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A Sudden Foulup on GOP Shift

NYTimes

Special to The Examiner

MIAMI BEACH — Last-minute complications about moving the Republican National Convention here from San Diego arose late today — party officials suddenly refused to approve a switch in dates.

An angry Miami Beach mayor, Chuck Hall, raised the possibility that his city is "being used."

Hall said he didn't know whether the problem was really the change in dates; an attempt by the GOP to use the threat of moving to Miami Beach as "leverage" to get things worked out in San Diego, or possibly a bid from another city.

Hard Times

Hall, who earlier said the chances were "99 percent" that the switch would be made, said he could no longer assess the chances because "I can't follow the quick, subtle movings of the Republican Party."

"It's times like these that make me proud to be a Democrat," said Hall.

Earlier in the day, a high Republican official, who asked to remain unidentified, said it was a "lead pipe cinch" that the convention would be moved to Miami Beach.

But Richard L. Herman,

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New Row on GOP Convention Shift

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vice chairman of the Republican Convention Arrangements Committee, issued a statement acknowledging that he had been meeting with Miami Beach officials but denying that a decision had been made.

And party Chairman Robert J. Dole agreed that no decision had been made.

In any case, definite word one way or the other isn't expected until next week.

Negotiations

The Miami Beach City Council put off making a bid to the Republicans after being told of last-minute GOP objections.

City Manager Clifford O'Key told the council that the negotiations with the Republican National Committee had been based on the date of the GOP convention being moved ahead from Aug. 21 to Aug. 14 in order to avoid a conflict in use of

the Miami Beach Convention Hall with a General Motors showing of its new Buick autos.

O'Key said the Buick meeting was "a substantial piece of business" for beach hotels and for the city.

He said that barely an hour before the council meeting, he had been told that there were "legal complications" with moving the date ahead.

Vote

Several council members spoke out for and against having the convention in Miami Beach, but indications were that there would be a 4-3 vote in favor of the convention with Hall casting the deciding ballot.

One of those registering opposition to the convention was Councilman Robert Goodman, who said "festering public opinion across the country would lead to mass demonstrations by dissenters" at the convention and

that the city is not "physically equipped to handle two conventions."

San Diego was a reluctant bidder for the convention in the first place, with the City Council voting initially not to submit a bid.

But later it reversed itself and came up with a \$1.5 million offer in cash and services after reports began circulating that San Diego was President Nixon's choice.