

And Now—the Republicans

By Charlotte Curtis
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NOW COME the Republicans. Theirs will be a very social national convention with parties galore. At the same time, they estimate that possibly 32 per cent of their delegates will be women, compared with the Democrats' 40 per cent. Mrs. Anne Armstrong, the national committee's co-chairman, sees that as a significant advance.

"We had no rules change," she said. "Ours is a voluntary move. We didn't do it by persuasion and cajolery."

Mrs. Armstrong, an aristocratic Texan who says she'll wear long dresses to some of the televised evening sessions, was in Washington to announce the convention's special program for women. The first event is an invitational Sunday worship service August 20, convention eve.

"The White House Sunday worship service is one of the finest innovations of the Administration," she said. "It's the pattern for our service."

Predictably, the Reverend



ANNE ARMSTRONG
'Firsts' for women

Billy Graham's name is on the list of possible participants. Yet he may not be selected.

"We have other religious leaders, too," Mrs. Armstrong said.

No matter who's chosen, the service will be ecumenical and nondenominational. Since men will be invited to attend, it wasn't clear why the service appeared on the women's activity list. Mrs. Armstrong said it was because the women's division was doing the organizing and "the worship service steering committee" is

made up exclusively of cabinet wives.

"The really big event for women," Mrs. Armstrong went on, is the "women's achievement brunch." This luncheon, a Republican convention perennial, has a new feature this year.

Instead of a regular fashion show, the Tuesday gathering's highlight is "an American pageant." When they've finished with the worship service, the cabinet officers' wives will join with the wives of senators and governors and women officeholders to depict what Mrs. Armstrong called "historic firsts" for women.

"I can't tell you the details now," she said. "But, one of the 'firsts' will be a woman dressed as Amelia Bloomer."

Besides the "historic firsts," some of which are expected to represent women's achievements in contemporary government, politics and even the Nixon Administration, the show will include a parade of women modeling dresses copied from the Smithsonian's presidential wives collection.

If Mrs. Paula F. Hawkins, national committeewoman



REV. BILLY GRAHAM
On the list

from Florida, has her way, the achievement brunch will salute women who run for office and don't make it, as well as those who do. She considers them the unsung heroines.

"Everybody knows those who win," said Mrs. Hawkins, herself a candidate for Florida's Public Service Commission. "But how about those who lose?"

Mrs. Hawkins, who's helping with the brunch, is enthusiastic. She has predicted that it will be "one of the most inspiring events of the convention."

"I know those women's lip people think it's meaningless," she said. "They think all fashions are meaningless. Why they even picketed the Democrats' fashion show. But you can see why just by looking at them. They don't care how they look."

Mrs. Hawkins, who sees "no reason why abortion and homosexuals should come up in the discussion of our party platform," also is the chief architect of another of the Republicans' big social events—the "Cuban Calypso Carnival."

This party, an all-day buffet with 12 different groups of Cubans booked to keep the entertainment continues, is scheduled for Wednesday, Mrs. Hawkins said, "because that's our free day."

The carnival is billed as a combination "salute to Miami's Cuban community," which might also have representatives among the demonstrators expected to picket the convention, and "a fun thing for the whole family."

"We think political activity should always include the whole family," Mrs. Hawkins said.