

Convention Center Changing Locks

MIAMI BEACH—The Convention Center will get a complete set of 150 new door locks before the Democratic and Republican Party national conventions meet, center manager Norman Litz said yesterday.

The keys to the old locks disappeared sometime early Wednesday. Both the Miami

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Beach police and the U.S. Secret Service were investigating.

"Under the top security prospects surrounding the Democratic convention, we cannot afford not to change the locks," Litz said.

Robert Raley, stagehand supervisor, told police that the keys, about 15 of them on a ring, were stolen from his attache case, which he said was locked in a dinner room at midnight Wednesday. When he returned for them at 7 a.m. Wednesday, he said, the case was open and the keys were gone.

The missing keys fitted all major locks at the Convention Hall complex, which includes three large buildings.

Authorities discounted any notion that the case of the missing keys was connected with the break-in and attempt

last Saturday to install—or remove, as one theory has it—listening devices in the Democratic Party national headquarters in Washington.

"I can't believe they (the keys) were stolen in connection with the Democratic National Convention," said Maj. Walter Philbin, chief of the Miami Beach police detective bureau.

MIAMI BEACH—The Miami Beach City Council yesterday voted not to provide campsites for thousands of non-delegates expected to arrive in the city for the Democratic and Republican National conventions.

However, the council did agree to set aside Flamingo Park as a "free speech" area and Bayshore Golf Course for National Guard troops.

The vote was 5-to-2 to deny the campsites, which have been urged by public officials including Gov. Reubin Askew.

Shortly after the vote two protesters were grabbed by police as they advanced on the podium and tried to reach council members.

BOSTON—Former House Speaker John McCormack says that Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) might accept the Democratic presidential nomi-

nation, despite his declarations to the contrary, if the convention deadlocks and the party turns to him.

"If the convention doesn't nominate somebody on the first or second ballot, they'll go looking for someone else," McCormack, 81, said, "The one they would probably look for would be Senator Kennedy.

"Now I take his word that he's not a candidate. Bit suppose there's a deadlock. And he realizes, as others do, that they've got to turn to someone else. And he's the one that they turn to. What's he going to do?"

Rep. Emanuel Celler (D-N.Y.) blames his upset in Tuesday's New York primary on overconfidence.

The 84-year-old-dean of the U. S. House of Representatives said he may try to win re-election in November as an independent Democrat rather than switching affiliation to the Liberal Party.

Running as an independent Democrat would require winning the party's backing away from Elizabeth Holtzman, 30, the reform Democrat who won the Democratic nomination for his House seat Tuesday.

But it would assure Celler's seniority in the House and continued chairmanship of the Judiciary Committee if he

won. Switching to the independent Liberal Party could jeopardize both.

ANAHEIM, Calif.—The leadership of the Veterans of Foreign Wars opposes two key proposals put forward by presidential candidate George McGovern—sizeable defense spending cuts and amnesty for draft-evaders.

Herbert V. Rainwater, a member of the VFW's Security Affairs Council, did not use the name of the South Dakota senator, but referred to proposals by "a prominent presidential candidate."

Rainwater told the California convention of the VFW that the leadership does not favor amnesty for draft-dodgers until after all American prisoners are released from Southeast Asia.

It opposes deep cuts in defense spending because, he said, the Soviet Union is willing to deal peacefully with the United States because Russian leaders respect U.S. strength.

AUGUSTA, Maine—An effort by six women and one man to get more females designated as Maine delegates to the national Democratic convention has failed.

A hearing officer from the Democratic National Committee has ruled that the Maine Democratic Party had complied with the requirements in selecting delegates to the convention.