Rifle Group Ousts Most Leaders
In Move to Bolster Stand on Guns

By REGINALD STUART
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CINCINNATI, May 22—In one of the most far-reaching shake-ups in the 107-year history of the National Rifle Association, voting members of the organization ousted today most of their top elected and paid officials.

The officials had been accused by a well-organized group within the association of compromising the organization's objectives in the past year in several areas.

The rifle association is the nation's principal civil promoter of the possession and use of firearms for protection and pleasure as well as the leader of nationwide efforts to oppose gun-control legislation.

Winners and losers were still trying to sort out the meaning of some of the actions here. Based on the reasons given in the debate on the proposals for the actions taken, however, it appeared that the organization emerged from this meeting, which ends Tuesday, would reaffirm with more vigor the group's stance against gun control.

The action today was taken in a heated eight-hour business meeting that ended about 3:30 A.M. In the session, a series of "proposals to save N.R.A." presented by a group called Federation for N.R.A. were adopted by the 1,100 members eligible to vote.

Members' Role Strengthened

All of the proposals were aimed at giving the organization's 1.2 million members a broader voice in the decision-making process.

By the time the dust had settled, the members had returned to power, by an overwhelming voice vote, Harlon B. Carter, of Green Valley, Ariz., a 63-year-old retired director of the southwestern region of the United States Immigration Service. He served as president of the association from 1965 to 1967 and two years ago was the first executive director of the organization's lobbying arm, the Institute for Legislative Action.

Mr. Carter was appointed executive vice president effective immediately, replacing Maxwell E. Rich, who held the position for the past seven years.

In a fiery speech earlier in the evening, Mr. Carter said, amid applause, that, if returned to an office within the organization, he would see to it that "there will be no more civil war in the National Rifle Association."

Another official ousted was Thomas Billings, vice president for finance since last August. The members abolished his position and also abolished the management committee of the organization, containing Mr. Rich and Mr. Carter. Irving W. Reynolds, of Rancho Santa Fe, Calif., first vice president, and John J. Garman of Augusta, Me., secretary, were not re-elected.

Harlon B. Carter, right, speaking at convention of National Rifle Association in Cincinnati. A former president, Mr. Carter replaced Maxwell E. Rich, left, as executive vice president of the organization.

Coptic Egyptians Struggle To Retain Culture in U.S.

SHOW SUMMARY

A former president, Mr. Carter, replaced Maxwell E. Rich, left, as executive vice president of the organization.
Harlon B. Carter, right, speaking at convention of National Rifle Association in Cincinnati. A former president, Mr. Carter replaced Maxwell E. Rich, left, as executive vice president of the organization.
Voting members of the N.R.A. replacing officers with new leadership slate