

ENDORSEMENT POLICY QUESTIONS/OPTIONS

(Transcript of discussion of Citizenship Participation Department Organizational Conference - August 19-21, 1976 - North Unit, LaPas)

Cesar: Crosby, what do you mean by endorsing policy and procedures?

Crosby: I don't know what the policy is going to be; one of the policies is that you either endorse people or you don't endorse them. There's at least a minimum amount of policy that has to be set before anyone can sit down and write it because procedure is a way of carrying out policy.

If the policy is that you don't endorse anybody, then the procedure is very simple.

Dianna: The reason we brought it up is that we are getting all these responses from people like the Peace and Freedom candidates who are from the third party or sometimes even the fourth party in some cases. And then these people will come and are we going to endorse the people who are there or say some Democrat who doesn't come and stands for certain things? Or are we going to make a wise political decision and figure out a way to avoid that?

Crosby: You could have, for example, one option would be a policy that we're not going to endorse anybody who doesn't endorse Prop 1A; or you could say we're not going to endorse anybody who doesn't ask for an endorsement; you can say we're not going to endorse anybody who doesn't show up; or we're only going to accept requests for endorsement from the two major political parties; or we're going to accept and consider for endorsement anybody who wants to ask for one. So, there are some policies that you set down and within those policies it isn't too hard to sit down and write procedures.

Cesar: Could you just write down some of those policies right now so we could bring them to the Board?

Mack: Do we endorse Peace and Freedom candidates?

Michael: Or, more generally, the people who stand with you but don't stand a hell of a chance of getting elected?

Mack: Do we endorse Republicans?

Dianna: What we want to do is draw the tightrope.

Mack: Do we endorse people who are not at the convention? Do we endorse people who don't endorse Prop 1A?

Alex: Only the viable candidates. . .

Diana: Do you endorse candidates COPE has not endorsed--if COPE has endorsed your opponent?

Cesar: Can we have double endorsements? open endorsements?

Mack: Do we have a majority? or 2/3 or 3/4? Those with a loud cheer? Is it the majority voting - quorum?

Cesar: Who makes the recommendations to the convention?

Crosby: Who makes recommendations to the convention?

Cesar: The workers, the endorsing committee

Mack: The endorsement committee? Right.

Dolores: Does that help with the tightrope?

Mack: Ok, we have to have some policies in the committee, too. Within committees, how do you - how does the committee at large deal with endorsements?

Crosby: This is the committee policies; district caucus. . .re the convention endorsement committee - what do you call it?

Cesar: It's the whole convention, right? There'll be a committee headed by Mack or a few people and this endorsement committee makes recommendations to the floor. Subcommittees or caucuses of districts are ones who meet with candidates.

Crosby: You're talking about the sub-committees, then.

Mack: We're talking about the district; the way it's broken down, the delegates from those districts will be meeting with the candidates from those districts.

Dolores: What if we have a candidate and no place?

Crosby: This is policy coming out of the convention structure involving the endorsement committee, the endorsement subcommittee by district and what else?

Something that has to do with who presents what to whom?

Mack: Endorsement subcommittees by district--we just need to know how that process is going to work in terms of the endorsement committee.

Crosby: Okay, if I got this and split off from that, who makes up the endorsement committee?

