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After Republican Convention, It'll Be Ms. Prez And Ms. Veep For Sure As Both Parties Nominate Women For Election

By Tom Brown

At the end of her acceptance speech tonight for the Republican nomination for president of the United States, it appeared for a few moments that Jane Adams Smith was the only woman to be making big news this year. But with it all but certain that the running mate she names tomorrow will be Senator Claudia Simpson of Connecticut, there are now four women competing to take over the White House next November. Given that the Democratic party last week also nominated two women for their ticket, the next President and Vice President of the United States will be carrying a "Ms." before their names.

United Nations Ambassador Smith accepted the nomination as thunderous applause rang out throughout her speech, and there was nothing but glee apparent in the huge Albuquerque Convention Arena. Smith had sewed up the nomination with her string of undefeated primary wins last spring; there were only a handful of delegates pledged to any other candidate.

A spokesman for Ambassador Smith said that "it would not be a surprise" if, tomorrow night, the nominee selects Senator Simpson as her running mate. A "Smith-Simpson" ticket has been touted for at least a month, and Simpson was the chairman of Smith's national election committee.

"Welcome to progressive government!" was the quick reply of Virginia Governor Peggy Wyatt, who was anointed the Democratic nominee in their New York convention last week, when she was asked to react to the nomination of Ambassador Smith. Of course, women have been on the national ticket since early in the century, mainly as running mates to male presidential contenders.

However, the near certainty that women will hold every spot on both party tickets is creating excitement everywhere.

"This nation," Ambassador Smith said in her speech tonight, "has been blessed with great leadership over its almost 300 years of existence. Now we march onward, toward a new Centennial — with hope and promise for even better days for this republic!"

Los Angeles Mayor Benita Belize, who is the Democratic vice presidential nominee, said in a news conference tonight that she was proud to be part of American history. She also expressed confidence that the polls now favoring Governor Wyatt's election will hold firm through the November elections.

"However," said Mayor Belize, "the idea that women will assume both the offices of President and Vice President should give the country a strong assurance that the days of gender and race bias are gone. We are a new country," the Mayor said, "or, at least, we soon will be!" |<

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