



July 20, 1955

Executive Committee
Democratic State Central Committee
311 South Vermont
Los Angeles 5, California

Ladies and Gentlemen:

As a result of my letter of Nov. 18, 1954 to the California Democratic Council and other actions, the Executive Committee of the Democratic State Central Committee, on Dec. 11, 1954, passed the following motion: "A joint committee be formed of three representatives of DDD (appointed by DDD) three representatives of CDC (appointed by CDC) two from Northern DSCC (appointed by Northern Chairman) two from Southern DSCC (appointed by Southern Chairman) (no SCC representatives to be member of board of directors of either DDD or CDC), to consider integration of DDD with either CDC or SCC. One principle objective of the committee is to do all that can be done to ensure that there are no separate endorsements in the primary."

The Board of Directors of Dime a Day for Democracy did not empower its three representatives to the Co-ordinating Committee of Ten to discuss integration with either the DSCC or the CDC for the reasons contained in this letter. The Board of Directors did however instruct its representatives to endeavor to work out a unified endorsing system, fair and just to all Democrats, which would protect the Democratic Party against the possibility of dual endorsements.

First No matter how much we may feel honored by the suggestion that we integrate Dime a Day for Democracy with the Democratic State Central Committee, we do not feel that any group of individuals can take any action superceding the laws of California. The election code of California clearly specifies who and how many individuals shall be members of the DSCC.

- a) However, were it possible to properly overcome this legal obstacle, integration would probably have the effect of removing DDD from participating in the Primary elections as the official representative bodies of the Democratic Party (meaning the Democratic State Central Committee and the various Democratic County Central Committees should not pick favorites from among members of the party in the primaries but should be in a position to support whoever the party as a whole (meaning all the registered Democrats of the state or district involved) selects as its nominees. And DDD has no plans at this time of removing itself from participating in the primary elections.

Second DDD and CDC are different types of organizations with different objectives, so DDD sees no reason for combining.

In my letter of Nov. 18, 1954 to CDC (copy enclosed) I pointed out the need to protect the Democratic Party against the possibility of more than one set of endorsements by making plans for unified action in the holding of the 1956 conventions. DDD, as evidenced by the provisions in its Constitution and By-laws, believes that the endorsing process should be on as wide and comprehensive a basis as possible. It also feels that certain safeguards in the agreements to hold conventions are necessary so that the membership of all Democratic organizations are protected.

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Seven safeguards that the Board of Directors feel are essential were agreed upon unanimously by the Co-ordinating Committee of Ten. These safeguards and the reasons why the Board feels they are necessary follow.

1. "There be a California Democratic Council - Dime a Day for Democracy convention in 1956 for the purpose of endorsing a candidate for United States Senate".
2. "We recommend to local conventions or caucuses convened for endorsements for partisan offices that Dime a Day for Democracy members be represented on the same basis and in proportion as club members and that all officers and Directors of DDD and CDC be represented on the same basis".
3. "Contingent upon later agreement by the parent organizations in all areas where different recommendations have been made, there be no endorsements except in convention assembled for local or statewide partisan office".
4. "That each Congressional District have one member on each of the Convention Committees and that the local Congressional District Selects their own member for each".

The reason why the DDD committee members presented this provision was to keep some small group or chairman at the top from selecting the committees thus controlling the convention through these appointments. It was felt that this provision would protect the grass roots membership of all participating organizations and assure each district its own selection, membership and representation on each of the convention committees.

5. "That an adequate and proper system of handling the money be agreed upon and that a full audit and accounting be made to all participating members and organizations".

The reason DDD committee members proposed this provision was because at the 1954 Fresno Convention someone from CDC took in the Convention's funds, refused to turn them over to the Treasurer of the Convention although instructed to do so by top officials of both CDC and DDD and further refused to even allow the Convention's funds to be counted in the presence of the Treasurer of the Convention. DDD does not intend to be a part of any future Conventions where such a condition can occur.

6. "That a thorough credential system be adopted so that any participating member or organization can satisfy themselves of the authenticity of each Delegate's right to the floor and vote".

DDD feels this is necessary to prevent a condition such as occurred at the 1954 convention on the Ballot for endorsement of a candidate for governor where nearly 200 more votes were cast than the number of accredited delegates and proper credentials were not available. DDD does not intend to participate in any such loosely credentialed convention again.

7. "That no endorsements shall be made nor rules adopted unless 51% of the accredited delegates are present and voting".

The DDD committee members felt this was absolutely necessary because the rules of the 1954 Fresno endorsing convention were changed when only a small minority of the delegates to the convention were present and subsequent endorsement for candidates for Statewide office were voted when only a very small minority of the delegates were present. DDD desires to protect its members, and others, against such undemocratic procedures.

The knotty problem of the method and manner of electing delegates to the State Convention has not been agreed upon as yet. However DDD suggests the desirability and democracy of having the number of delegates allotted each Assembly District bear the same relationship to the total number of delegates that the number of registered or voting Democrats within that district bears to the total registered or voting Democrats within the State as a whole. Further DDD feels strongly that districts which elect Democrats should be given bonus delegates for each such elected Democrat residing within that district.

In the 1954 Fresno Convention some of the largest delegations were from Republican Districts and some of the smallest were from Democratic Districts. Since we must get most of our votes to elect Democratic candidates from Democratic voters it is strongly felt by DDD that this was not proper. Taking a leaf from the Democratic National Convention DDD feels that incentive for winning elections should be present and bonus delegates be given districts which do elect Democrats to office.

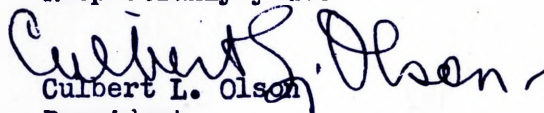
DDD feels that there are two additional matters of great importance which should be covered in all fairness and in the interest of actually electing Democrats.

- a) Convention expenses should be kept to a minimum, with no allowances available for traveling or other expenses permitted for officers and that the profits of the conventions should be impounded and used for the sole purpose of electing those candidates endorsed at the convention, and should not be given to the participating organizations for their overhead or "House-keeping" expenses.
- b) DDD feels that the overall number of delegates from So. California should be 55% and the overall number of delegates from Northern California should be 45% because that is the relationship that exists between the north and south in the total number of registered Democrats residing within those districts.

We feel sure that the Executive Committee of the DSCC is in complete accord with the rights guaranteed to each citizen under the Constitution of the United States whereby all citizens may freely express, endorse and support whomever they desire for public office. We feel sure that any appearance to the contrary is purely accidental because any intentional divergence from this policy would be towards embracing the philosophy of the dictator states and such foreign philosophy surely could not exist on the Executive Committee of the Democratic State Central Committee of California.

DDD will therefore continue to act in accordance with the law in the future just as it has in the past and in accordance with its own Constitution and By-laws while standing ready at all times to cooperate with any and all legitimate Democratic organizations so that Democrats pledged to support the principles and philosophy of the Democratic Party may be elected and so that in cooperation with others of like views we can make California a Democratic State.

Respectfully yours



Culbert L. Olson
President

Dime a Day for Democracy