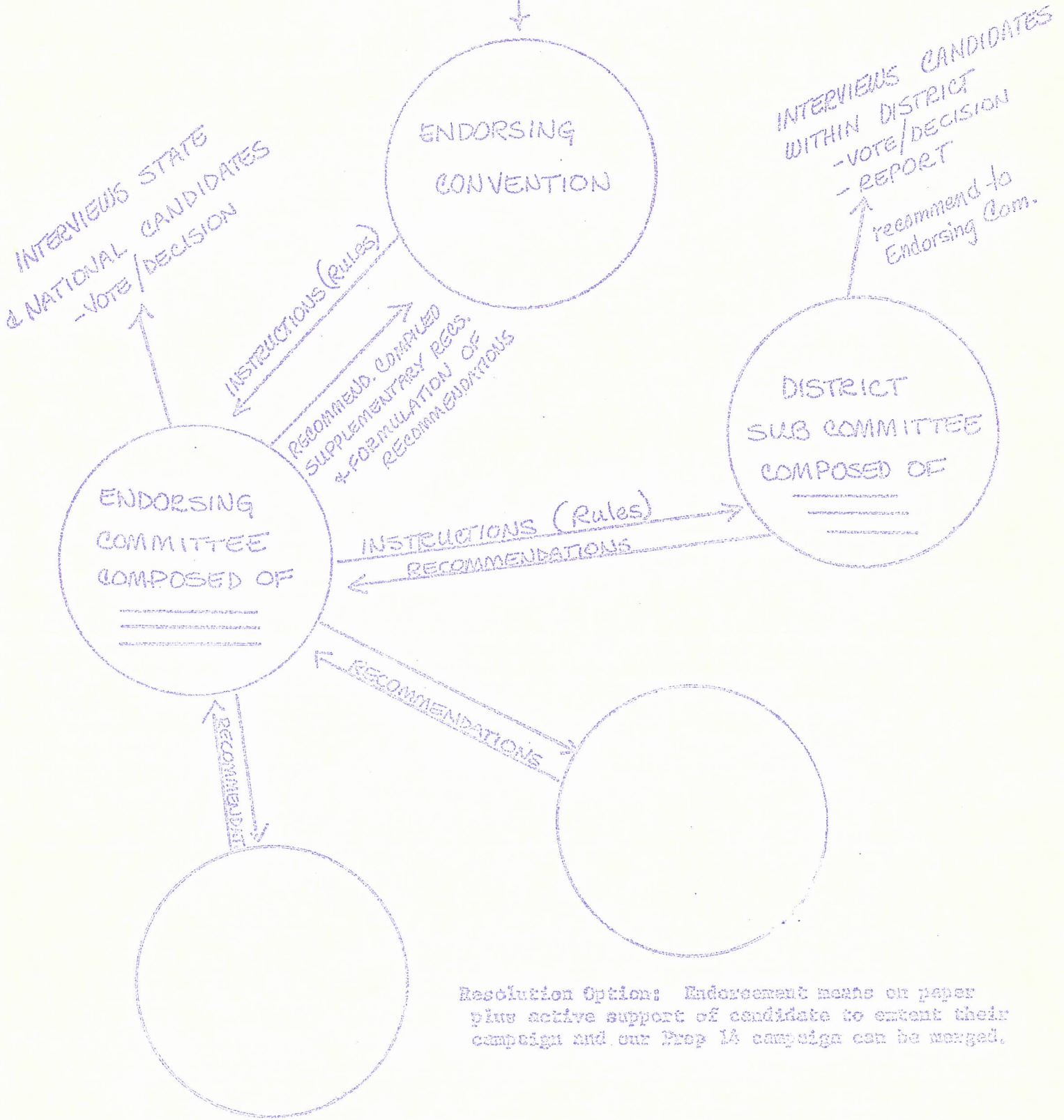
Mack: Members from each endorsement subcommittee by district. I don't know how many, but somebody from each one of those.



POLICY OPTIONS RE CONVENTION STRUCTURE INVOLVING

ENDORSEMENT COMMITTEE

ENDORSEMENT SUB COMMITTEE BY DISTRICT



Resolution Option: Endorsement means on paper plus active support of candidate to extent their campaign and our Prop 1A campaign can be merged.

- Mack: Everybody who is committed has to know what the policies are. The tightrope effect is represented on page 3 - the direction given by arrows from the convention to the endorsing committee to the district subcommittees and the reporting back and forth.
- Crosby: As soon as you begin to draw something like this, you are setting policy.
- Cesar: We'll recommend it to the convention. These are the rules for endorsement.
- Crosby: The subcommittee from districts interview the candidates from that district, but what happens when they lap more than one district. Statewide candidates would be committee of the whole. Who is going to introduce state or national candidates?
- Dianna: The endorsement committee could do it. There are some people coming for Peace and Freedom endorsement who worked on the boycott several years ago.
- Mack: Ok, let me just get it straight. The candidates meet with the district committee and those district committees--what do they do in relation to the endorsing committee, sub committee in their group--how do they get their thing together?
- Crosby: I would assume the endorsing convention in effect gives some instructions to the committee, don't they? Yes. Then that's your rules. When the rules are approved, that gives instructions to the endorsing committee and to the district sub committee and then this comes back as recommendations (as shown on circle charts) and then the compiled recommendations go back to the convention.
- Mack: Is there any voting on those recommendations coming out of the district committees? What I'm asking, is we have a meeting right here and the meeting breaks up and we have heard two candidates.
- Crosby: The endorsing committee in the case of state and national candidates would vote and make a recommending decision.
- Mack: Let's deal with these little committees first and then we can deal with the others.
- Michael: It would seem to me if we pass the rules we already talked about, we would endorse those who support 14; who are with us and who have a chance of helping us (who are viable); that's the rule that goes to the caucus. The caucus listens to these candidates; and in line with this rule and the background information they have, they vote on whoever they would want to endorse from the people they heard.
- Mack: So they vote for recommendations to the subcommittees.
- Michael: No, back to the whole endorsing committee.



Dianna: You're thinking of subcommittee as a couple of people and we're talking of subcommittee as district caucuses.

Michael: The caucus and one or two people from that group should go back to the endorsing committee . . .

