

University of Mississippi

eGrove

Clippings

James W. Silver Collection

4-4-1963

Barnett Encouraged On Demo Bolt Plans

James Saggus

Follow this and additional works at: https://egrove.olemiss.edu/jws_clip

Recommended Citation

Saggus, James, "Barnett Encouraged On Demo Bolt Plans" (1963). *Clippings*. 281.
https://egrove.olemiss.edu/jws_clip/281

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the James W. Silver Collection at eGrove. It has been accepted for inclusion in Clippings by an authorized administrator of eGrove. For more information, please contact egrove@olemiss.edu.

Barnett Encouraged On Demo Bolt Plans

CL

4/4/63

By JAMES SAGGUS
Associated Press Staff Writer

Gov. Ross Barnett reported Wednesday he had encouraging response from several Southern states to his proposal for presidential primaries that could spur Democratic bolts in Dixie.

"Representatives of six or seven states have met informally twice at Montgomery, Ala.," Barnett said. "We have quite a bit of encouragement from those in government. But it's in the young stage still."

Barnett declined to name the states or any interested officials in other states, but said "I think you'll have a full report in a few days. I'd rather not comment now."

The governor described the primary election law passed by the legislature this year as a move to "give the people an opportunity to vote their consciences."

However, legislative backers said the move would show before election time that Democratic sentiment in the state was opposed to the national administration,

and would give states rights bargaining time and points.

Under the new law, the state Democratic convention would nominate a slate of candidates opposed to the national ticket and another favoring the national ticket. The primary would be held after the national convention nominated candidates and fixed platforms and the Democratic voters would then make their selections.

MINUS PARTY LABEL

The defeated slate could get on the general election ballot only as independents and without the party label.

Barnett said the Mississippi results might "help conservatives in other states" because they would be known ahead of the general election.

He said he felt Alabama and one or two other states might go with Mississippi in the primary election law move.

Barnett said, "I don't know whether our national convention delegation would be seated or not. I have no way of knowing."

He was asked the possibility of

Continued on Page 12 A

BARNETT

Continued from Page 1 A
the national convention not seating a state delegation from a state convention which had set up a slate of electors opposed to the national ticket.

He said state Democratic Executive Committee Chairman Bidwell Adam of Gulfport had invited him to an executive committee meeting April 11 here.

"He asked that I discuss the recent (primary election law) amendment. He said he was all the way with us this time."

Adams was a loyalist in the 1960 elections, when an unpledged slate of electors backed by Barnett carried the state. It later cast its votes in the electoral college for conservative Democratic Sen. Harry Byrd of Virginia.

BOTH DEMOS

Both the victorious States Rights faction and the loyalists carried the Democratic labels in the 1960 election.

Barnett said if Illinois had voted Republican as expected, the Southern states rights would have needed only four more electoral votes to have blocked the election of Democrat John Kennedy by the electoral college. He said this

would have thrown the election into the House of Representatives, where the Southern bloc could have bargained for concessions from candidates in return for votes, or worked to get backing for their candidate as a compromise between the two national candidates.

Barnett scoffed at the idea he would run for president as a conservative standard-bearer.

When a newsman asked if he would run, Barnett replied emphatically, "Why, no."

The governor also said he had no plans to meet with Atty. Gen. Robert Kennedy to seek removal of federal troops from Oxford, where they have been since the riots accompanying the admission of Negro James Meredith into the University of Mississippi.

The governor had asked Kennedy to remove them, but declined to give his personal guarantee of Meredith's safety. He said he would try to preserve order, but could give no such guarantee. He said the state college board had primary responsibility for operations on the campus.