

Nevada scores primary election coup

CHICAGO (AP) - Democrats shook up tradition on Saturday by vaulting Nevada and South Carolina into the first wave of 2008 presidential contests along with Iowa and New Hampshire — a move intended to add racial and geographic diversity to the early voting.

The decision by the Democratic National Committee leaves Iowa as the nation's first presidential caucus and New Hampshire as the first primary, but wedges Nevada's caucuses before New Hampshire and South Carolina's primary soon afterward.

The move also packs all four state contests into a politically saturated two weeks in January. The change means a potentially huge cast of Democratic presidential candidates could winnow quickly by the beginning of February.

Party officials embraced the change, though New Hampshire Democrats joined several likely presidential candidates and former President Clinton in opposing the move.

"It's an opportunity for the candidates to speak in a broader way to Democrats across the country," said

Alexis M. Herman, co-chairman of the DNC's rules committee that drafted the change. "It will be a plus for the candidates and I think they will take advantage of it."

Driving the decision to alter the schedule was a long-held worry within the party that Iowa and New Hampshire, which are predominantly White, were not representative of the country's population and key Democratic constituencies. Blacks and Hispanics have complained they haven't had an adequate voice in the early contests.

In choosing to squeeze Nevada caucuses between Iowa's Jan. 14 caucus and New Hampshire's Jan. 22 primary, party leaders kept in mind the state's large Hispanic population as well as its heavy labor union presence.

South Carolina, with its large Black population, could hold its primary as early as Jan. 29.

But the primary calendar may not be final.

New Hampshire objected loudly to the lineup and has threatened to leapfrog over the other contests to retain its pre-eminent role.



"This will be an enormous undertaking, but our state party is up to the challenge."

— Harry Reid (D-Nev) Senate Democratic Leader

"The DNC did not give New Hampshire its primary, and it is not taking it away," New Hampshire Gov. John Lynch said.

Secretary of State William Gardner, also a Democrat, emphasized again Saturday that it will be his office, not Democratic National Committee Chairman Howard Dean, who picks the state's primary date.

"That's going to be based on state law, and it will be a date that honors the tradition," Gardner said after the DNC action. "It appears that he's in the driver's seat taking the Democratic National Committee on a collision course with the New Hampshire tradition."

Gardner, who has said he

will decide next year when to schedule his state's primary, also said the plan to punish candidates who campaign in New Hampshire was an affront to a state with a long history of promoting greater participation in the political process.

"It's pretty insulting and disrespectful to the potential candidates and to the people of the state that they're being threatened," said Gardner.

Eager to avoid such a rebellion, Democrats also adopted sanctions to penalize presidential candidates who campaign in states that cut in line by denying them del-

egates from those contests.

But party officials acknowledged the effort was a gamble.

Candidates eager to curry favor with Democrats in the early states could simply ignore the sanctions, particularly if the states jumping ahead are small and have few delegates to offer.

"Will the DNC enforce the rules?" asked Michigan Democratic Chairman Mark Brewer. "If New Hampshire doesn't follow the rules, then nobody should have to follow the rules. This is just the first step; we're not going to know the final calendar probably until November of '07."

Brewer said he agreed the schedule needed change, but argued the new lineup ignored the populous and union heavy industrial rust belt.

"Unless we have a candidate who can win in the industrial states, we can't win the presidency," he said.

Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid of Nevada, who led efforts to move his state earlier in the voting, "This will be an enormous undertaking, but our state party is up to the challenge."

And South Carolina Democratic Chairman Joe Erwin praised the move, saying, "There's great regional diversity in four events strung out over a period of a couple weeks."

Democrats rejected a proposal that would have boosted the number of convention delegates for states that don't leapfrog into an early position.

Opponents complain that adding contests in Nevada and South Carolina crowds the early stages of the nomination process and the party's nominee could be determined by the beginning of February, before most states even get a chance to vote.

Dennis Goldford, a political scientist at Drake University in Des Moines, said the proposed schedule would make Iowa's influence even more disproportionate.

"If there was a big stretch between the caucuses and New Hampshire, you have time to recover from a stumble and, if you do well, you have time to show some real weaknesses further down the road," he said.

Young

(Continued from Page 1)

lanta, in the New York and Los Angeles environment tend to be a lot more volatile," he said.

He also said working with the group "was also taking more of my time than I thought."

Reading from a statement, Wal-Mart spokesperson John Simley said Friday that the company supported Young's decision to resign and that Young's comments do not reflect Wal-Mart's views.

"We are appalled by those comments," Simley said. "We are also dismayed that they would come from someone who has worked so

hard for so many years for equal rights in this country."

Simley declined to comment on how the situation might affect Working Families for Wal-Mart.

The remarks surprised Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean and founder of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles, who pointed to Young's reputation of civil rights work.

"If anyone should know that these are the words of bigotry, anti-Semitism and preju-

dice, it's him," Hier said. "I know he apologized, but I would say this, ...during his years as a leader of the national Civil Rights Movement, if anyone would utter remarks like this about African-Americans, his voice would be the first to rise in indignation."

Young came under fire from the civil rights community after his company, GoodWorks International, was hired by Working Families for Wal-Mart to promote

the world's largest retailer. Young's company, which he has headed since 1997, works with corporations and governments to foster economic development

in Africa and the Caribbean.

In an April letter to the General Synod of the United Church of Christ, Young said it was wrong for the church and others to blame Wal-Mart for world ills.

"I think we may have erred in not paying enough attention to the potentially positive role of business and the corporate multinational community in seeking solutions to the problems of the poor," Young wrote at that time.

"I didn't want to become a distraction from the main issues, so I thought I ought to step down."

— Andrew Young Civil Rights Leader



Follow the Rainbow to...

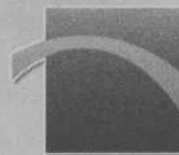
Good Health!



When your family counts on you to stay healthy, you can count on Rainbow Medical Centers' board certified family physicians to provide the highest quality of primary and urgent care services. Our facilities offer lab, x-ray, and are open evenings and weekends for your convenience. Rainbow Medical Centers has also been awarded Joint Commission Accreditation (JCAHO) for maintaining national standards of quality healthcare.



Track your health at **My Health Zone**
You'll find it at...
www.rainbowmedical.com



RAINBOW
Medical Centers



PRIMARY & URGENT CARE

Board Certified Physicians
Most Insurances Accepted

West
255-6657
1341 S. Rainbow Blvd.

East
438-4003
821 N. Nellis Blvd.

North
655-0550
4920 Lone Mtn. Rd.

Rampart
254-9192
8522 Del Webb Blvd.

Galleria
436-5800
1397 Galleria Dr.

Golden Triangle
657-9555
1302 W. Craig Rd.

Boulder Hwy
898-1405
4241 S. Nellis Blvd.