

You May be Bullied into Losing but You can Still Win

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While working college homework I had the TV on in the background and the 1976 Democratic convention was on. I was not really interested but there was the promise of a floor fight that might be entertaining (mean-spirited me loves to see Democrats fight). As an engineering student my interest was aroused when I heard that an engineer from Georgia was going to give a short speech. So I stopped what I was doing and watched this. I remember none of the details but he was building up to something. Then he made a statement that I will never forget. He said, "The Carter bandwagon runs not on peanut oil, but on Standard Oil." The microphone was immediately silenced and two officials walked on stage carrying a large book. The conversation was muted but they opened the book to some page and discussed something with the speaker. The microphone was turned back on and one of the officials spoke to the crowd stating that the speaker had violated a convention rule about saying anything negative about the nominee and that he would have to make an apology. The speaker stepped up to the microphone and said, "I respectfully apologize for telling the truth." Then he walked off the stage.

That was the most victorious way I have ever seen anyone lose. That was a great lesson that I have always remembered. If I am ever in such a situation I know how to lose victoriously.