

On July 13, 1976, at 3:50 p.m., in Madison Square Garden, New York City, New York, Chairman Robert S. Strauss called the 37th Quadrennial Convention of the Democratic Party to order.

Invocation in Spanish by the Reverend Reuben Cruz, Pastor of the Spanish Christian Church, Chicago, Illinois

Chairman Robert S. Strauss:

The Democrats choose Delegates in a manner different than that of the Republican Party. We believe in a broader political participation. Delegates to the 1976 National Convention were elected under State plans approved and monitored by the Compliance Review Commission of the Democratic National Committee.

Honorable Robert F. Wagner, Chairman of the Compliance Review Commission and Former Mayor of the City of New York:

Spoke on behalf of the Compliance Review Commission and the work of the Credentials Committee, comparing the work done this year with not a single Majority Report vs. the 1972 Credentials Committee with 23 Majority Reports. CRC monitored the Delegate Selection Process: 50 Delegate challenges were filed this year vs. 118 in 1972. McGovern-Fraser Commission used 18 guidelines setting standards for the 1972 Convention. They also mandated the Delegate Selection Commission (Mikulski Commission) reviewing the 1972 guidelines.

Honorable Alan Cranston, Chairman of the Credentials Committee and U.S. Senator from the State of California:

The Credentials Committee in the past has always been a bitter struggle. The Mikulski Commission constructed more applicable rules for Delegate Selection process. In the 1980 Convention, delegates violating the rules of the Credentials Committee will not be seated. Minority groups are still underrepresented and below those of the 1972 quota system.

Ruth Harvey Charity, Co-Chair of the Credentials Committee and National Committeewoman from the State of Virginia:

Seating of the Delegates and Alternates at the Convention: 33 States had no challenges, 6 States had challenges withdrawn or dismissed, 17 States challenges were filed, 8 States adopted the Hearing Officers report without debate, 2 States where State Committees compiled with the Hearing Officer's recommendation. Fractional votes were discussed, This method was used as early as 1835. However, giving fractional votes might award those challenged States in some instances.

Honorable Joseph B. Montoya, Majority Whip, Democratic Caucus:

Financing travel and per diem expenses for Standing Committee members financially unable to attend otherwise was discussed.

Ann Campbell, Co-Chair of the Credentials Committee and Vice-Chair of the State Democratic Party in New Jersey:

The completion of the Delegate Selection process to be completed 4-5 weeks prior to the Convention. Also a need for more lawyers for a number of challenging and challenged parties.

**C. J. McLin, Jr., State Representative of the State of Ohio:**

Candidates right of approval. States have affirmative action obligation. The Winograd Commission will review the Delegate Selection that candidates be required to approve at least 2 people for every Delegate position that they are entitled to.

**Dwayne Holman, President of the Young Democrats:**

Youths are needed to run campaign headquarters, providing the necessary activities at the grass root level. There is an alliance between the young people and the Democratic Party.

**Honorable Moon Landrieu, Mayor of New Orleans:**

Cities struggle for survival, dealing with unemployment and inflation. Cities house major institutions or society, large corporations and labor unions, communication networks, posts, etc.

**Honorable Kenneth A. Gibson, Mayor of Newark:**

People have lost faith in elected officials. We must build better housing, better education, create programs of national health care.

**Honorable Martha Griffiths, Chairperson on the Rules Committee:**

2 special resolutions: a) extend presentation time for the Platform Committee to two hours and b) Roll Call vote could be by telephone by the Delegation Chairman for votes other than nominations.

Nomination of Convention officers: Congresswoman Lindy Boggs of Louisiana, as the Permanent Chair of the 1976 Democratic National Convention.

Election of Co-Chairs: a) Jerry Apodaca, Governor of New Mexico

b) Tom Bradley, Mayor of Los Angeles

c) Ella Grasso, Governor of Connecticut

d) Richard White, State Chairman of Nebraska.

A few nominations were presented on the floor but were not passed.

**Honorable Lindy Boggs:**

Accepted the gavel with love and pride. We need an administration who will work with State and local government towards a sound fiscal priorities. We must mobilize our fine talented Americans to produce a better life.

**Honorable Martha Griffiths:**

Adoption of the Permanent Procedures of the Rules of the Convention. 2 changes were proposed: % of Standing Committee members to support minority report raised from the 10% to 25 % and that the Rules Committee Report be divided into 2 sections: the procedural rules and the amendments to the Charter and By-Laws.

