

SFChronicle

Will San Diego Lose the GOP?

CAN IT BE THAT San Diego, the sun-kissed convention city of our southland, is not to thrill to the presence of all of the 2694 Republican delegates and alternates, their wives and children and cousins, whom destiny was supposed to send San Diegoward on August 21 next?

The report that Big Republican decision-makers are seriously considering pulling out of San Diego and moving their national conclave to Miami Beach seemed yesterday to be more than a shabby rumor, i. e., a distinct possibility.

Miami Beach will be the scene of the Democratic selection process, a July shambles to which, with civic cupidity, Floridans are looking forward in the hope of cashing in on some of the promotion money they had to put up to the Democratic national committee.

HAVING NO ITT in on their forward planning, Floridans had to raise this bait money the hard way. To get the Republicans to Miami Beach in August would, of course, make the amortization of costs a bit easier for them. For example, it would result in their getting double use of the bunting and red carpet and other reusable incidentals.

Naturally the television networks would prefer to see both conventions in one city, to avoid the multimillion-dollar expense of moving their paraphernalia from the grapefruit capital to the avocado capital.

THERE APPEAR TO BE PROBLEMS with holding a convention of the GOP in San Diego, not all stemming from the fact that the community so far has delivered only \$100,000 of the \$600,000 seed money it promised. Other problems, the Associated Press says, include the ITT stigma that won't vanish from San Diego and the dilemma of maintaining security against demonstrators — a much easier task in moated Miami Beach, with its causeways and draw bridges.

San Francisco, linked with San Diego by Spanish colonial history and affection, can sincerely offer consolation should the Republican national committee withdraw the prized bauble of conventiondom and move the GOP to Miami Beach. The two Republican conventions held here, in 1956 and 1964, were not all that profitable to the restaurants and other civic provisioners and entertainers. GOP delegates, we learned to our cost, simply don't swing.