

Political Machines Roll at Convention

Waving signs, loud cheers and chants, mass demonstrations to the beat of bass drums earmarked the political fever present in Strouss Auditorium last Thursday evening as some 400 persons assembled for the Social Science Club's first mock Republican convention.

The auditorium was filled sparsely at 7:30. Ten minutes later the sound of a trumpet shattered the quiet atmosphere and some 300 students and faculty raced into the auditorium to claim chairs in the 50 state delegations. Serenity was not to be seen for the next three hours, until the convention adjourned.

Everyone was quick to get into the mood as the auditorium assumed the atmosphere of a political convention — noise, confusion, colorful banners and skillful caucusing.

At 8:10 p.m. the gavel sounded and the temporary chairman gave a hearty bellow for "silence." In the true spirit of a politician, Keynote Speaker Tom Green netted cheers and applause as he traced the colorful history of the Republican party.

Green said Lincoln "restored freedom and peace to the nation" and noting the present problems the GOP must face, called for the delegates "to think and act anew" to save "our country."

"With such a rebirth," Green ended, "the people will turn to us . . . and they will ask us . . . guide us to peace and prosperity. And we shall do so."

Jack Tucker, Jambar Editor, accepted the gavel as permanent chairman amidst rounds of applause. After asserting that "unity and sincerity means victory", Tucker called for the "election of a Republican president so that the nation may march on and go on to prosperity and world leadership."

The platform was unanimously accepted by the delegates and included provisions on domestic policy, civil rights, foreign policy,

economy and transportation.

Stressing steady economic progress, the platform called for an overhaul of the tax system and federal spending, to fight unemployment and to pledge legislation to end discriminatory union practices.

The convention accepted the domestic goal to maintain civil rights in the field of voting privileges

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ENTHUSIASM was the tone of the crowd participating in the University's first mock political convention held last Thursday in Strouss Auditorium. Over 400 students and faculty participated in the three-hour program.

Sen. Smith Leads Field

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and public education and to oppose federal aid to housing facilities maintaining discrimination.

Calling for stronger policies in Cuba and Viet Nam, the platform also urged effective revision of the Alliance for Progress, multilateral reduction of weapons and non-admission of Red China to the United Nations.

With the preliminaries ended, the tense delegates became feverish as the nominations of presidential candidates began. Arizona began with the nomination of Senator Barry Goldwater, seconded by the New Mexico delegation.

The atmosphere was somewhat

peaceful until Maine nominated Margaret Chase Smith, seconded by Vermont. Played by University Recorder, Mary B. Smith, the lady senator appeared to have a machine as half the auditorium joined in the demonstration. Displaying signs reading "Don't Trade a Record for a Promise" and "Think—Vote Smith", the 150 supporters paraded for 10 minutes.

Amidst the cheers and clangs of a huge firebell, Mrs. Smith said she was here tonight to "think seriously" about "being an American."

If the nation is "to continue to fulfill its historic role the people must widely understand exactly what is involved," she said. To support this, Mrs. Smith offered four requirements:

(1) a citizenry which thinks

common problems through to the end;

(2) a nation prepared to make changes when the need for them appears;

(3) a nation practical in executing these changes; and (4) a nation drawn together by ethical values.

In conclusion, Mrs. Smith listed 13 points "thinking American want to accomplish." Included were reducing taxes, balancing the budget, fighting deficit spending and government waste, and providing leadership for a world living together in peace.

The campus dark-horse was Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge, whose supporters organized at the last minute. During the demonstration his supporters performed a song take-off on "Davy Crockett, King of the Wild Frontier."

Other candidates included New York Governor Nelson Rockefeller and Richard Nixon. Having virtually no supporters, Nixon's nomination was given by a delegate wearing a four-inch "Goldwater" button.

The race for nomination was clearly between Sen. Smith and Sen. Goldwater. Only one ballot was taken and Sen. Smith netted 122 of the 268 votes cast, followed by Goldwater with 73. Others were Lodge with 60, Rockefeller with

12 and Nixon receiving only one vote. A majority of 135 was needed for nomination.

Had another ballot been cast, the Goldwater-Smith race would have been more heated; speculation authorities said the Lodge vote would have gone to Goldwater and Rockefeller to Smith. The Nixon vote was discounted.