

Chicago convention had shaken the foundation of the party and by 1972 the wounds remained open. Party rules for the national convention and selection of delegates were drastically changed.<sup>35</sup> The new rules and lack of a frontrunner led to numerous candidates for the presidential nomination in the state caucuses, conventions and primaries. Senator George S. McGovern of South Dakota, who was the initial Chairman of the Commission on Party Structure and Delegate Selection, emerged as a strong contender from the early primary and state convention contests. By the time of the Maryland primary on May 16, 1972 McGovern was the candidate to stop. Eleven candidates were placed on the primary ballot for Maryland voters. A separate contest for individuals running for delegate to the national convention from the states' congressional district was simultaneously held for the first time in Maryland's history. The Maryland primary was held the day after Governor Wallace was severely wounded in an assassination attempt at a shopping center in Laurel, Maryland during his campaign swing through the state. Wallace received 38.7 percent of the vote in Maryland's primary with Senator Humphrey's 26.8 percent being second. McGovern, a mediocre third in the "beauty contest" primary with 22.4 percent, did manage to capture 16 of the 48 delegates elected directly from congressional districts.

The Democratic National Convention, held also in Miami from July 10 to 13, 1972, revealed a party divided against itself as well as a country torn between conflicting values. The McGovern reformers went for the political win by successfully unseating the Illinois delegation controlled by Chicago Mayor Richard J. Daley and by holding onto all of California's 271 delegate votes in a challenge to the "winner-take-all primary system" used by that state. These internal party fights not only exposed the reformers sincerity but so altered the convention schedule that the significant candidate and campaign portions of the convention escaped the desired prime time television audience. The Democratic Convention problems were only a bad beginning to a wholly unsuccessful campaign.<sup>36</sup> Only 18 days after the end of the national convention, the vice presidential candidate, Senator Thomas F. Eagleton, was pressured to withdraw because of his prior history of hospitalization for "nervous exhaustion and fatigue."<sup>37</sup> He was replaced on August 5, 1972 by the Democratic National Committee with R. Sargent Shriver, a Maryland native who had been U.S. Ambassador to France and Director of the Peace Corp and was an in-law of the Kennedy family.<sup>38</sup>

The McGovern campaign never was properly launched and met disaster at the polls in November. Notwithstanding the Vietnam War, the Watergate break-in and economic

#### 1972 ELECTION SUMMARY

Candidate (Party)	Popular Vote		Electoral Vote	
	Md.	U.S.	Md.	U.S.
George S. McGovern (D)	505,781	29,171,791		17
Richard M. Nixon (R)	829,305	47,170,179	10	520
John G. Schmitz (A)	18,726	1,090,673		