

San Diego Gets Ready for

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SAN DIEGO — Hundreds of thousands of young demonstrators are expected for the Republican convention here this summer, and memories of Chicago in 1968 have produced an unusual but hopeful alliance of young and old, right and left.

The GOP delegates will be meeting at the sports arena August 21, to begin proceedings leading to the nomination of President Nixon for a second term. At the same time, outside demonstrators are expected to protest against war, inequality and pollution.

A "radical coalition," which is in touch with many well known national groups, is conferring regularly with the mayor, his aides and the chief of police. A "community congress," ranging from street people to older members of the establishment is charting 52 "areas of responsibility."

'Peaceful?'

At the city hall, the young Republican mayor, Peter Wilson, says cautiously, "The claims are that there will be protests about administration policies in peaceful fashion. So we anticipate no problems."

At coalition headquarters, one of the organizers, George Katsiaticas, says, "We've been talking with police about what happened in Chicago and pledging that we'll work for non-violence. We have challenged the police to make similar commitments."

The police department is receiving about \$500,000 from the Justice Department's Law Enforcement Assistance Administration for training officers in physical and psychological handling of crowds, containment tactics and consitutional protection.

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Anti-GOP Crowds

Assistant city manager John Lockwood is negotiating with the coalition over reserving open land for the demonstrators near the convention.

The coalition, meanwhile, is expressing the matter in its own language. It has issued a pamphlet showing a donkey and elephant dancing happily together, representing the Establishment. It says:

"What they may not be able to handle are demonstrations which are disciplined in conduct, diverse in participation, uncompromising in content and beyond their power to either co-opt or intimidate."

A Youth Den

The coalition's headquarters looks like just another youth den, a revolt against Mother and Father, on the second floor of an abandoned printshop in a run-down part of the city.

But the typical radical posters and the small, shabby office are deceptive, for the young people who gather there have had lengthy audiences with city officials, doctors, lawyers and dozens of left wing groups.

Last month they organized a conference in Santa Barbara attended by some 400 representatives of more than 40 different activist groups. Plans were made for an "Expose '72," an exposition to be located near the convention, displaying some of the weapons being used in

Indochina. The next meeting will be held this month in Austin, Texas.

The Congress

Around the corner from the coalition's headquarters, members of the Congress were moving in. Its members, which include a number of church groups, have put out their own pamphlet declaring that the Congress "affirms the right and necessity of dissent, but also wishes to provide new models built from experience that realistically define human value goals and incorporate the political sophistication necessary for the '70s."

The Congress's first success has been pledges from local physicians to establish cadres of six-man medical teams for each 1000 demonstrators outside the convention.

Lockwood is embroiled in the ticklish problem of finding a site for the demonstrators not too far and not too

close to the arena. The coalition wants to be within a mile, with sufficient room for tents, sleeping bags and its "expose".

None of this was mentioned recently at the first

public meeting of the official executive committee which is planning the GOP convention activities inside the arena.

A member described plans to reserve more than 60

yachts, some from as far as the Bay Area, which will be used to entertain delegates.

The mayor says the convention must be an event that will provide the city with the "best possible im-

age," one that "convention people will remember with pleasure."

But while this group has no official contact with the others in a seamier side of the city, all share concern.

It is only visible in repeated reassurances. The chairman, Leon Parma, insists the convention will be a "delightful experience for us all."