

Coordinator Wants to Move GOP Meet

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WASHINGTON — (UPI)

The official most responsible for putting the Republican National Convention together at San Diego has urged moving it to another city because of escalating costs and construction problems, it was disclosed today.

If the party did move, he said, many in San Diego would "heave a sigh of relief."

The urgent recommendation was contained in a letter from Robert F. Knowles, convention coordinator, to

Dick Herman, Nebraska national committeeman and vice chairman of the Convention Arrangement Committee.

Disputes involving labor unions over contracts were listed among the problems and coupled with a warning that the convention hall might not be ready for the opening session Aug. 21.

Reached by telephone, Herman confirmed that he had received the letter but he would not say whether he was going to do anything

about it.

"Adding all of our problems together, some of which we may never solve," Knowles wrote, "I have come to one conclusion . . .

"In my opinion, there is an extremely high risk that the opening gavel will not fall on Aug. 21 in San Diego, and I therefore urge you to give every consideration to encouraging the powers that be to move the convention to another city."

Knowles said in the letter that he had gone over the

timetable with an official of the company handling construction at the hall, and the work under any circumstances would cost thousands of dollars in overtime with no assurance that the job would be finished on time.

In the letter, dated March 30, Knowles wrote that negotiations between craft unions and contractors had broken down completely.

He also noted that some of the major hotels did not have unionized employees and that the hotel situation

might be used as "leverage" by the unions.

" . . . if we lost these hotels, I am afraid we would have some delegates coming from Los Angeles," he said.

However, he said, many people in San Diego "would heave a sigh of relief if we announced that due to unsolvable physical problems we were required to move the convention site."

City officials were never enthusiastic about being the host city.