

# LOYALTY OATH State Democratic

BY AL FOX  
News staff writer

Old-line Loyalist Democrats and States Righters laid aside old differences — at least temporarily, Saturday — and reunited forces in an attempt to prevent another Republican sweep as occurred in the 1964 general election.

On a unanimous vote, the State Democratic Executive Committee abolished the controversial loyalty oath and paved the way for a primary fight between presidential electors pledged to former Gov. George C. Wallace and President Lyndon B. Johnson.

AND THE ABSENCE of the loyalty oath would allow elected delegates to the Democratic National Convention in Chicago on Aug. 25 to pledge their support to the nominees of the national party if it takes that to get seated at the convention.

Candidates will merely be required to state that "I am a Democrat" and pledge themselves to the principles of the Democratic Party of Alabama.

In an unexpected appearance before the party's policy-making

body, Wallace said "the movement which began in Alabama" would "avail itself of the opportunity to place a slate of electors before the voters in May opposed to backers of other parties on the national level."

THE ONLY voice of protest during an otherwise harmonious session on discarding the loyalty oath was made by the former state party chairman, Judge Roy Mayhall of Jasper, who warned that "I hope we don't fall into the same error we fell into four years ago."

Mayhall warned that the party had "some obligation to the national party," and spoke with a degree of sarcasm about Wallace without ever mentioning the name of the former governor.

He charged that Wallace abandoned "the state of unpledged electors in 1964 and 'some of the electors abandoned themselves' when Wallace withdrew from the presidential race 'leaving them to live the best they could in the middle of the stream.'"

THE ONLY dissenting votes on any issue came when a Third District vacancy was

filled by secret ballot. Bill Stokes of Elba defeated Kyser Wilson of Arton by a vote of 37-29.

One committee member, J. E. Brantley, of Banks in Pike County, said he had asked for a place on the elector slate to be put forth by the newly organized Alabama Independent Democratic Party "to insure people have an opportunity to vote for the national nominees."

Brantley, however, said this action would not be taken until after the May primary.

ROBERT VANCE, chairman of the State Democratic Executive Committee, said there were two major factors which brought about the show of unity among party members.

"Democrats learned their lesson in 1964," Vance said, "and we desired a situation to unify forces on both state and local races."

The other major factor, Vance said, was that "instead of trying to restrict the party, we have loosened the requirements and put the decision in the hands of the people. We gave no instructions to the delegates. We realized that

the loyalty oath was an issue that was dividing us. By abolishing it we are saying that you need not be concerned, because you are not bound to a specific candidate."

WALLACE denounced the "professional Republicans" who he blamed "for the economic degradation of our people regardless of race or color."

"The leadership of the national Republican Party has not and will not offer a single thing to our state," he said. "The national party leadership in 1968 is the same as it was all those years when they looked down their nose at the people of the South."

And, he attacked the leadership of both parties for the "breakdown of law and order," and claimed that "both have refused to take action against those who have instigated this and those who are guilty of overt acts of treason."

WALLACE LASHED out at former U. S. Rep. James Martin without mentioning his name, who he said was among those who "praised me when I withdrew in 1964 but who think I am the sorriest



## Ala stat

BY DAN DOWE  
News staff writer.

MONTGOMERY

Alabama Republicans will hold a statewide convention in Mobile June 28-29 to nominate candidates and elect party

# TH ABOLISHED

# factions reunited

man to sit in the governor's chair and that I will hurt the Republicans and assure reelection of Johnson."

The potential third-party candidate for president did not announce his candidacy, but said that if the two national parties "do not offer the people a choice then we will go to the Alabama Democrats and ask that they give us a slate of electors under the rooster and give the people a choice."

FIVE DELEGATES will be elected from each of the old nine congressional districts in addition to the national committeeman, committeewoman, state chairman, vice chairman and secretary. Three alternates will be elected from each district.

The two committee members and party officials along with the nine district chairmen will have one vote each. Others will have one-half vote.

The committee adopted a resolution offered by Frank Russell of Montgomery praising U. S. Sen. Lister Hill who is not running for reelection after 46 years in Congress.

THEY ALSO ADOPTED A

resolution honoring Gov. Lurleen Wallace and wishing her a speedy recovery from her illness. Vance earlier had sent her 72 red roses, one from

each member of the committee. The resolution was offered by Charles Grainger of Huntsville.

On motion of Mobile's

Harry Clark, the committee voted for speedy action by the administration to insure return of the U.S.S. Pueblo and its crew.



FORMER GOV. GEORGE WALLACE ASSAILED BOTH NATIONAL PARTIES AGAIN  
... From left, chairman Bob Vance, Wallace, Secretary Hobdy Rains of Gadsden

## STATEWIDE PRIMARY VOTED DOWN

# Alabama GOP slates the convention

would be highly embarrassing for this executive committee if we vote for a statewide primary and over 50 counties oppose it at the local level."

Alabama can do nothing to help the party more than to elect a Republican majority in the House."

He added, "I believe our party has already brought

Neither of the Republicans made direct mention of former Gov. George C. Wallace, expected to try to capture the state's Democratic presidential electors.

of the Johnson administration will come to an end."

He said a GOP majority in Congress will mean that "Once again we'll see some fiscal responsibility in government and maybe even see a