REJECT LEHMAN SELECTION: Monroe Goldwater, Democratic State Committee counsel, addressing committee meeting yesterday at Biltmore Hotel. Seated on dais, from left, are Carmine G. De Sapio, national committeeman; Mrs. Mae Gurevich, newly elected vice chairman, and Michael H. Prendergast, state chairman. Committee rejected selection of former Senator Herbert H. Lehman as delegate-at-large to the national convention.

LGHERMAN IS DENIED DELEGATE'S ROLE BY STATE LEADERS

Meeting of Democrats Also Rejects Mrs. Roosevelt for National Convention

WAGNER'S PLEA IGNORED

Reform Movement Rebuffed — Prendergast Cheered as He Assails Opposition

BY DOUGLAS DALES

The Democratic State Committee turned down Herbert H. Lehman yesterday as a delegate at large to the Democratic National Convention.

The rejection of the former United States Senator and Governor raised a new point of conflict between the leaders of the Democratic organization and the reform faction in which Mr. Lehman has played a leading role.

Efforts made by a small group of state committee members identified with the reform group to have Mr. Lehman's name substituted for another delegate failed, as did other moves they made to effect changes in the state leadership and organization rules.

Prendergast Re-elected

Michael H. Prendergast, who was re-elected state chairman, and Carmine G. De Sapio, national committeeman, who sat silently on the dais during the proceedings, were in complete control of the often tumultuous three-hour meeting.

While the meeting was in progress, Mayor Wagner disclosed at City Hall that he had urged state leaders to consider the names of Mr. Lehman and Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, another leader of the reform group, for inclusion in the list of delegates at large. Mrs. Roosevelt's name was not brought up at the meeting.

Asked if he thought the bypassing of Mr. Lehman and Mrs. Roosevelt would hurt the Democratic party, the Mayor replied: "I have stated what I urged upon the committee and have no further comment."

Mayor Seen as Chairman

Later in the day, at a reception for Senator John F. Kennedy of Massachusetts, Mr. Prendergast said he believed Mayor Wagner would "wind up as chairman of the delegation." "He and the Governor [former Gov. W. Averell Harriman] have had a number of meetings on this," Mr. Prendergast said.

Mr. Harriman had appeared the likely chairman until Mr. Wagner publicly stated his availability for the post.

Except for 1944, when he was in Europe as director of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, Mr. Lehman has been a delegate at large to every national convention since 1928.

The committee meeting, held at the Biltmore Hotel, wound up with an open declaration of war against the reform movement by Mr. Prendergast. He urged party workers to "fight fire with fire, propaganda with facts, slander with the truth, and if necessary, revert to the philosophy of our ancestors of an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth."

"I am aroused," he declared, "aroused because I think and care too deeply for the Democratic party to see it harmed by a destructive force masquerading as a reform movement."