



# Marquis Childs Security Set For Convention

Post  
7-4-72

WHEN Chairman Lawrence F. O'Brien of the Democratic National Committee went to Miami Beach to take a thorough look at convention arrangements he was given a detailed briefing on security. He was to admit later that it all seemed a bit superfluous in light of his long experience with conventions which, however turbulent, never seemed to threaten life and limb.

Then came the famous break-in-bugging incident at Democratic headquarters here and O'Brien understood the very real need for the security precautions being taken at Miami Beach. It will be the most security-conscious national convention ever held, with routines bound to cause friction and resentment.

Farcical though it seemed at first, the bugging episode was serious enough in itself. Here was this insidious snooping business carried out by five men with connections if not with the White House, as has been repeatedly denied, then with the Committee to Re-elect President Nixon. Invading the privacy of a political organization with the tools of the snooping trade hardly comes under the heading of a free society.

WHAT GIVES the episode a more ominous look and ties it in with the tight security at the convention is the connection of the men caught in the bugging act with the Cuban exile movement in Florida. Three of the five men were born in Cuba. Bernard L. Barker as a CIA operative had a role in the abortive Bay of Pigs invasion. He is said to have been a conduit for money siphoned to the invaders.

According to reports in the Miami newspapers, Barker is said to have tried to obtain from the architect, Leonard Glasser, the plans of the convention hall, including details of the air-conditioning ducts and the

cat walks. The intimation was that this was for bugging purposes. Yet why try to bug a political convention with radio and television constantly listening in?

While the bulk of the more than 200,000 Cuban exiles in and around Miami are law-abiding citizens bent on trying to earn a living in a new land, there is a hard core of passionate anti-Communist, anti-Castro plotters constantly seeking ways to

bring Fidel down. Their bitterness over President John F. Kennedy's failure to order air strike to save the invaders trapped on the beaches knew no bounds. They never cease to lobby for support from the government for various schemes to cut down Castro's strength.

Sen. George McGovern and certain of his backers have suggested that it was time to restudy American policy toward Cuba. If the President could make an agreement with Moscow, 7,000 miles away, then it should be possible to get together with Castro looking to a relaxation of the measures that have cut off all relations with the island only 90 miles from the Florida coast. Castro is just now in the Soviet Union, presumably seeking to renegotiate the agreements costing the Russians well over \$300 million a year that keep Cuba afloat.

IN THE EYES of the Cuban rebels any suggestion of peace with Castro is treason. They will fight it with every means possible. The nomination of a Democratic candidate for President looking, however far in the future, for normalization of relations with the dictator, as relations are on the way to normalization with China, is a deep affront.

O'Brien will run an orderly and secure convention if anyone can. He is a pro and an extremely able pro. Whatever the ardent young McGovernites may think, it is pros like O'Brien who have kept the wheels turning over the years. He was the manager of the late Sen. Robert F. Kennedy's campaign at the time when the senator was struck down in Los Angeles by an assassin's bullet.

In the course of barnstorming through the South McGovern made a gratuitous slap at O'Brien. He indicated his intention of replacing him after the convention, although on another occasion he said he wanted him to stay. All along O'Brien has said that he intends to leave when he has finished his stint at Miami Beach. Replacing O'Brien who has carried on through the dreary and difficult days of deficits, will not be easy. If McGovern means to dispense with all the pros he will add to the handicaps he already suffers.