

on an independent course and held its first and only national convention. Seventeen States were represented.¹ The Labor party, however, had yet to learn how hardly won are independence and unity in any political organization. Rumors of pernicious intermeddling by the Democratic and Republican politicians were afloat, and it was charged that the Pennsylvania delegates had come on passes issued by the president of the Pennsylvania Railroad. Judge David Davis of Illinois then a member of the United States Supreme Court was nominated for President and Governor Joe Parker of New Jersey for Vice-President. Both declined, however, and Charles O'Connor of New York, the candidate of "the Straight-Out Democrats," was named for President, but no nomination was made for Vice-President. Considering the subsequent phenomenal growth of the labor vote, it is worth noting in passing that O'Connor received only 29,489 votes and that these embraced both the labor and the so-called "straight" Democratic strength.

For some years the political labor movement

¹ It is interesting to note that in this first National Labor Party Convention a motion favoring government ownership and the referendum was voted down.