**Michael Bleicher, Delegate from Wisconsin:**

Minority Report #2, regarding discussion of the plank of the Platform if there is a least 300 delegates.

**Honorable Richard Celaste, Lieutenant Governor from the State of Ohio** spoke against the Minority Report

**Marian Humes, Member of the 1976 Platform Committee,** spoke against the Minority Report.

A roll call by telephone was taken and the Minority Report failed.

Harrison J. Golden, Comptroller of the City of New York:

Welcomed the Delegates and Alternates to New York. The Democratic Party was originally founded in New York in 1791. We believe that a Democratic Program will strengthen the American city and that welfare reform will benefit suburban, rural and city life.

Honorable Wendell H. Ford, Chairman, Campaign Committee and U.S. Senator from the State of Kentucky:

Spoke on behalf of the Campaign Committee and the role it will play during the campaign. Yvonne Burke of California, and Jim Wright, of Texas, are the two Co-Chairs. He praised Robert Strauss as a man who does not quit, a good organizer and who has pointed the Democratic Party in the right direction. A program of field consultation as already begun. We must organize, educate, and appeal to the American people to register to vote. 46 million Americans are not registered to vote.

Honorable George McGovern, U.S. Senator from the State of South Dakota:

Asked for unity in support for Carter. We must put an end to ever-ending vetoes and try to show the government will work for the people. The American people have to return to the ideas and principles of our founders trying to reach a "more perfect union".

National Bicentennial Flag presented to Robert Strauss by Chairwoman Boggs.

Chairwoman Boggs honored Barbara Mikulski for the work done as Chairwoman on the Commission on Delegate Selection.

Chairwoman Boggs honored Richard Durham, State Chairman of Puerto Rico, for the outstanding job he has done as Chairman for the past 16 years.

Honorable Wendell R. Anderson, Governor of the State of Minnesota:

Presented the Report of the Platform Committee. More than 500 individuals contributed their ideas, held 13 days of hearings and received thousands of testimony. The preparation of the Platform was more open than ever. We are a Party of individuals, but are united in direction. The Platform represents the commitment to the American people.

Honorable Michael Dukakis, Governor of the State of Massachusetts:

The Platform is a progressive one but very realistic. Our government can deal with critical problems that face our country. For the most powerful country in the world, we have a very weak state of affairs. We need full employment with stable prices, decent health care, fundamental reform and our welfare system changes.

Honorable Tom Bradley, Mayor of Los Angeles:

Reminded us that unemployment, poverty and crime are like a spreading cancer, and that it requires courage and commitment to put into action the programs that are needed. He summarized by calling for a commitment to courageous action and a unity of purpose.

Honorable Hubert H. Humphrey, U.S. Senator from the State of Minnesota:  
Spoke to a renewal of the revolution against the present tyrannies in our institutions. He then cited the failures of the recent Republican administration. He urged all Americans to look to new leaders who are dynamic, compassionate and dedicated to individual initiative, and closed with a statement of confidence in a Democratic victory.

Honorable Edmund Muskie, U.S. Senator from the State of Maine:  
Wished an end to the worst recession in 40 years, and end to economic policies that hurt people. The Democratic Congress put over 3 million people to work. We need a President who has a sense of economic pride.

Honorable Gloria Schaffer, Secretary of State, State of Connecticut:  
Spoke in favor of the economic goals of the Platform. We must create a system of useful, public service jobs.

Honorable Coleman Young, Mayor of the City of Detroit:  
Spoke on behalf of the Economic Justice. There has been very little change in the poverty level of 1968. To encourage growth of small business, including small farms, economic justice means a firm commitment to tax reform.

Honorable George C. Wallace, Governor of the State of Alabama:  
Spoke on Government Reform and the bureaucracy that dominates our lives. The American people are tired of the bureaucracy and wants the government brought down to the people.

Bess Myerson, Former Commissioner of Consumers Affairs:  
Spoke on Business Accountability. The Consumer pays exorbitant prices with such richness of land that no one needs to go hungry. Fair competition is a sustaining spirit of a free market. Consumer protection must be extended and strengthened.

Minority Report with revision of the Hatch Act giving political rights to Federal employees.  
Those in favor were: Mike Steed and Jerry Wurf  
Those against: Robert Hardisty  
Voice vote and the Minority Report is adopted.

