

COMMISSION ON THE
DEMOCRATIC SELECTION OF PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEES

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EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

FLOOR CONTACT: Hon. Harold Hughes
Governor of Iowa and Chairman of
the Commission on the Democratic
Selection of Presidential Nominees

RULES COMMITTEE MINORITY REPORT

TO

ESTABLISH MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR DEMOCRACY
IN STATE DELEGATE SELECTION SYSTEMS

A Minority Report to the Report of the Rules Committee will be brought to the convention floor when the Committee's proposed permanent rules for the 1968 Convention are presented. The Report was filed bearing the signatures of 33 Committee members.

The effect of the Resolution, if adopted by the full Convention, will be to propose a Call to the 1972 Convention providing:
1) that all delegate selection systems be open to public participation within the calendar year of the Convention, and 2) that the unit rule not be imposed at any level of the delegate selection process - - down to the county or precinct level. Behind the proposed 1972 Call's emphasis on timely participation by the public is the fact that over 600 votes are being cast at this Convention by delegates selected by processes initiated two or more years ago - - long before the issues or the candidates involved here were before the public.

The (majority) report of the Credentials Committee, which will have been voted on just prior to the introduction of the Rules Committee's Report, also contains a proposed reform of delegate selection standards. Like the enclosed proposal, it was designed to be included in the Call to the 1972 Convention. The Credentials Committee Report establishes the principle that state systems must be democratic. However, the Credentials Committee proposal is considerably weaker and more vague than the minority Rules Committee proposal.

Although it would require that state systems allow "meaningful and timely" participation by the people in choosing of delegates, the Credentials Committee proposal would not provide precise definitions for these terms. Therefore, states would not have early and unambiguous guidelines to follow in giving effect to the Call. As a result, the 1972 Convention could be confronted with difficult and perhaps numerous credentials challenges. The Rules Minority Report avoids this by incorporating explicit minimum standards where the principles at stake are beyond reasonable dispute.