

# Republicans Move Closer To Shift in Convention Site

**National Committee Called to Discuss Change From San Diego to Florida —Date Appears Stumbling Block**

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MIAMI BEACH, Fla., April 24—The Republican Party moved closer today to switching the national convention from San Diego to Miami Beach. The Republican National Committee was called to meet on the proposed shift on May 5 and 6 in Washington.

But the problem of the convention date could still prove to be a difficult hurdle.

In a statement issued here, this afternoon, R. L. Herman, vice chairman of the Republican committee on arrangements, said that the party was "actively seeking a bid from Miami Beach" and that he hoped "the City Council will see fit to invite us."

Mr. Herman said that "some problems" had to be resolved between the G.O.P. and Miami Beach officials.

Since the Miami Beach Tourist Authority has already pledged \$250,000 for the convention, and the City Council is expected to offer \$500,000 in goods and services, a pledge matching that to the Democrats' the stumbling block appears to be the insistence of Miami Beach officials that the convention begin Aug. 14 instead of Aug. 21, the scheduled opening date in San Diego.

## Dole Issues Call

Senator Robert Dole of Kansas, chairman of the Republican National Committee, called the May 5-6 meeting of the 156-member committee. In his memorandum to the committee members Senator Dole said:

"I am sure you are aware through the news media that we are faced with problems in San Diego that are almost insurmountable. This has led us to consider the possibility of moving the convention to another site."

Mr. Dole said last week that if a shift was recommended, the committee "probably would ratify that change."

Republican troubles with the San Diego site have included difficulty in getting the San Diego Arena ready in time for the convention, the shortage of housing, and a delay in receiving money pledged by a San Diego civic group.

Mr. Dole's statement appeared to indicate either that Republican leaders have definitely given up on San

Diego or that they are anxious to settle the issue as soon as possible.

Mr. Herman said that Miami Beach could handle the Republican convention, especially since a convention center is already being set up for the national Democratic convention starting here July 10.

The conflict over the G.O.P. convention date arose because on Aug. 21 a large meeting of Buick dealers is scheduled to occupy the Miami Beach Convention Hall and much hotel space in town.

Republican party lawyers said that the Aug. 14 date would not be legally acceptable because states that have not yet named convention delegates would not have sufficient time to do so under party by-laws.

It was understood here that Gov. Reubin Askew today telephoned Miami Beach officials urging them to extend an acceptable bid to the Republican party. City officials are also known to be in touch with General

General Motors executives who have expressed a willingness to accommodate the Republicans by moving the date of the Buick convention.