

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 emerging 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."

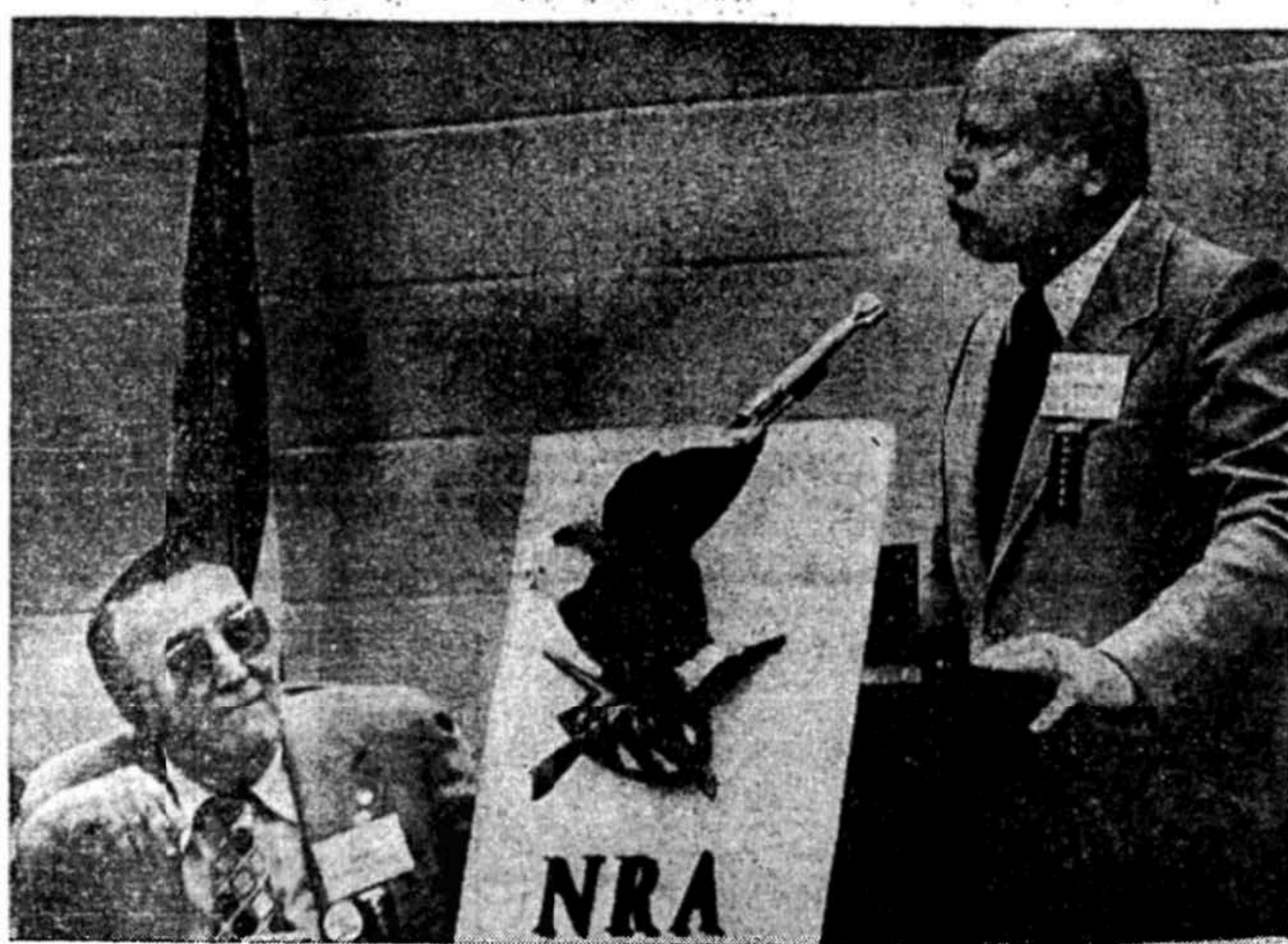
Another official ousted was Thomas Billings, vice president for finance since last August. The members abolished his position and also abolished the management committee of the organization, consisting of Merrill W. Right, president of the N.R.A.; Irvine W. Reynolds of Rancho Santa Fe, Calif., first vice president, and Alonzo H. Garcelon of Augusta, Me., sec-

the result of a well-planned and executed strategy whose principal developer was Neal Knox, editor of Rifle magazine and Handloader magazine.

As Mr. Knox stood on the stage behind Irvine C. Porter, a corporate lawyer from Birmingham, Ala., who presided over the meeting, William F. Grief, executive director of the Federation of Greater New York Rifle and Pistol Clubs Inc., paced the floor near the platform, managing the voting in concert with his walkie-talkie, which had been linked with at least five others scattered around the convention hall.

At one point in the meeting, which usually lasts about three hours, the event took on a Watergate-like atmosphere. At the insistence before the meeting of Representative John D. Dingel, Democrat of Michigan, who is a member of the N.R.A. board of directors, tape recordings of meetings between rifle association officials and their lobbyists were played for the audience.

Although financial matters were dealt with principally, the essence of one conversation was that the lobby group officials were being chastised by the officials who were ousted today because the lobbyists had taken a hard stance against a gun-control project of the National Education Association.



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. The New York Times/Bob Richards



Voting members of the N.R.A. replacing officers with new leadership slate

Coptic Egyptians Struggle To Retain Culture in U.S.

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SHOW SUMMARY

America.

Several thousand Egyptians, mostly Christian members of the Coptic Orthodox Church, are seeking the dream of the promised land in Los Angeles, one of a dozen such settlements formed in North America since economic hardships caused by the defeat in the six-day war in 1967 forced the first large migration of Egyptians in 5,000 years.

Like waves of earlier immigrants, they have encountered mixed blessings on these shores: economic security accompanied by the perils of assimilation.

These problems were laid before the Coptic spiritual leader Pope Shenouda

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but Christianity survived among better educated classes and some peasants. Although membership in the early 19th Century dipped below 500,000, it is now estimated that about seven million of Egypt's 40 million population are Copts.

Though no figures are available, it is believed that there also are about 30,000 Moslem Egyptians living in North America.

Many Copts, with a good education, have made a relatively smooth transition to America in professions such as medicine, engineering, science and education. But especially for the elderly, or laboring class, adjustment has been difficult, although American wages are beyond the Egyptians' wildest dreams.

A major concern of the Copts is the impact of this society's mores on their



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