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GOP Moves to Miami

SAN DIEGO can now unwind. The Republican National Convention has been shifted to Miami Beach after a hassle that reflects the skyrocketing costs of electing a President and suggests that changes may be in order.

The GOP's money problem, or, more correctly, San Diego's money problem, centered around the sports arena which was to have been the convention assembly hall and the host civic committee learned what San Francisco long since knew — that there is more profit in watching a national convention on TV than in staging one. Letters to the editors of San Diego newspapers ran about 90 per cent anti-convention affirming that the city would be overcrowded with tourists in August; the convention would attract radical demonstrators and create costly police problems, and so on.

SOME PERSONS will believe the reason for the retreat to Miami Beach was the joyful howling of Democrats over the ITT-Sheraton offer of financial help to the city of San Diego. The fact is, however, that Miami Beach came up with \$350,000 for the convention and in view of what was happening in San Diego, the GOP accepted.

Gordon C. Luce, vice chairman of the California Republican State Central committee, foresees a day when it may be difficult to find any city willing to host a political convention. He suggests a streamlining of conventions, possibly with platform-writing sessions held in television studios ahead of the nominating sessions. Both parties, he suggests, could nominate in Washington, D.C.

The San Diego experience may well be the curtain-raiser on drastic changes in the tradition of national political gatherings.