POLICE CALM BAPTIST RIOT: PANDEMONIUM REIGNS AT BAPT. CONVENTION ...

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PANDEMONIUM REIGNS AT BAPT. CONVENTION

Fists Fly, Knives Flash as L. K. Williams is Re-Elected.

COPS CALLED IN

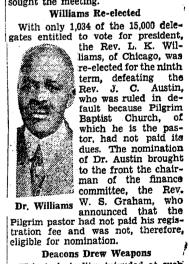
Claim J. C. Austin was Tricked Out of Race. 19

CHICAGO. (ANP)—While much of the bitterness, exposes, and even bloodshed expected to culminate at the Golden Jubilee of the National Baptist Convention was sidetracked, near casualties developed at the election of officers when followers of the Rev. J. C. Austin sought to establish the fact that he had been tricked out of his had been tricked out of his right to run in the election.

A battle, in which chairs and fists, were used, and knives brandished, and women fought with pocketbooks, ended when six policemen, ansfering a riot call, rushed to the scene. In twenty minutes order was restored.

The convention adjourned Monday after voting to hold the 1931 session in Atlanta, Ga. Philadelphia also sought the meeting.

Williams Re-elected



Deacons Drew Weapons This technicality, intruded at such a time, set the partisans, on what the prizefight writers call "their ears." Pandemonium did break loose. Patience was lost among the Lord's leaders. Throughout the hall, wrangling prevailed. On the platform, a fight is said to have started. The participants in this struggle were started. participants in this struggle were at Mr. Pope, of Cairo, Ill., and a Mr. Laden, a deacon in Pilgrim Baptist Church, formerly a minister, but now in the tailoring business.

Many Crushed in Stampede But the attack of the Rev. Mr.
Pope on Mr. Laden was only a highlight. It precipitated a rush toward
the doors in which scores were
crushed, and overshadowed a number
of lesser quarrels in which slaps were

exchanged and chairs flourished.

After about twenty minutes of demonstration quiet was restored with the aid of police officers, and the announcement was made by

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PANDEMONIUM REIGNS AT BAPTIST

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prof. R. B. Hudson, the secretary, that the Rev. Mr. Williams had been re-elected.

Many members are still in the dark as to when this election was held.

Many Lay Down Arms

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The re-election of Dr. Williams was not achieved without a struggle. The usual procedure of electing a president at one of the early opening days of the convention was sidetracked this year until what was thought to be a "convenient season" had arrived. Many "secret" conferences were had in order to build up the Many "secret" conferences were held in order to build up the proper kind of election atmosphere. At some of these conferences, the realcitrants and "unduly alarmed" who have been pepping it up in the journals of the land for several months, had their ruffled feathers smoothed by appeals to their lovalty to the denomination.

"Let's don't break up things, now, brothers." ran the burden of the pleas.

nimber of the brethren agreed to lay down their arms and try to obtain the changes in organization program and management in other, more peaceful ways.

It was after they had made these pledges that it was thought safe to hold the election.

Election Sudden

Quietly, and suddenly to most persons, the matter of electing a president was brought up Wednesday afternoon with the Rev. R. B. Roberts, of Memphis. Tenn., treasurer of the convention, in the chair. The Rev. J. R. Poe made the customary motion to suspend the rules and re-elect the president b acclamation. His motion was met with cheers, and with jeers from the assembled delegates who had not been fed the soothing syrup of the "secret" congreences.

the action of Williams felt significant was the action clegates that Dr. Williams cossary to announce that he others be pl ferences. frences. So significant was the action of the delegates that Dr. Williams felt precessary to announce that he was guite willing that others be placed nomination. This apparent invitation was seized quickly by the Rev. H.P. Hawkins, formerly an assistant paster under Williams, who dismissed pastor him.
The Rev. one of the ganizing in course the pastors.

pastor under Williams, who dismissed him.

The Rev. Mr. Hawkins has been one of the most active persons organizing ministers in Chicago to esponse the fortunes of the Rev. J. C. Austin, pastor of Filgrim Baptist. Church. Sometimes it has been felt that Brother Hawkins was carrying Brother Austin along much faster than he desired to go. At any rate, the supreme moment for the Rev. Mr. Hawkins seemed to have arrived, and he arose quickly to place the name of Dr. Austin in nomination.

In all truth, it must be written that there was great cheering from the floor, despite the fact, as some allege, that hundreds of members of Dr. Williams's church were massed in the front of the hall, in contravention of the rule that delegations should sit by states.

Bid Made for Union

Some effort to bring about a peace-

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Some effort to bring about a peacere-union was made after the election, by the Rev. Williams, who
thanked the convention for re-electing him and had a word to say regarding Dr. Austin, Dr. Williams told
the delegates that Dr. Austin was not
against him and Dr. Austin replied
by telling them that Dr. Williams
was not against him.
However, it did not disabuse the
minds of Dr. Austin's followers of
the belief that he had paid his registration dues. He exhibited receipts
for twenty dollars paid in for registration and \$100 for the foreign miston board. They still feel that Dr.
Austin was unjustly dealt with.

Convention Highlights

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The chief occurrence at the convention so far have been:
The singing of the great Golden Jubilee Choir under the direction of George Garner and his wife. Mrs. Netta Paullyn Garner. The splendid pageant of progress of the Baptist Church presented Tuesday evening under the direction of Mrs. Manet Fowler of Texas.

Bapilat Church present under the direction of Mrs. Manet rounder the direction of Mrs. Manet round of Texas.

The insistent plea in the speeches of all the general officers present that immediate steps to be taken to restore the denomination to peaceful normalcy.

The circulation of rumors of trickery on the part of members of the board by uncapanized partisans of certain candidates.

The circulation of a pamphlet by Dr. A. M. Townend, secretary of the publishing board, explaining why he is not in attendance at the convention.