THE DEMOCRATIC LEGALISM OF PIERCE 1851-1855


The Sixth Democratic National Convention met at Baltimore June 1, 1852, with 297 delegates. John W. Davis of Indiana presided. The convention was called to order by Benjamin Mallet of Massachusetts, chairman of the National Committee, who read the call issued by his committee. The two-thirds rule and the unit rule were adopted with little debate, and a motion to reconsider the former was rejected 269 to 13. During the balloting for Presidential nominee, Governor Floyd of Virginia, endeavored to avoid the unit rule, claiming that the Democrats of the district choosing him wanted Douglas, and not Buchanan, who was getting Virginia's entire vote. The question seems to have been decided according to the admitted usage of Virginia which was to cast a solid vote according to the wishes of the majority of the state delegation.

A motion to adopt a platform before nomination of candidates was defeated 115 to 111. The number of delegates for subsequent conventions was doubled, fixed at twice the number of Senators and Representatives in Congress.

The Democrats had an embarrassment of riches in the way of candidates, Buchanan, Cass, Douglas and Marcy, all considered of Presidential size and prestige. The first ballot was, Case 116, Buchanan 93, Marcy 27, Douglass 20, scattering 25; twenty-nine ballots were taken with a very gradual shift of strength from Cass to Douglass, showing Cass 27, Buchanan 93, Douglass 91, and no other candidate with over 25 votes. At this point Cass's friends staged a comeback and the thirty-fifth ballot gave Cass 131; but on that ballot Virginia changed from Buchanan to Pierce, and on succeeding ballots this dark horse gained or held firm. The forty-eighth ballot was Cass 73, Buchanan 28, Douglass 33, Marcy 90, Pierce 55. On the next ballot came the stampede led by North Carolina, Pierce 282, all others 8. It has been asserted that Pierce's nomination long had been planned and carefully arranged for, but there seems little evidence of this.

Ten men from ten different states were voted for on the first ballot for Vice-President, William R. King of Alabama leading with 126 votes; on the second ballot he was unanimously chosen. The platform was adopted with little dissent, and the plank dealing with the Compromise was read and received amid great enthusiasm and long continued applause.

The Whig convention assembled in Baltimore June 16th, with all states represented. The Southern delegates held a caucus and drew up a declaration of principles which, it is said, the friends of all candidates finally agreed to stand for; this story is most credible as a reading of the platform adopted will show.

Fillmore, a "Silver Grey" or moderate Whig, had most of the Southern support, many of those delegates having been instructed for him. Between Fillmore and Webster, a "Cotton" Whig, the Southerners were indifferent or individually preferred the latter. The story is that when it seemed that Fillmore could not make the grade the Southern leaders agreed to break instructions and go for Webster, provided that he would assure his nomination. This required at least 41 Northern votes and that number could never be obtained. The Conscience Whigs, Daws and Lee of Massachusetts and others, would not vote, not even on just one ballot, for Webster. It seemed to be recognized as impossible to transfer Webster's strength to Fillmore. The first ballot was Fillmore 135, Scott 131, Webster 29; on the fifty-third Scott, the favorite of the "Conscience" Whigs, was named and William Graham of North Carolina given second place on the second ballot.

The platform was adopted, but not without a struggle; that Scott's friends had agreed to the main points demanded by the South seems certain. Especially was the concluding plank resisted; it has been called the death sentence of the Whig Party.
The Democratic Education of Peace

The process of education is a fundamental aspect of the Democratic Education of Peace. It seeks to instill values of cooperation, respect, and equality among individuals. Through education, children and adults are encouraged to develop critical thinking skills and to question existing social hierarchies. The democratic process is integrated into the educational curriculum, promoting active participation in decision-making and community building.

The goal is to cultivate a sense of social responsibility and empathy, encouraging students to become active agents of change. This approach not only prepares individuals for a democratic society but also fosters a global perspective, emphasizing the interconnectedness of all nations.

In the Democratic Education of Peace, education is seen as a tool for promoting peace. By fostering an environment where differences are valued and conflicts are resolved through dialogue, students are better equipped to navigate and resolve issues within society. The ultimate aim is to create a generation that is committed to building a more peaceful and just world.
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The Democratic Reclamation of Power

The struggle to reclaim power from the corporate and political establishment has been ongoing for decades, with various groups and individuals working tirelessly to shift the balance of power away from those who have historically held it. The Democratic Reclamation of Power is a movement that seeks to reassert the principles of democracy and equality that were once the bedrock of our society. It is a call to action for all who believe in a fair and just society, where every voice counts and every vote matters.

In the Democratic Reclamation of Power, we must confront the challenges of corporate influence and political corruption, and work towards a future where our elected officials are真正 representing the needs and interests of the people they serve. This requires a fundamental transformation of our political system, one that is more accountable to the people.

The movement is multifaceted, encompassing issues such as campaign finance reform, voting rights, and the expansion of representation for marginalized communities. It is a movement that is rooted in grassroots organizing and community engagement, with the goal of building a powerful force that can challenge the status quo and bring about real change.

As we move forward, we must be prepared to face resistance from those who have grown accustomed to wielding power and influence. But with determination, unity, and a commitment to the principles of democracy, we can build a stronger, fairer society for all.

The Democratic Reclamation of Power is not just a call to action, but a vision for a brighter future. Together, we can create a world where everyone has a voice and a seat at the table, and where power is truly in the hands of the people.