Mack: with that subcommittee's recommendations. --  
Now, how does that subcommittee recommend--by vote?

Michael: By vote...in line with the rules we made up beforehand.

Dianna: The caucus chairman carries the recommendation to the endorsing committee.

Mack: How would the endorsement committee . . . I mean, do they just accept that as gospel or do they . . .

Dianna: No, you have to make them walk the tightrope.

Michael: You have to leave a rule in there to allow for changes in endorsements.

Cesar: You have to also leave room for appeals. Say they recommend we endorse a person on the Peace and Freedom. They get the endorsement of the district subcommittee, but then we cite the rules.

Dolores: But how can we tell the whole convention?

Michael: Because we placed down the rules of convention. . .

Dolores: Let's take that rule.

Michael: Because he's not a viable candidate.

Cesar: We like him very much but he can't win.

Dianna: The only way it can be a problem if we don't do our job. We're going to have to be on our toes on the floor and get people all over that floor who really know.

Dolores: We're going to have to clue the workers in.

Michael: Remember we're having people other than workers as delegates - boycott supporters.

Grosby: If you write the rules so they're making a significant but still merely an input in the formulation (cross discussion here)

Michael: When you write the rules you assume it will be voted on quickly enough.

Dianna: Yes, strong persuasive people.

Dolores: Instead of viable, could we say what it means? A candidate will be endorsed who will help in the passage of prop 14.

Diana: What if you get a candidate who helped with bumperstickering?

Some of the Policies put down were as follows:

Consider requests for endorsements from:

- . anyone
- . only candidates from two major political parties
- . only candidates present at convention
- . only candidates who publicly support Prop 14
- . only viable candidates
- . only candidates COPE endorses
- . do we have double endorsements?
- . only candidates who request endorsement
- . only candidates receiving 'ringing' approval shout (majority)
- . quorum - number needed to vote
- . who makes recommendation to committee - to convention
- . only endorse viable candidates publicly committed to actively support social justice for P/W including Prop 14 and legislative action
- . VIABLE: committed to help us and can help us
- . incumbents who voted for law and additional funding
- . majority or plurality to endorse
- . can a candidate be a delegate?

Dolores: The best way is to have the districts do it themselves--have them so well covered that they don't put up non-viable candidates.

Cesar: There may be someone there whom we can endorse as a Peace and Freedom candidate. Maybe we can endorse one--they won't like it, but it is better than not endorsing any.

Mack: There is one compromise if we get into a situation where it comes out that district, then if the whole endorsing committee doesn't want to endorse that district candidate then we give that to the floor of the convention.

Michael: I think you're better off the other way. It's the same as minority reports. If caucus A comes to you, with an off the wall candidate and your committee says, no, we'll go for the other person--if you accept that as the committee's recommendation, then caucus A has a minority report and its that much harder to pass.

Diana: Also, it looks like they've had their voice and that's it.

Michael: COPE and Labor has endorsed Maddig. The word I got from Gellman is that COPE probably will--they haven't officially.

Viable--these two criteria--they have to support us, say through Prop 14 and they have to help us really significantly.

IDEAS FOR RULES FOR ENDORSEMENT CONVENTION:

.Basic convention rules plus need rules for the following:

- Act on Endorsement Committee report as a whole or candidate by candidate
- All unanimous ones then others
- Rule regarding candidates coming directly to convention floor (by type of office)
  - .state level office
  - .national office
  - .invited speakers/guests
- Candidate can be delegate but not on subcommittee in district in which delegate
- Appeals policy procedure:
  - .from floor?
  - .from candidate?
- Minority reports?
  - .subcommittee
  - .motions from floor
- Candidates who show up whom we haven't researched
  - .approve subject to research
  - .listen
  - .reject

Cesar: Sometimes we would be endorsing people who don't want us to endorse them.

Crosby: We can stay out of that trouble by endorsing only those people who ask for it.

Dianna: We thought of endorsing a couple in Florida to make sure they lose. Like the chairman of the Agricultural Committee.

Michael: We need some type of rule for people who go directly to the convention floor.

Dianna: Some could speak to the floor and then the endorsement committee could make a recommendation to the convention.

Michael: You would have to change the timing of the agenda--they can't be at the end.

What if Tunney comes and addresses the entire convention. What happens then?

Cesar: By that time, we're smart--committee comes and makes a recommendation.



Mack: You said put Wall first?

Michael: Early--8 o'clock in the morning.

Cesar: It's a crime to use us and we're too smart to be used, right?

Dianna: Talk before we break into the district subcommittee caucuses. Then chairperson of subcommittee makes point about the viable candidates and this is a perfect example of a really fine guy but he doesn't have a chance of a snowball in hell.

Michael: A majority is needed for endorsement; is that correct?

Crosby: Mack said it over here someplace--only candidates receiving ringing approval shout.

