



Art Buchwald *Post* 12-10-68

## Chicagoan, Full of Civic Pride, Looks to the 1972 Convention

IT MAY be a little early, but a new organization has just been formed to bring the Democratic convention back to Chicago in 1972.

The chairman of the group, Upton Mace, told me that he hoped to get Vice President Hubert Humphrey to serve as honorary chairman.

"After all Chicago did for him," Mr. Mace said, "that's the least the Vice President could do for Chicago."

"But there are some who feel that Mayor Daley may have cost Mr. Humphrey the election."

"Nonsense. If it wasn't for Chicago, the Vice President might have gotten off to a very slow start in his campaign," Mace said. "As it was, Chicago fired up the Party and they all left determined to make Hubert a winner."

"They did?"

"Of course. Everyone was talking about Chicago after the conventions. As a matter of fact, they still are."

"I know the Democrats are talking about Chicago, but I'm not sure they're talking about it in the same terms that you are," I said.

"NONSENSE," Mace said. "I don't think there's one member of the Democratic Party, or for that matter the press, who wouldn't come back to Chicago next week for a political convention if we asked them to. After all, we have everything here: beautiful parks, wonderful hotels and excellent hospital facilities. Where else could you be clubbed in a police riot and be in an ambulance in five minutes?"

"Nowhere," I had to ad-

mit. "By the way, about the clubbing of people. There are some people in the Democratic Party—I'm not saying many—who aren't certain that clubbing people over the head is a good thing for the Party's image."

"You'll always have malcontents in any party," Mace said. "The important thing is that the Democrats must hold their convention in a major city where the Mayor has enough power to deliver the state. Chicago fills that bill."

"BUT Mayor Daley didn't deliver Illinois to the Democrats this year."

"That wasn't his fault," Mace said. "The only reason Illinois did not go to Humphrey was that Nixon got more votes."

"That's a point I hadn't thought of."

"Look, I don't have to sell Chicago to you," Mace said. "You were there this summer. Don't we have one of the finest police forces in the country?"

"The finest," I said. "They

left their mark on a lot of people who were there this August."

"Of course they did," Mace said. "And do you know why? Because they're used to dealing with any kind of person that shows up at a political convention. Our cops are kind, courteous and noted for keeping their cool. Do you know they gave out less traffic tickets during August while the convention was on than during any week of the year?"

"EVERYONE I've spoken to," I said, "says Chicago policemen have big hearts. But this report by the committee on violence . . ."

"That's a lot of poppycock, written without the permis-

sion of Mayor Daley. If you really want to find out the truth about what happened in Chicago, you should read Mayor Daley's report. That was made with the cooperation of the Chicago Police Department, so it has some truth to it. You get private citizens writing about the police and you get a very distorted picture."

"Well, Mr. Mace, you've convinced me Chicago should be the site for the 1972 convention. Now all you have to do is convince the Democratic Party."

"Don't worry. We'll convince them. They'd be crazy after what happened there this summer to mess with a successful formula."