

The Democratic coalition created by Roosevelt was straining and sputtering. On the conservative side the civil rights stands of President Truman engendered southern distrust and led to the creation of the States' Rights Democrats championed by Senator J. Strom Thurmond of South Carolina as a presidential contender. The liberal wing of the party was dissatisfied with Truman's foreign policy and his break with "New Deal" administrators prompting former Vice President Henry A. Wallace to run for president under a Progressive label. Although there was considerable dissatisfaction with his policies and prospects for winning in November, Truman garnered almost 64 percent of the vote in the 13 primaries with 30 percent going to unpledged delegates. At the Philadelphia convention no candidate rose to challenge the incumbent and he received a first ballot nomination. However, for the first time since 1860, some southern delegates bolted the convention and the remaining delegates from the South voted heavily in favor of Senator Richard B. Russell of Georgia.<sup>28</sup> With a Democratic President having a Republican Congress, the party's platform and convention speeches predictably attacked the Republican leadership for obstructing the course of post-war progress.

Maryland did not hold a presidential primary in 1948 but the state delegation did play a role at the convention. Senator O'Connor was Chairman of the Rules Committee which defeated an attempt by southern delegates to reinstate the "two-thirds rule" for nomination. Senator Tydings, himself a favorite son candidate for vice president, seconded the nomination of his colleague, Allen W. Barkley of Kentucky, who did receive the second place spot on the national Democratic ticket.

The Republican contest for the presidential nomination was an open affair eagerly sought by candidates who relished the opportunity to run once again against the Democrats, not Roosevelt. The Republican primaries of 1948 were inconclusive as favorite son candidates or unpledged delegates received the most consideration. Governor Harold E. Stassen of Minnesota did win in Wisconsin, Nebraska, Pennsylvania and West Virginia giving him a claim to serious consideration. No Republican primary was held in Maryland. The Dewey forces had remained intact from 1944 as he had won re-election as Governor of New York in 1946. Another leading contender was Senator Robert A. Taft of Ohio, the son of a former Republican President. At the Republican National Convention in Philadelphia, Dewey correctly saw Taft as the main obstacle to his second nomination and he worked to gain the support of the unpledged and favorite son delegates. Falling short on the first two ballots, the Dewey strategy was working and all of the opponents withdrew giving Dewey a unanimous nomination on the third ballot. The Republicans left Philadelphia confident of their platform and candidate and of the problems besieging the Democrats.

The election of 1948 is perhaps best remembered by the headlines of early morning newspapers which proclaimed "DEWEY DEFEATS TRUMAN."<sup>29</sup> What the media editors, the pollsters and the politicians had failed to gauge and understand was the tireless energy of a battling Truman whose independent style and "straight talk" struck a responsive chord with the average voter. During his whistle stop crisscrossing of the country, the Truman campaign speeches emphasized the preservation of the