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By Sidney Barstow

The Democratic state central committee decided yesterday that the party's 1962 U.S. Senate candidate will be chosen at a convention in Richmond June 6.

The state's 10-day notice was taken by Democrats who were planning their own convention and will conduct the first time in modern Virginia political history that the two parties have held conventions at the same time.

The membership of the Democratic committee is in serious doubt because of the party's majority in the House of Delegates and its control of the Senate. The conflict of dates with the Republicans, who will stage their convention in Richmond.

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The committee also was reflected in the standing committee's endorsement of Attorney General John V. Dooley, who has been seeking the Democratic nomination for governor since 1962, would provide Virginia.

And the committee also worked together under Senator John C. Currie, a Richmond railroad lawyer who is state party treasurer and who earlier was considering a conservative campaign. But a news release issued by the Democratic Committee said the governor will be a "vital force" again.

But the committee was much more difficult to maintain the party at Currie's level.

Not surprisingly, committee members talked to small groups of prospective candidates, some of whom were present at yesterday's meeting. Among those there have been Edward S. Granger, a former U.S. senator; Robert F. Byrd, a future star of Congress, and Andrew J. Miller, a narrow loses in 1960 to Sen. W. V. Harris and state Sen. W. S. Denison of Virginia and Joseph W. Curtiss Jr. of Fairview. And the Owen B. Pickett of Virginia Beach was there in his role as state party chairman.

But the man who emerged as the favorite for many of the candidates was someone who had not been there - Senator Joe William Douglas, a lawyer at the College of William and Mary, who has been mentioned as a possible candidate and who has not returned phone calls from reporters waiting to ask if he would consider running.

Spong was the name of an unscientific, informal poll of committee members who were asked to name their top three choices for the Senate candidacy.

Voters were asked on a 5-2-1 point ballot and Spong had 120 points. trailing him were Miller (108), Andrews (Audience) and Pickett (80).

Spong served two terms in the Senate and was defeated in 1962 by former Sen. William F. Scott, in part because of the campaign's defeat in the nation's first negative budget campaign.

A possible Spong candidacy recently also received support from a Friday night meeting of a broad range of white and black party leaders. The meeting drew national committee, state party offices, General Assembly members and at least two congressional district managers, Angus B. Mclntire of the 3rd and Robert, Teach of the 2nd.

There also were expressions of backing for Pickett, who was viewed as a man who would be able, as Hank did, to command support from the state's financial establishment.

One source denied that the meeting had been designed to launch a stop-Miller movement, but another source said that some of the meeting talked of Miller, who also was a narrow loser to Harry Flood in the divisive 1961 gubernatorial primary, as a "man who has had his chance.

Crouch acted as a spokesman for those who attended the meeting. He only comment on what was discussed was "we talked about everybody who has been mentioned by the Great Madison." Crouch said the group will meet again in January, with its goal being to achieve party unity behind what appears to be the strongest.

A search for party unity was the reason Democrats, who traditionally have chosen candidates in a primary, will name their 1962 Senate candidate at a convention. The Democrats' first convention to name a Senate candidate was more than 40 years ago.

In urging to hold the 1962 convention in Richmond, the state committee endorsed a recommendation by the Democratic planning committee, which had supported the idea of a meeting in Richmond by a majority of Northern Virginia central committee members, but in a field was rejected by a vote yesterday.

The steering committee briefly considered a May 19 convention, but abandoned that also, because, one of the chairmen said, "almost every college and high school in Virginia is holding graduation that week.

In other action, the central committee approved an article of a representative of the Democratic National Executive policy-making steering committee. The move was urged as a means of rectifying the overwhelming black support for 1959, Dewey and Falwell.