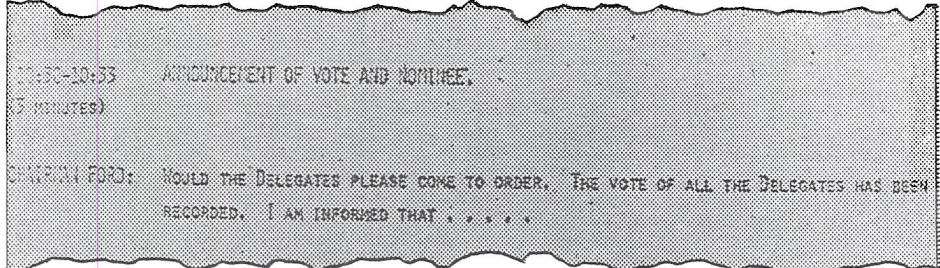


Unexpected 'Preview' Provides a Jolt To a Hitherto Predictable Convention



By JAMES T. WOOTEN

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MIAMI BEACH, Aug. 22—

Until today, the Republican National Convention had moved with the predictable steadiness of a well-practiced liturgy, its rhythms pre-measured and its cadences carefully counted by the political priests who fashioned it.

Spontaneity was as scarce as McGovern supporters and impulse as unwelcome as the four girls in Vietnamese costumes who stood outside the hall today holding disemboweled dolls and moaning funeral chants.

But a moderately vocal floor fight over the report of its Rules Committee led to a spritely change in tempo today, providing at least some evidence that the best-planned performances can sometimes deviate from the script. There was other evidence as well.

Shortly before the third session convened this afternoon, a page from the Republican National Committee's press center opened the door to the workroom of the British Broadcasting Company and placed a large collection of papers in its "in" box.

"When I saw what it was, I couldn't believe my eyes," said Charles Wheeler, the B.B.C.'s chief correspondent in this country. "It was really quite an extraordinary—how do you Americans say it?—really a big screw-up."

Erroneous Release

The press center had erroneously released to a few news organizations, including Mr. Wheeler's, a copy of the detailed, down-to-the-minute, comma-by-comma script of the fourth convention session tonight, the session renominating President Nixon.

The script merely confirmed what delegates, journalists and visitors already had sensed, but the persons who run the press center made a quick decision to retrieve the missent scripts and perhaps avoid a scolding from their bosses.

Three young messengers soon arrived at the B.B.C.'s cluttered little booth and demanded that Mr. Wheeler give it back.

"Well, I told them, I could hardly consider such a thing," the 49-year-old correspondent said.

topher Drake," Mr. Wheeler said

Mr. Drake, a radio correspondent, said he had held Mrs. Wisdom at arm's length while she reached for the script and demanded its return.

"Naughty, naughty," Mr. Drake chided in his clipped accent. "Naughty, naughty, naughty."

C.B.S. Wastes No Time

Mrs. Wisdom finally gave up and returned to the trailer where in a few moments, she saw on her television screen a copy of the script in the hands of a Columbia Broadcasting System floor correspondent. "What they've done here in this vast hall," Ran Rather was saying from the color set, "is to turn it into one vast television studio, and this is the way the program will go tonight."

A few minutes later, the press center decided not to discuss the matter of the script with the dozens of reporters lining up outside to request their copies.

The script itself minutely ordered tonight's session from start to finish and included the number of votes the President would receive as well as several pauses for audience response and a demonstration that would interrupt the convention secretary in mid-sentence.

For instance, John Wayne, the actor, who is supporting the President's re-election campaign, was instructed in the script to "accept cheers and applause" after his two-minute introduction of a film on the President.

Further, Bart Starr, the former quarterback of the Green Bay Packers, a National Football League team, was told by the script to "nod" to the youngsters presenting the colors before they left the opening ceremonies.

Instructions for Ford

Similarly, Representative Gerald R. Ford, the permanent chairman of the convention, was also instructed by the script to anticipate a "chorus of ayes" when he called for a voice vote on a resolution planned for introduction in tonight's session.

The script advised representative Ford that "the President should be nominated when the roll reaches Missouri" and informed him that "at [the] announcement of [the] Missouri vote, or whichever state nominates the President, [a] demonstration begins."

That demonstration, scheduled in the script for five minutes, no more, no less, was to be ended by the convention secretary's admonition to the delegates, "Please come to order . . . please clear the aisles and come to

order so we may continue the roll-call, Montana."

At the end of the roll-call, Mr. Ford, according to the script, was to begin his formal announcement of the nominee, only to be interrupted by a demonstration formally titled "Nixon Now" by the script-writers. During "Nixon Now," the approximately 20,000 red, white and blue balloons nestling in 11 bins throughout the hall were to be released.

Finally, Representative Ford's writers for tonight provided him at least eight hours in advance with the precise number of votes the President was to receive in the roll-call of the states—1,348—all of the convention's votes, including the one Representative Paul N. McCloskey Jr. of California won in New Mexico's primary.

Nonconformist Signs

If the press center inadvertently departed from well-laid plans, some of the delegates today were showing embryonic signs of such nonconformity as well.

While the Platform Committee's representatives spoke from the podium in the afternoon session, the convention aisles gradually filled and before Gov. Ronald Reagan of California, who was presiding at the time, could get to his gavel, they were clogged.

Moreover, the noise level on the convention floor rose until Governor Reagan, as stern-faced as a Western-movie sheriff, strode forcefully to the front of the platform and spoke firmly to the milling offenders.

"Clear the aisles or we're going to sweep the aisles," he said, and simultaneously, with his scolding, the three huge screens behind him flashed a slide message to the floor. "Delegates and alternates please be seated," it blinked.

As the California Governor glared down on the floor, William Jacquin, a delegate from Arizona, wandered idly back to the chairs where alternates from his states were sitting.

"Hey, Bill," shouted Harold Dorenbecker, a 22-year-old alternate from Tucson. "Reagan said clear the aisles. Didn't you hear?"

Mr. Jacquin, president of the Arizona State Senate, shrugged and smiled. "I had to go to the little room again," he said.

Mr. Dorenbecker was unimpressed. "They're going to sweep you off the floor, and then I'm going to take your place," he said.

Mr. Jacquin glanced around the hall for a moment before turning back to the younger man. "You're welcome to it," he said.

The young men said they would return with the convention's sergeant-at-arms, Mrs. Pam Ryman, but came back with Mrs. Kit Wisdom, one of the several members of the press center staff.

"She grabbed the script from me, and I grabbed it back, and then she grabbed it back and then I pried it from her hands and threw it across the room to Chris-

12-10-45 DEMONSTRATION - "NIXON NOW"

(21 PAGES)

(Balloon Drop)