

# STATE DEMOCRATS PICK ALEXANDER FOR SENATE RACE

But Syracuse Mayor Faces  
Challenge by Lowenstein  
in September Primary

## BALANCED TICKET NAMED

Conservatives Back Wilson,  
But Governor May Face  
Fight for Nomination

By FRANK LYNN

Special to The New York Times

NIAGARA FALLS, N. Y., June 15—The Democratic State Committee, winding up an exhausting 13-hour session early today, designated Mayor Lee Alexander of Syracuse as its candidate for the United States Senate but gave former Representative Allard K. Lowenstein enough votes to force the fight with Mr. Alexander in the Sept. 10 primary. As the Democrats returned home from their two-day session, the Conservatives and Liberals were meeting in New York City to vote on their slates.

### Primary Is Possible.

Governor Wilson won the Conservative designation, but T. David Bullard, a 47-year-old fruit farmer from Saratoga County and a regional vice chairman of the party, received enough votes to qualify him to enter the primary Sept. 10. Mr. Bullard said he would decide in the next few days whether to make the race.

The Liberals, as expected, designated Edward A. Morrison as their candidate for Governor.

The Conservative party's state committee, meanwhile, designated Governor Wilson as its candidate, but a possibility of a primary fight arose when a second candidate received more than 25 per cent of the vote at the meeting here yesterday.

The Democrats' designation of Mr. Alexander, the final action of their meeting, gave party leaders the balanced ticket they wanted, but also four primary fights they did not want.

With the final speakers

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competing with vacuum cleaners preparing this city's convention center for a high school graduation today, the state Democratic chairman, Joseph F. Crangle, banged the gavel at 2:52 A.M. today to end the Democratic State Committee meeting that had all the confusion of past state Democratic sessions but not the acrimony.

The committee's principal accomplishment was to designate a state slate headed by 54-year-old Howard J. Samuels, the party's official gubernatorial candidate.

However, Mr. Samuels, like other members of the official party slate, must first face the challenge of fellow Democrats in the primary before taking on the Republican state ticket, headed by Governor Wilson, in the November election. With former Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller on the sidelines, Democrats believe they have the best opportunity in 16 years to win the state administration.

However, this optimism was tempered by the prospect of possibly bitter Democratic primary fights. The State Committee paved the way for these contests by also qualifying six other Democrats as opponents for everyone except Arthur



The New York Times  
Robert R. Meehan, who was designated by party for Attorney General, addresses the committee.

Levitt for Controller in the primary. A vote of at least 25 per cent of the committee on any ballot qualifies a candidate for the primary.

In addition to Mr. Samuels, Mr. Alexander and Mr. Levitt, the official slate is composed of Mario M. Cuomo for Lieutenant Governor; Robert Meehan for Attorney General, and Court of Appeals Judge Harold A. Stevens and Appellate Division Justice Lawrence Cooke for the two Court of Appeals judgeships.

## Rivals Listed

The opposition in the primary, in addition to Mr. Lowenstein for Senate, will be provided by Representative Hugh L. Carey for Governor; Assemblyman Antonio G. Olivieri and State Senator Mary Anne Krupsak for Lieutenant Governor; Borough President Robert Abrams of the Bronx for Attorney General and Supreme Court Justice Bertram Harnett for the Court of Appeals nomination.

Party leaders also believe that Ramsey Clark, former United States Attorney General, will succeed in entering the senate primary via the petition route even though his best vote on the two ballots needed to designate Mr. Alexander, was a

minuscule 1.6 per cent.

In the second ballot, which gave Mr. Alexander his majority largely by the support of the big-city leaders and upstaters, the vote just before 3 A.M. was Mr. Alexander, 59.7 per cent, Mr. Lowenstein, 39.9 per cent, and Abraham Hirschfeld, a businessman, and Mr. Clark, less than 1 per cent each.

The five non-judicial candidates on the official slate are relatively balanced both geographically—three New York City residents (Mr. Samuels, Mr. Cuomo and Mr. Levitt); one upstater (Mr. Alexander), and one suburbanite (Mr. Meehan)—and by religion—two Jews, Mr. Samuels and Mr. Levitt; two Roman Catholics, Mr. Cuomo and Mr. Meehan, and a

Greek Orthodox, Mr. Alexander.

The two official Court of Appeals candidates, Judge Harold A. Stevens and Justice Cooke also balance the ticket by adding black representation, in the case of Judge Stevens, and upstate representation in the case of Justice Cooke, who is from Monticello.

Democratic leaders had repeatedly emphasized the importance of a representative ticket and had sought to avoid a repetition of the 1970 ticket, which was composed of four Jews and a black.

However, the balance could be upset in the primary, in which Jewish voters form the largest single bloc. Three of the six insurgent candidates are Jewish.

The primary also poses a ticklish problem for Mr. Samuels, who had proclaimed a hands-off attitude in the selection of the slate. However, his campaign manager, Ken Auletta, participated in several of the emergency meetings and huddles of party leaders as they fashioned tickets almost hour by hour yesterday and early today in an effort to meet the often competing pressures of candidates and ethnic and geographic blocks. Many of the leaders slept only one hour over the last two days, and they looked it early today.

"I thought of calling Hugh Carey and saying you can have it," quipped Mr. Samuels only half way through the political marathon.

Aides to Mr. Samuels said that the candidate, who is the first to publicly emphasize the need for a balanced slate, was very satisfied with the party slate. Mr. Cuomo had been Mr. Samuels' choice after the Westchester County Executive, Alfred B. Del Bello, refused to run.

**Risk in Endorsements**

However, if Mr. Samuels does take sides in either the Lieutenant Governor or other primaries, he risks alienating supporters of the other candidates, particularly the vocal New Democratic Coalition, which provided most of the qualifying votes for three of the insurgent candidates as well as a good share of the

vote for Mr. Samuels.

The unresolved situation clouded his own victory at the meeting, where he put together a rare coalition of the New Democratic Coalition, the big-city "bosses" in New York City and Buffalo and most of the upstate counties.

Mr. Carey's political and financial base has been so narrow that he might be tempted to link up with some of the insurgent candidates in the primary, although party leaders said he had assured them he would not.

Mr. Carey received slightly less than one-third of the State Committee vote and has relied almost exclusively for financing of his campaign so far on his brother Edward, president

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of New England Petroleum Corporation, who is responsible for \$660,000 of the nearly \$700,000 Mr. Carey has raised.

**Strong Leader Lacking**

The committee meeting also graphically demonstrated that the party still lacks a real leader, as Mayor Beame, potentially the most powerful Democrat in the state, declined to get involved.

As a result, the major leaders, notably Mr. Crangle and Meade H. Esposito, the Brooklyn Democratic leader, often disagreed and left the door open for the floor rebellion that dumped their initial choice for Lieutenant Governor, Assemblyman John LaFalce of Buffalo.

Despite frequent disunity

among the leaders, there were increasing signs of a unity and maturing in the party, which has been the arena for bitter reform versus regular and upstate versus downstate struggles.

The unity was at least partly generated by optimism about the party's prospects in the November election, an optimism that was not even dimmed when workers at the convention hall started turning off the lights and running vacuum cleaners about 2 A.M. today to hint broadly to the Democrats that it was time to go home. They did, an hour later, but only after Mr. Crangle angrily had told a convention-hall official to "get those damn lights on."