

nation as Senators Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts and Hubert Humphrey of Minnesota find themselves in the running whether they like it or not.

Furthermore, the Illinois primary is not restricted to registered party members, as in some states, or to registered party members plus registered independents, in others, but is open to any qualified voter. A voter need only declare his party preference, however recent, at the polls, and vote on the appropriate side of the ballot — Republican or Democrat.

Wisconsin, the state where the U.S.-primary system began, is even more accommodating. It is a "cross-over" state in which a registered Republican, if he has a mind to, can vote for the candidate he least likes on the Democratic side, and thus hope to aid his Republican choice in the actual Presidential election months later, while a registered Democrat can do precisely the same on the Republican side.

It should be noted, however, that this practice has brought Wisconsin Democrats into conflict with the national Democrats, who, in an attempt to reform their primary rules after the 1972 election, decided that cross-over voting would no longer be permitted. Thus, the Wisconsin Democratic primary in 1976 has become a unique sort of beauty contest, and no one seems quite certain just how the state is finally going to decide who it wants to represent it at the national convention and how it wants him to vote.

Other variations

There are other variations from state to state that should be mentioned. In the New York primary, there is only one ballot but, unlike the Massachusetts ballot, that one does not offer the names of the various candidates for the Presidency. Instead it offers the names of individuals who want to be convention delegates, and it does so without the slightest indication of which candidate a would-be delegate will support at the convention. Thus, if a voter in New York wants to vote for Ronald Reagan or Jimmy Carter, he must do personal research before voting day. The piece of paper in the voting booth will offer no help.

To be fair, the national Democratic Party rules require the state Democratic committee to make public the inclination of persons running for delegate, but the practice of not listing delegate affiliation on the ballot nevertheless tends, as with the Republicans, to minimize the influence of the individual voter and maximize the influence of the state's political leadership in determining the make-up of the delegation to the convention. In the case of the

Democrats, it will almost certainly work to the advantage of New York Governor Hugh L. Carey, who is running as "favourite-son" candidate in the state and who wants to go to the convention with a substantial number of the state's 27 Democratic delegates committed to him.

The degree of commitment required of delegates to the national convention also varies widely from state to state. In New Hampshire, both parties require the delegate chosen as committed to a particular candidate stay with that candidate until he withdraws from the convention balloting. In Massachusetts, delegates are required to stay with their candidate until he releases them, which usually amounts to the same thing. But in other states delegates are only required to stay with their candidates through a specified number of ballots. Texas, for example, requires adherence to the pledge of support through three ballots unless the candidate receives less than 20 per cent of the total convention vote on the second ballot. Florida requires adherence through two ballots unless the candidate receives less than 30 per cent of the vote on the first ballot. Indiana requires allegiance for just one ballot, while other states, such as West Virginia, have no state law or party rule to bind the delegate to do anything other than precisely what he or she pleases from the moment the convention begins.

Power varies

The power of individual states, of course, varies enormously once they reach the national conventions. California has the largest "clout" at both the Democratic and Republican conventions, with 28 and 167 delegates respectively. New York is second, with 274 and 154, while smaller or less-populous states, like Rhode Island and South Dakota, have enough delegates to be of influence only in the case of an extremely tight finish — 22 Democrats and 19 Republicans in the case of Rhode Island, 17 Democrats and 20 Republicans in the case of South Dakota.

Tightly-fought conventions have been the exception rather than the rule in recent times. Not since 1952 has there been a convention, either Republican or Democratic, that lasted more than one day. But this year could see a return to the old days in the case of the Democrats, owing largely to the number of candidates seeking that party's nomination.

To obtain the nomination at the convention a candidate must secure an absolute majority of the delegate votes. In the case of the Democrats, the total number of delegate votes is 3,008 and the "magi-

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