

THE NOMINATION FOR TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN  
OF THE REPUBLICAN CONVENTION \*

I TRUST that the motion made by the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. Lodge] will be adopted, and that we will select as chairman of this convention that representative Republican, Mr. Lynch, of Mississippi. Mr. Chairman, it has been said by the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. Stewart] that it is without precedent to reverse the action of the national committee. Who has not known numerous instances where the action of a State committee has been reversed by the State convention? Not one of us but has known such instances. Now there are, as I understand it, but two delegates to this convention who have seats on the national committee; and I hold it to be derogatory to our honor, to our capacity for self-government, to say that we must accept the nomination of a presiding officer by another body; and that our hands are tied, and we dare not reverse its action.

Now, one word more. I trust that the vote will be taken by individual members and not by States. Let each man stand accountable to those whom he represents for his vote. Let no man be able to shelter himself behind the shield of his State. What we say is that one of the cardinal doctrines of the American political government is the accountability of each man to his people; and let each man stand up here and cast

\* Speech before the Republican National Convention of Chicago, June 3, 1884 seconding the nomination of John R. Lynch. From "Proceedings of the Eighth Republican National Convention." Chicago, 1884.

his vote, and then go home and abide by what he has done.

It is now, Mr. Chairman, less than a quarter of a century since, in this city, the great Republican party for the first time organized for victory and nominated Abraham Lincoln, of Illinois, who broke the fetters of the slave and rent them asunder forever. It is a fitting thing for us to choose to preside over this convention one of that race whose right to sit within these walls is due to the blood and the treasure so lavishly spent by the founders of the Republican party. And it is but a further vindication of the principles for which the Republican party so long struggled. I trust that the Honorable Mr. Lynch will be elected temporary chairman of this convention.