

PRESIDENT SHAPES G.O.P.'S PLATFORM

White House Sends Writers
a Blueprint for 2d Term
—Some Dissent Seen

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WASHINGTON, Aug. 6—

One month before the Republican National Convention was to open in Miami Beach on Aug. 21, the White House sent platform writers a draft of what President Nixon would like to see in the party's 1972 statement on issues.

It is a closely guarded document said to run 229 pages and contain both praise of the first four years of the Nixon Government and a blueprint for the programs and policies contemplated for the next four.

Among the staff of the Resolutions (Platform) Committee to the convention, the White House draft is known as "working papers." On Capitol Hill, Republican members of Congress say bluntly, "The platform has been drafted in the White House."

This is not unusual for a President up for re-election. It would be unusual if the President did not get almost precisely what he wanted in a platform. The committee, composed of more than 100 delegates to the convention, is in the hands of Representative John J. Rhodes of Arizona, a trusted Nixon supporter, who is chairman.

Some Friction Foreseen

Yet the platform hearings, scheduled to open in Miami Beach Aug. 14, may not be all harmony. Republicans on both the right and left are stirring up some controversy. So far, 240 persons or organizations have asked to testify.

Representative Paul N. McCloskey Jr. of California will be advocating a halt to bombing in Vietnam and pushing for other phases of the anti-Nixon Presidential campaign he ran in New Hampshire; Representative John M. Ashbrook of Ohio, also a Presidential candidate earlier this year, and several other conservatives will be asking for right-wing planks; the National Women's Caucus will be pushing for a plank on abortion and other issues.

However, Common Cause, the citizens' lobby led by John W. Gardner, may well be the only dissenting force at the convention to cause real trouble for the White House.

Republican Common Cause members across the country are lobbying the delegates to the convention for such planks as the following:

☐Public financing of most election costs.

☐Full disclosure of income of public officials.

☐Forbidding members of Congress from serving on committees that have jurisdiction over businesses in which they have a personal interest.

☐Direct election of the President.

☐Abolition of the seniority system in Congress.

☐Opening Government meetings to the public.

Most of the Common Cause proposals were incorporated in the Democratic platform, which was written under reform procedures, causing an explosion of anger by senior Democrats in Congress.

Since the proposals are concerned more with morality in politics and making the processes more democratic than they are with such issues as Government spending, they are not easily opposed.

Polling the Delegates

Common Cause has been polling the delegates to the convention to see how they stand on 15 proposals. The returns so far have been mixed, but there seems to be overwhelming support for abolishing the seniority system in Congress and electing committee chairmen by open ballot in party caucus.

Although the Republicans have not yet adopted the reform procedures for making the party machinery more representative, there is an element of uncertainty about how the delegates may perform. Party leaders, consciously seeking to make the convention more representative, saw to it that many more women, minority members and youths were named delegates than were named to the 1968 convention.

"For example, a state party chairman, instead of being a delegate himself as he had in the past, would see that his daughter was named instead," said a party leader, adding that no one could ever be quite sure what a teen-age daughter would do.

The three and a half days of hearings have been structured to bury at least some of the controversy. The morning hearings will be for the full committee, with Cabinet members and other prominent people scheduled.

There will be some anti-Administration witnesses at the morning sessions, committee sources said, but most of those offering controversial proposals — Representative McCloskey, for example — will be testifying in the afternoon before one of seven panels that will be meeting concurrently.

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