

7/17

Signs of Fascism At the Convention



Drew Pearson

THE SMELL OF FASCISM has been in the air at the San Francisco Convention. You whiff it at unusual places.

You would expect it at the big rally of "Independent Americans for Goldwater" addressed by J. Bracken Lee, right-wing Mayor of Salt Lake City, and Tom Anderson, member of the governing council of the John Birch Society. Anderson is the publisher of Farm and Ranch Magazine who says "President Johnson is immoral . . . John F. Kennedy should have been impeached . . . Roosevelt was an all-American charlatan."

And you would expect the smell of it around the hotel suite of H. L. Hunt, the big Texas oil McCarthyite who has been pouring out propaganda for Goldwater.

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BUT YOU WOULD NOT EXPECT it to pervade the fire-escape stairway of the Mark Hopkins Hotel, which Mrs. William Scranton tried to descend the other day to reach her husband's headquarters on the 12th floor. When she got to the 15th floor, she was stopped by an armed Pinkerton guard. "You can't pass through here, lady," he said.

"I'm Mary Scranton, I want to get to

my husband's headquarters," she explained.

"It doesn't make any difference, lady, you can't pass here."

A six-foot landing on the back of the stairway used by hotel servants was all Mrs. Scranton wanted to cross. But she was barred by the strict orders laid down by Goldwater managers. She walked back upstairs and took the elevator.

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YOU EXPECT economic and political pressure at conventions, but you do not often find the nasty snarling kind you have seen at this one.

"You're nigger lovers—Communists," came the threats to James Brophy and family when they bolted the Georgia Goldwater delegation to back Scranton.

"Lee Oswald should have got the Congressional Medal of Honor," said Goldwater delegate Claude Green of North Carolina, then quickly retracted when a newsman asked him to repeat it.

Such are the whiffs of fascism, the signs of intolerance and violence, which have cropped up in San Francisco. They resemble some of the tell-tale signs that developed in Europe after World War I.

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