting Knights of the thirty-two charter members of Bishop O'Leary Circle. Short talks were given by Grand Knight Bell of the sponsoring Council, Father John D. Sullivan, Father Prior of the Circle, who represented Bishop O'Leary, John Contway of the Supreme Council Boy Life Bureau, State Treasurer Thomas F. McGrath of Newburyport, State Auditor Timothy J. Collins of Holyoke, representing Supreme Director Swift, Reverend Father James M. Cruise, Chaplain of Home City Council, and District Deputies Barry and Bagley.

Councilors, Boys' Work committee of the council with a number of visiting Knights repaired to the Baldwin Hotel banquet hall where a sumptuous dinner was served. Grand Knight Bell presided in his usual capable manner and enlivened the meal with songs, Class A's, etc.

The Squires, Counselors, Father Prior, Chancellor Ryan of Home City Council and Chairman of the Committee Keleher were called upon by Grand Knight Bell for short speeches. The dinner fittingly ended the successful inauguration of the Columbian Squires in Springfield and it is expected that Circle No. 30 will grow to embrace a sector or two in each parish of the city.

Summer Schools for training in Boy leadership will get under way on July 1, at St. Edward's University, Austin, Texas, and at Notre Dame University on July 5. A second session at the latter school opens on July 15.

The Supreme Council Boy Life Bureau is co-operating with the State Council of Texas, St. Edward's University and the Boy Scouts of America in offering the Texas course. R. Hoyer, head of the Boy Guidance Department at Notre Dame University will present the Boy Life Bureau part of the Austin course.

Joseph D. Becker and Charles J. Ducey will be the Boy Life Bureau representatives at the Notre Dame session.

On July 19, the whole staff will be at the Boy Life Bureau School at Cliff Haven, New York, for the opening of the first course. The second session of the Cliff Haven School begins August 3. Applications for registration are now being received for several schools and a large enrollment is expected this summer.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS Issued Weekly From the Publicity Bureau, New Haven, Conn.

Knight, Editor, War Worker, Sailor—Now Cincinnati Chapter Plans Charity Outing

"From Editor to Priest" or "From War Secretary to Missionary" might be the title of a story having for its principal character Brother John M. Martin of Milwaukee, Wis.

On Sept. 27, 1927, John M. Martin received his degrees as a member of Milwaukee-Pere Marquette Council No. 524. He was one of a class of 70 and as such did not arouse any particular interest among his fellow candidates or among the older members.

But the lessons taught during the initiation filled him with the spirit of Columbianism and he hastened to plunge whole-heartedly into the work of the Order. He saw the need for a council publication to keep the members in intimate touch with each other and with the co-operation of the Council officers proceeded to get out the first issue of "The Compass" which was designated "The official organ of the Council." This publication has been issued regularly since that time and is one of the pioneer council magazines of the country.

His next achievement was the organization of a Good Friday Observance movement in Milwaukee and its inception has spread over the entire country. The World War offered him unlimited opportunities to serve the Order. He organized the "Soldier Pal" society and this society lent the soldiers during the hectic days of '17 and '18. He was Milwaukee's first Knight of Columbus war secretary, being stationed at Camp Custer, Michigan, where he made himself extremely popular with the soldiers.

Not content to stand by and watch the troops go to war, Brother Martin resigned his post as secretary and enlisted in the Navy. His unquestioned ability and driving energy immediately made itself felt and he was sent to the officers' training school at Municipal Pier, Chicago, and was about to receive his commission when the Armistice was signed.

His war activities, however, did not stop with hostilities. He returned to Milwaukee and assumed charge of Knights of Columbus hospital work and then organized and acted as first registrar of the Knights of Columbus night school.

Today John M. Martin is a missionary priest. He celebrated his first Solemn Mass at the Gesù Church, Milwaukee, on Sunday June 24. His ordination, on June 22, by the Rt. Rev. John J. Duerr, Auxiliary Bishop of New York. He is a member of the American Foreign Missionaries of Maryknoll, New York.

Trinity Council Elects Board of Directors

Trinity Council, No. 313, Bethlehem, Pa., recently elected its Board of Directors for three, two and one year terms. Past Grand Knight J.C. McIntyre, during whose three-year regime Trinity Council purchased its beautiful new home and first permanent office since its inception in 1898, president of the Board since 1925, was re-elected for a three-year term.

The home, secured by the Board of Directors a year and a half ago at a cost exceeding fifty thousand dollars, now has been fully paid for. When it is considered that Trinity's membership is little more than 400, and its dues fifty cents a month, every member of the present Board with the exception of Charles D. Gostonyi, was a member at the time the home was secured and worked indefatigably to pay for and furnish it.

The Council's home is modern in every respect and is equipped with bowling alleys, billiard rooms, shower rooms and many commodious fireplaces.

Urges All Knights To Join Holy Name

"While not advocating affiliation of the two societies," said Supreme Knight Martin H. Carmody, in a recent address, "I believe and cannot too strongly urge that every member should affiliate himself with the Holy Name Society.

"Monthly communion, at least, should be the habit of every Knight of Columbus. Remember, the Faith and the Church come first. Our strength lies in our Catholicity. Without that we have nothing more than any other organization possesses."

Georgia State Deputy Re-elected. J. Coleman Dempsey, Augusta, was re-elected State Deputy of the Georgia State Council, Knights of Columbus, at the annual State Convention held recently at Brunswick, Georgia. Other officers elected included Frank Gillespie, Atlanta, Secretary; N. T. Stafford, Savannah, Treasurer; J. B. Touhey, Brunswick, Advocate; Joseph J. Spano, Columbus, Warden; delegates to the National Convention at Cleveland, J. Coleman Dempsey and Wm. H. Mitchell, Past State Deputy, Macon; alternates, R. A. Magill, Atlanta, and A. M. Battey, Augusta.

It is anticipated that the outing will be well patronized as other annual affairs, and quite probably better, so the executive committee is laying its plans accordingly. Ten Councils will be represented on the large committee, and each Council will have a definite and active part in contributing to the success of the outing.

John H. Monahan is General Chairman of the committee. Hon. Daniel A. O'Donovan and John F. Cook are Vice-Chairman, John C. McCarthy is Secretary and Joseph J. Schorr, Treasurer.

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