

DAVIS NOMINATION IS BEST SOLUTION

Clean Campaign on National Issues Assured, but Chances of Victory at Polls Believed Slight

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The Democratic National Convention has reached the best possible solution of an almost impossible situation with the nomination of John W. Davis of West Virginia and New York for President of the United States.

Ripped, torn and nearly wrecked by an issue of religious prejudice, the party finally turned to a candidate who stood above prejudice and who was in no way touched by the intense hates that have been aroused since June 24. There were candidates satisfactory to the south, but not satisfactory to the east and vice versa. Davis was acceptable to both factions. That is the story of his nomination.

From the strictly non-partisan point of view the Davis nomination insures a clean campaign conducted on truly national issues. But Davis's chances of beating President Coolidge are not good. Despite his high character, his capability and his ability to weld party differences, he will have a difficult time overcoming the adverse sentiment created by this convention.

A SOUND RECORD

This writer knows many men of both parties who served in Congress with Davis, and he has yet to hear one say that the new Democratic candidate is anything but able and clear-visioned. Supreme Court justices have said that Davis as solicitor-general was the most able government lawyer who ever appeared before the high court. His record as ambassador to the court of St. James still is one of the outstanding bright spots of the Wilson administration.

The story of Davis' nomination really starts Tuesday night, when Smith and McAdoo began to fade out of the picture. Immediately the Davis people uncovered an organization which had been quietly pledging votes to their candidate while the two leaders fought it out.

When the convention came together again at noon Wednesday, the Davis sentiment was stronger than ever despite efforts of Bryan and some of his sympathizers to beat it down. The situation was beyond the control of the political leaders.

The convention was driven to Davis by cold logic, and after the one hundred and first ballot was finished, his nomination was hardly doubtful. On that ballot there was an attempt to make Underwood the leader. On the next ballot more force was put behind the Underwood drive, and still Davis gained faster than the Alabama Senator. On the third ballot of the day and the one hundred and third of the session Underwood wobbled and dropped.

THE LEAP TO NOMINATE

The roll call was almost finished when Davis showed a majority. The states whose votes remained to be recorded leaped for the Davis band wagon. Brennan of Illinois rushed to where Roosevelt of New York sat and both tried to get the floor to change the vote of their states. The convention knew that those votes would almost give Davis the necessary two-thirds. There were hurried caucuses and state after state changed their vote to Davis. In the middle of a growing hubbub, Thomas Taggart of Indiana got the floor and moved Davis' nomination by acclamation. It carried and Chairman Walsh declared Davis the party nominee as two big pictures of the candidate were borne down the center aisle.

Davis is 51 years old. His father was prominent in West Virginia politics and the younger Davis followed him before he was 30 years old, becoming candidate for presidential elector-at-large from West Virginia in 1900, the year of the second Bryan campaign.

He was elected to the Sixty-second Congress and again to the Sixty-third Congress from which he resigned to become solicitor-general. His next place was that of Ambassador to Great Britain. He has practiced law in New York for the past four years.