

Costly Proposition

Getting Sammy to Miami

By Maxine Chesire
Washington Post Service

Miami Beach

Providing they promise to treat him right — and that means spending an unnecessary \$4000 on a private jet to fly him to Miami — entertainer Sammy Davis Jr. has agreed to star here this week as one of the "Celebrities for Nixon."

Davis, who has already declared himself one of the "Democrats for Nixon," is supposed to perform and also emcee the nomination rally at Marine Stadium tonight.

Because he is both black and Jewish, the Republicans want him here badly — badly enough to be willing to cater to his demands. First there was the matter of his hotel accommodations.

"For a while, we didn't know where we were going to house President Nixon," said one harassed GOP talent co-ordinator here over the weekend. "Sammy wanted the 'best' presidential suite in town and it looked as if the only thing that was going to satisfy him was to have the President give up his reservations at the hotel."

He continued:

"We're now on our third hotel. The Fontainebleau wasn't up to his standards. He has tentatively agreed to the Playboy because it has a penthouse. He's gotta have a penthouse."

TRANSPORTATION

That matter settled temporarily to his satisfaction, Davis then became displeased with arrangements for his transportation.

He kept the two top executives of his record company, MGM, on the phone for hours at the Palm Bay Club Saturday night, trying to figure out a way to get him to Miami in a good mood.

"Bill Lear had loaned us his own Lear jet for Sammy to use," explained Mike Curb, the 27-year-old president of MGM records, who was trying to finish a dinner of Danish lobster tails while taking calls from Davis.

COMPLAINT

As the meal began, Davis phoned Curb's top executive, Michael Viner, to complain that he will not fly on Lear jets, only Gulfstreams.

Curb listened to the problem and told Viner: "It will only cost about \$4000 with all his musicians."

Viner explained. "Sammy

doesn't fly with his musicians. They're white."

"Then tell him we'll make the musicians sit in the back of the plane," retorted Curb with a laugh that somehow didn't sound amused.

PRIVATE

Eventually, Curb agreed to pay the \$4000 to bring Davis and a private entourage of 10 here on a Gulfstream.

"He's worth it, I guess, and more," said Curb. "But I don't know why he couldn't just let us call up TWA and buy him a ticket for \$163. It's a nice flight. I took it myself."

Viner pointed out that Curb may be Davis' boss, but Davis is accustomed to a different lifestyle.

"Sammy will go into Gucci's and spend \$25,000 at a time," said Viner.