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# G.O.P. Rules Panel Blocks Two Vice-Presidency Plans

## Kills Moves to Make Candidates Name Choice Early and Offer List of Eligibles 20 Days in Advance

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KANSAS CITY, Mo., Aug. 15 — The Republican National Convention's Rules Committee today defeated two proposals to reform the process by which the party's vice-presidential candidates are selected.

First the committee voted down, 59 to 44, a requirement that each candidate name his proposed running mate on the morning of the day that balloting for the Presidential nomination is to take place. The change would have taken place at this year's convention, which opens here tomorrow.

Then the committee defeated a more ambitious and less political plan designed to require candidates to limit their vice-presidential choice to a list of possible nominees chosen by themselves 20 days before the convention. The vote was 57 to 46 against the proposal, which would not have become effective until 1980.

Throughout the day-long meeting, backers of President Ford on the narrowly divided committee managed to demonstrate control over backers of Ronald Reagan on test votes. By late afternoon, the only vote the Reagan forces had won involved recessing for lunch.

### Delegates Restricted

After long debate and two attempts to sidetrack the move, the committee also approved a new rule backed by the Ford contingent that would prohibit delegates elected in primaries and bound by state law to a Presidential candidate from switching to another on early ballots.

In the closest vote of the day, the members defeated, 50 to 47, a substitute for the Ford plan that almost certainly would have freed such delegates from any party restriction on abandoning such legal obligations and voting their personal preference.

The defeated measure had been proposed by David R. Forward of Maryland, who is committed by his state's primary results to vote for Mr. Ford for two ballots but who is regarded as a Reagan supporter thereafter. Most of his support came from Reagan delegates on

the committee.

The adopted rule, if reaffirmed by the full convention on Tuesday, will mean that 938 delegates from 19 states will be bound by party rule as well as state law on the first round or two of Presidential balloting Wednesday night.

### Courts Back Party Rules

Generally, the courts have refused to enforce state laws against participants in national political conventions, but they have agreed to require them to observe party rules.

Of the delegates who will now be required to vote as they are bound by state primary laws, 367 are committed to President Ford and 571 to Mr. Reagan. The President's strategists had been fearful,

however, that they might lose some of their first-ballot strength without the new rule.

The Vice-Presidential rule proposed by Reagan delegates on the committee was openly designed to force President Ford to choose a running mate before the Presidential balloting begins. Mr. Reagan designated Senator Richard S. Schweiker of Pennsylvania as his choice last month.

Wiley Mayne of Iowa, a Ford supporter, called the proposal "an obvious political ploy to impose on all candidates the political mistakes of one." A number of conservative Republicans deserted Mr. Reagan after he chose Senator Schweiker, a liberal.

### Argues for Free Choice

George L. Hinman of New York argued that each Presidential candidate should be free to seek the nomination as he saw fit—Mr. Reagan by naming a running mate and President Ford by declining to do so.

The basic Reagan position, stated by Dennis Olsen of Idaho, was that if President Ford was going to make a mistake in choosing his running mate, "I want to know about it now so I can do something about it."

The committee debate over enforcing state primary laws appeared to bring to light two previously concealed Reagan supporters. Jack Wilson of Colorado, who has listed himself as uncommitted, sponsored one rule that in effect would have eliminated any retaliation against bound delegates who violated "moral and legal" commitments.

Then Mr. Wilson withdrew his plan in favor of the one proposed by Mr. Forward. Like all 43 Maryland delegates, he has been listed as a Ford backer because the President won the primary. But his proposal, while complex and obscure, readily won support from the Reagan faction on the committee.

The Forward plan would have converted binding state primary laws into party rules only when the laws had been formally certified to convention officials by state officers. There was considerable doubt that this could be done in time to affect the convention.

The Vice-Presidential selection plan aimed at 1980 was co-sponsored by Representatives Margaret M. Heckler of Massachusetts and Bill Frenzel of Minnesota. They argued that the convention would choose more qualified running mates if a list of possible choices was circulated in advance.