Harrison Williams, U.S. Senator from the State of New Jersey:  
Spoke on behalf of our health and social welfare policy. The Platform the commitment of the needs of all people. We need new emphasis on jobs, helping the poor and disabled. Our veterans need better medical, educational, and pension and employment opportunities benefits.

Dr. Graciela Olivarez, Chief Planning Officer for Human Economic and Natural Resources, State of New Mexico:  
Spoke regarding the welfare reform and human needs. A Democratic Administration would put people back to work, a program giving jobs to the able, income to the working class and incentives guaranteeing fair levels or work are all included in the Platform.

Summary of the 37th Quadrennial Convention of the Democratic Party  
Madison Square Garden, New York, New York  
Page "5"

Mrs. Coretta Scott King:

Spoke on the subject of civil and political rights. Millions of Americans looked toward government for help but with no avail. The Democratic Party will not tolerate the neglect of the poor and disadvantaged. The Platform reaffirms the commitment of the quality of men and women, equality before the law and opportunity granted to all.

Kathleen Nolan, President, Screen Actors Guild:

The first time a National Political Party recognized the importance of the arts and humanities in its Platform.

Honorable Richard J. Daley, Mayor of the City of Chicago:

Spoke on the commitment of our Party to the cities and urban communities. Credit institutions must make a better effort to direct mortgage money into financing houses. We reaffirm the support for general revenue sharing.

Mary King:

Spoke on housing policy. Housing prices have doubled in the past 6 years. 3/4 of the American people can not afford to buy a house. 27 million people live in substandard housing.

Honorable Paul Sarbanes, U.S. Representative from the State of Maryland:

Spoke on law enforcement and law observance. Steps need to be taken to reform our criminal justice system and to protect our citizens. Mandatory minimum sentence for felonies committed with a gun, increase judges, prosecutors and public defenders for the individual. Right to privacy must be protected.

Honorable Gladys Noon Spellman, U.S. Representative from the State of Maryland:

Spoke on natural resources. Domestic production decline. The Federal Government is imperative in insuring the Nation's energy future. A realistic energy pricing policy is needed, strip mining legislation will not be vetoed by our Democratic President.

Honorable Thomas Foley, Chairman of the Agriculture Committee & U.S. Representative from the State of Washington:

Democratic influence has always encouraged the growth and development of agriculture. The Democratic Platform pledges to give attention to national food and fiber policy, to protect American producers, the expansion of our exports and it is essential that the farmer have a better working and living conditions.

Honorable Frank Church, U.S. Senator from the State of Idaho:

Spoke on foreign policy. The quest for detente with the Soviet Union could have been a means of obtaining peace if only it was handled better. Congress should be involved with major international decisions, the American people believe in the right to immigrate. He favored selling of food to other countries but not arms.

Summary of the 37th Quadrennial Convention of the Democratic Party  
Madison Square Garden, New York, New York  
Page "6"

Honorable Maurice Ferre, Mayor of the City of Miami:

Spoke on the policy of the Latin American countries. The U.S. cannot continue to neglect our neighbors. The U.S. is made up of almost 15 million Spanish-Speaking citizens. We should adopt policies in trade, aid and financial aid to those countries which need help. Both the U.S. and Panama share mutual interest in the Canal.

Admiral Elmo Zumwalt:

Informed us that the Platform could improve the efficiency of defense spending and increase our military capabilities. Careful assessment requires the use of a national security system.

Honorable Patricia Roberts Harris:

Spoke on the relationship with the Soviet Union. Both the U.S. and the Soviet Union share one thing in common; both could bring nuclear war to this planet. The Democratic Party oppose what the Nixon-Ford Administration has been doing, we commit ourselves to the reduction of international tension. Good relationship with the Soviet Union would tear-down the wall separating the two powers. A comprehensive ban on nuclear test would reduce the risk of war. Our beliefs of liberty and political freedom for all will never change.

Governor Anderson:

Commented on the terrorists attacks in Uganda and reminded us that peace and decency are never served by terror. The United Nations is obligated to coordinate the action of nations against international terrorists. The U.S. must have the support of the people in their actions towards Kenya which upheld international morality.

Vote to adopt the 1976 Platform. Ayes have it and the Platform is adopted.

Benediction by the Reverend Bob Brown, Lexington, Kentucky.

(Whereupon, at 12:27 a.m., the second session of the Convention recessed until 8:00 p.m., Wednesday).