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GOP Switch To Florida Reported

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Washington

The Republican party has decided to shift its national convention from San Diego to Miami Beach, according to Miami Beach officials.

Richard L. Herman, vice chairman of the Republican Arrangements Committee, was understood to have agreed with Miami Beach officials the convention would be moved to Miami Beach.

It is now scheduled to open August 14, instead of August 21, as originally agreed, according to Miami Beach sources, to the same financial arrangements as were made with the Democratic National Committee for the Democratic convention, which will open in Miami Beach on July 10.

SHIFT

An announcement of the shift is expected to be made today in Washington.

In an unsuccessful original bid for the Republican convention, Miami Beach had offered \$500,000 in cash and services. San Diego, however, was chosen, apparently at the behest of President Nixon.

San Diego won the Republican convention on a bid exceeding that of Miami Beach's, but since then the party has been plagued by a host of problems, including reports that the International Telephone and Telegraph Corp. had pledged \$400,000 to help underwrite the convention. There have been charges that there was a direct link between the ITT pledge and the settlement of an antitrust suit against the company.

One consideration, observers feel, in reconsidering Miami Beach, was Republican party sensitivity to those reports, first made by the columnist Jack Anderson and later pressed by the Democrats.

ISSUE

The controversy has been a major issue in hearings on the nomination of Richard G. Kleindienst to succeed John N. Mitchell as attorney general.

It was said in Miami Beach that the reason for opening the Republican convention August 14 was that the city was committed for August 21 to the Buick Division of the General Motors Corp.

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