The fact that we are going to come back to the committee rather than just recommendations from the floor is a policy. The fact that when they come back here it's only a recommendation to the committee and the committee actually makes the recommendation to the floor. That means that the committee can change this recommendation. You have to decide is the policy if the committee changes or is different from the subcommittee's recommendation, do you report that to the floor? The subcommittee made this recommendation, but for these reasons the recommendation to the convention floor is such and such. We need that kind of policy also. Once these policies are set, a little chart of some sort converts that policy into procedure.

Michael: Let me ask another question. Do you need a majority to endorse or a plurality?

Alex: Are you going to have a voice vote or are you actually going to count?

Michael: Depends on how close we are.

Cesar: I would say majority.

Alex: There could be runoffs. What if there are six candidates?

Crosby: Depends on whether you decide if you can have double endorsements.

Cesar: We're going to be voting on the motion to endorse the delegate, not on the delegate.

Mack: If there's two candidates speaking to one of the subcommittees, and say that subcommittee recommends we endorse both candidates, then we would have the endorsement committee take it and make a decision on which one to recommend.

Crosby: Another kind of an option there is you could have at both these levels, first looking and asking if the candidates would be acceptable to us. Then from among those acceptable to us, decide if out of 4, two are acceptable, endorse either both or the one you prefer. So as there are two levels: acceptable or unacceptable/ do we want to make an endorsement?



Dolores: Acceptable--does that mean their background?

Crosby: Their commitment; their public position. From our point of view, some candidates may be acceptable to us - there may be two who are acceptable. Sometimes you endorse another person who is acceptable although you may prefer another.

Michael: If the endorsement committee overturns the caucus recommendation, then they have a minority report.

Mack: What do we do about candidates who don't send us a questionnaire, or whom we don't know anything about? Then they suddenly show up at the convention. Are we going to endorse those because we haven't had time to do any research or get any background information? Take any action on those?

Cesar: We should have a voter record from the AFL-CIO and maybe one or two other organizations.

Mack: I'm talking about Peace and Freedom guys--we aren't going to be able to get information on all those people. They could be people who have no record.

Dianna: Couldn't the endorsing committee then recommend that we take no action on that one because of lack of information?

Mack: The question is not whether we endorse them, but do we let them join the caucus of whatever district he's from?

Dolores: Sure.

Cesar: Idea is to give everybody a chance to appeal, to talk.

Dianna: Don't want it to look like an autocratic, arbitrary decision.

I can see fewer problems if we act on the endorsement committee's report as a whole rather than individually. Unless somebody moves from the floor to amend or to separate, . . .the endorsement committee may have 30 things--maybe they could go down the whole report and that's it.

Stop after every district or disputed thing and make a decision, or make one decision at the end?

Alex: Could poll the committees and make a rule to deal with all the ones in one category with no problem and then deal with the others.

Cesar: Could be a rule to endorse all those within the assembly who have no minority report; also for state senate, etc.

Mack: Who deals with the minority reports?

Cesar: They can make it from the floor.

Mack: Who makes it?

Dianna: The chairman or if he doesn't want to make it, recognize someone else.

Dianna: You want the chairman to say it or the dissident to say it?

Michael: Does a minority report come each time the endorsing committee overturns the recommendation of the caucus? Is it an automatic minority report?

Cesar: Yes.

Dianna: What if they don't want to file it?

Alex: Sometimes members of the committee who were overturned may not wish to do this. This should be polled as soon as the report from the committee comes in. First thing you ask is, "Will there be a minority report?" Then if there won't be, (rules should stipulate if they won't say so then they can't make it).

Cesar: Committee then takes all the information, makes a report and before going to the convention, picks out those who want to.

Mack: Repeat that last thing.

Cesar: Say there are 15 caucuses; they come and give a report.. (train went by here and muffled talking)

Mack: Ok, the minority report comes about only if the majority of that subcommittee votes that that subcommittee makes a minority report.

Cesar: Only a majority vote of a subcommittee can make a minority report. Has to be a majority of the caucus committee.

Alex: If there are some who disagree, they can appeal to the committee, but not to the whole floor.

Mack: Can a candidate be a delegate? No.

Crosby: There's two steps there--one you said he can't be in one of these subcommittees and that seems straightforward.

Michael: You already sent out the rules on who can be a delegate.

Crosby: It seems you could eliminate them from the subcommittee. You still could say you can vote on the convention floor but you can't vote in a subcommittee. So a subcommittee cannot have a candidate, but he can still be a delegate and vote relative to all the other candidates.

Michael: After you give a minority report, does that open up to debate on the floor? Yes.

Should there be a time limit on speeches? Convention makes its own rules. Robert's Rules says 2 ten-minute speeches--that's a long time.