

G.O.P. Officially Switches Convention to Miami Beach

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WASHINGTON, May 5—The Republican party formally voted today for Miami Beach and abandoned San Diego as the site for the 1972 Republican National Convention.

The Republican National Committee approved the switch after hearing of soaring costs and labor troubles in San Diego and reports that the move would result in "substantially lower costs."

Thus, by voice vote without audible dissent, Miami Beach joined the exclusive list of American cities to be host to both major political parties in the same year. Since 1856 only Chicago (1884, 1932, 1944, 1952) and Philadelphia (1948) have had the conventions in the same year.

The Democrats will convene in Miami Beach July 10. The Republicans will gather on Aug. 21, the same date that had been scheduled for San Diego.

'Lack of Sensibility'

After the formalities, attended by Miami Beach officials, the Republicans heard what seemed to be a preview of President Nixon's domestic campaign theme of 1972. His assistant for domestic affairs, John D. Ehrlichman, lashed at the Democratic-dominated Congress for "lack of leadership and a sense of urgency" in tackling legislation proposed by Mr. Nixon to deal with "great issues" such as public safety, school busing, labor disputes and the "welfare mess."

Mr. Ehrlichman told a national committee luncheon that there was "almost a sense of indifference or at least a lack of sensibility" on the part of Congress and a "lack of appreciation of the mood of the American people."

Earlier, Senator Robert J. Dole of Kansas, chairman of the national committee, told the gathering that "if the Democrats want to make an issue of the war, it is incumbent upon us to tell the nation of the origins of the war." By the time of the national convention, he said, "all Americans will know we are the party of peace, not the party of retreat."

City Officials Present

John N. Mitchell, former Attorney General, who is director of the Committee for the Re-election of the President, announced that Senator Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania had been named floor leader for Mr. Nixon at the convention. Senator Scott is the Republican leader of the Senate and a former chairman of the national committee.

Miami Beach officials, including the Democratic Mayor, Chuck Hall, flew in for the expected approval of the Florida city's bid for the convention.

The Republicans chose San Diego over Miami Beach last year, reportedly at the behest of President Nixon. However, Senator Dole reiterated today that San Diego had been named because of the work of "the Californians in the Administra-

tion and Congress" who beat the drums for the California city.

Richard L. Herman, vice chairman of the Republican arrangements committee, moved for approval of Miami Beach after detailing problems that had arisen in San Diego. These included, he said, "substantial disagreement" over interpretation of a contract with the operator of the sports arena that raised doubts about getting the hall ready in time for the convention. Further, he said, there was "apprehension about a threat of a strike of construction workers" that put the party in a "precarious position." The strike, he said, materialized on May 1.

Mr. Herman said later that costs had risen to between \$1.2-million and \$1.3-million and would probably have gone higher. Asked for an estimate on the saving in the move to Miami Beach, he said he could only guess at between \$800,000 and \$1-million. He explained that the Miami Beach convention hall would be rent-free and the necessary construction work in the hall completed for the Democratic convention.