

President's Aides Orchestrated Convention

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MIAMI BEACH, Aug. 23— This is, technically speaking, the Republican National Committee's show. But as a practical matter the Republican convention belongs to the White House, whose operatives have been here for weeks carefully stage-managing proceedings behind the scenes.

Naturally, they were here in even greater numbers tonight to watch Mr. Nixon accept the mandate and best wishes of his party and define the issues he hopes to set before the electorate this fall.

But a sizable advance guard preceded them, and their handiwork did much to smooth the President's grand entrance.

Security and Liaison

On substantive issues, the key White House operative was John D. Ehrlichman, the President's domestic adviser, who was on hand to insure that Mr. Nixon, who is courting the labor vote rather passionately this fall, would not be saddled with an antilabor plank in the platform; less successfully, Mr. Ehrlichman also tried to arrange a compromise between liberals and conservatives to prevent a floor fight on party rules.

William Timmons, the President's chief adviser on Congressional affairs, helped devise the strict security arrangements at Republican

headquarters at the Doral Hotel and has acted as the White House's main point of contact with other party regulars here.

The office of Herbert G. Klein, Director of Communications for the Executive Branch, organized the endless news conferences involving Administration personalities during the otherwise dull week before the convention opened; Mr. Klein's deputy, Ken W. Clawson, wrote some remarks for Frank Fitzsimmons, the teamster leader who has pledged support to the President and who appeared here to rebut Mr. Nixon's labor critics last week.

Bryce Harlow, who now works as Washington representative for Procter & Gamble but who once held Mr. Timmons's job in the White House, helped devise much of the platform. In one of the minor ironies of the convention, John W. Gardner, the director of Common Cause, who hoped to persuade the Republican Resolutions Committee to include a strong antilobbying plank, was told that the man to see was Mr. Harlow—himself a lobbyist.

Perhaps the best example of the White House touch, though, was the stage-managing last night of what then appeared to be the President's spontaneous and fortuitous appearance at a youth rally in Key Biscayne moments after his nomination.

Unknown to most news-

men, the delegates in the convention center and several thousand youths who had gathered for the rally, Mr. Nixon had planned well in advance to attend it, and the only problem was synchronizing his arrival with activities on the convention floor to gain maximum television exposure.

This was easily accomplished by a White House aide in a command trailer outside the convention hall, who was simultaneously in touch with White House operatives on the convention floor, the podium and Mr. Nixon's own encourage.

Entry Is Synchronized

As the Republican faithful whooped and hollered on the convention floor following the near-unanimous roll-call vote, the aide called the President's motorcade, then on its way to the youth rally, and told it to slow down. He then called his floor operative, who quickly passed the word to various floor captains to get the delegates back in their seats. Word was also flashed to Representative Gerald R. Ford on the podium to gavel the convention to order.

As the delegates returned to their places, Mr. Nixon's motorcade quickened its pace. Arriving at the rally, the President waited briefly, and then—at a signal from the convention center command trailer—jumped up and embraced Sammy Davis Jr.,

the master of ceremonies.

The networks, which until then had been televising the floor proceedings, quickly switched to Mr. Nixon. The delegates, who could watch the whole thing on giant screens in the convention hall, were electrified to see the man they had just nominated and had not expected to glimpse until tonight. What made the White House happy, though, was the way some shrewd planning had given their candidate nationwide exposure.

The choice of some of the personalities and dignitaries who have shared the platform this week also reflect — if rather more indirectly — months of patient work by White House strategists.

Tonight, for example, the "special guest" at the beginning of the evening was Charlton Heston, the actor, who is now a "Democrat for Nixon." He was not here by accident. He appeared last year at the Western White House in San Clemente, where Mr. Nixon gave a sympathetic hearing to his plea for Federal help for the ailing film industry.

Similarly John Cardinal Krol, Archbishop of Philadelphia, seemed a natural choice to deliver the benediction on the final night of the convention. Cardinal Krol and Mr. Nixon agree on the abortion issue, and Mr. Nixon addressed Roman Catholic educators in Philadelphia earlier this year, pledging aid to parochial schools.