

Bazelon Sold Home to McGovern

By Jack Anderson

MIAMI—The Appeals Court judge who ruled in favor of George McGovern in the Democratic credentials fight sold his former home to McGovern for a reported \$85,000.

Judge David Bazelon cast the deciding vote in a dramatic 2-to-1 reversal of the lower court. The presidential nomination, itself, was at stake. For Bazelon's ruling gave McGovern all of California's 271 delegates, whom he needed to win a first-ballot victory.

Friends of the two men say the house sale was a routine real estate transaction. Judge Bazelon also has an impeccable reputation. But even the slightest appearance of conflict has been enough for judges to disqualify themselves.

After selling his home in the late 1960s, Judge Bazelon moved into an apartment in the fashionable Watergate West. A near neighbor and close friend, Sen. Abraham Ribicoff (D-Conn.), is one of McGovern's staunchest supporters.

For years, Bazelon's angry antagonist on the Appeals Court was Warren Burger, now Chief Justice of the United States. The two jurists became bitter enemies, who often disagreed in open court and bad-mouthed one another in private.

After Bazelon's ruling in favor of McGovern, the Chief Justice didn't even wait to be asked before he started to consider the Democratic credentials case. Even before the Democratic National Committee appealed the ruling, Burger sent to the Appeals Court for the papers in the case.

Those who know Burger say he enjoys nothing more than overruling his old rival Bazelon. This may have been the reason he was in such a hurry to review the case.

Yippie Deal

The madcap Yippie leader Abbie Hoffman has promised the Democrats to limit his followers in Miami to 4,000 this week. But he also said he would rally 100,000 yelping Yippies to disrupt the GOP convention in August.

The brash and bubbling Hoffman confirmed to us that he has met confidentially with Democratic National Committee officials and has agreed to try to keep things cool this week.

"We have promised the Democrats no trouble," Hoffman conceded. "After all, they got us the campsite at Flamingo Park. Besides, their candidates are not what you'd call a healthy show of villains."

But for the Republicans, Hoffman had no such compassion. "We have promised them tsouris!" Hoffman said. The Yiddish word means trouble, woes and worries.

"I've told everybody to come if they want to, but if they can come to only one, to come for the Republicans in August," he told my associate, Les Whitten. "Right now, we're just paddling through, waiting for Big Dick."

Earlier, Abbie made an unpublicized visit to Key Biscayne where he'd heard Pat Nixon was at the Nixon compound.

"You wouldn't believe it," he marveled. "All that elec-

tronic security stuff, zzzzzzz, wheeeee, eeeeeehoo. I felt I had to get a look at the nests of these birds, to understand them."

Hoffman is not limiting his harassment of the GOP to Pat Nixon. His Phone Freak Convention will give a top prize to the man who places the first toll-free call to Vice President Spiro Agnew.

Phone freaks whisper, wheeze, whistle and beep into telephones, duplicating the electronic mechanism which trigger long distance calls. The telephone companies are apoplectic about the practice.

"We've got Agnew's unlisted number. We may even want to put a call through to Moscow. The greatest phone freaks in America will be convening right here in Miami Beach," said Hoffman.

Footnote: Republicans are genuinely worried about Hoffman's threat, but they point out that despite pre-convention publicity in 1968, Hoffman and more moderate leftists were able to turn out only about 10,000 demonstrators.