

For Unpledged Electors

Ala. Pol.

Reprinted From The Northwest Alabamian

The hassle within Alabama's Democratic Party over pledged or unpledged electors is really very simple when stripped to the skin.



If the Wallace-backed unpledged electors are nominated in the May primary, and elected in preference to the Republican nominees in November, it means they will be free to vote in the electoral

college for Lyndon Johnson or any other Democrat for president, and for any Democrat of their choosing for vice-president.

If the Democratic convention this summer chooses candidates that are acceptable to Alabama and the South, the unpledged electors can vote for them. But mainly, they wouldn't be tied in advance to candidates they don't know who might be.

On the other hand, the pledged electors supported by the "Washington crowd" would be duty bound, if elected, to vote for anybody the Democratic convention nominates for president and vice-president.

It is a foregone conclusion that Lyndon Johnson will be nominated for president . . . IF he is still alive and in good health. What if his heart trouble should flare up again and incapacitate him, who then would the convention nominate?

And even if LBJ is nominated for president, who then for vice-president? How about Bobby Kennedy? Roy Wilkins? Martin Luther King?

The "loyalists" pledge themselves in advance to vote for anybody the Democratic convention nominates. And don't kid yourself either Bobby Kennedy or NAACP-president Roy Wilkins or rabble-rouser King can't be the nominee for vice-president.

Another thing about the pledged elector bunch: The Birmingham News is supporting them and that's not good—for Alabama, that is.

I have never been a "hound dog Democrat"—willing to take all manner of kicking around and like it—I am getting too old to change. So I favor the unpledged group. I had rather trust their judgment than the Democratic convention's!

Readers who disagree are invited to write in and say so. We will be happy to publish letters on both sides of the argument.

—Jay Thornton

Selma Times-Journal
3/29/64