

3000-Strong Youth

Miami Beach

Two miles from the radical headquarters in Flamingo Park, on another ballfield in another part of town, about 3000 young men and women have been quietly mobilizing their energies to achieve precisely the result of the radicals fear: the re-election of President Nixon.

They have not received the same attention as the protesters across town, but these Young Voters for the President — YVPs, as they call themselves — are neither bashful about their allegiance to Mr. Nixon nor pessimistic about the prospect

of converting a good many of the nation's 25 million first-time voters to the President's cause.

They are under no illusions about Senator George S. McGovern's strength and popularity on college campuses. But they think the winds have shifted a bit, and they claim that "Peer group pressures" to vote for the South Dakota Democrat have markedly diminished.

Chairman

"I think there are a lot of kids here who wouldn't have been here six months ago," said Pamela Powell, the 24-year-old daughter of actors Dick Powell and June Ally-

son, who was recently named national chairman of the Republicans' young voters effort.

"I can see it in some of my own friends, they're not afraid of being for the President. And the fact that we managed to get here in such numbers, to put on a real show of force, is going to make it easier for our peers to vote for Nixon.

The youths who gather daily at YVP working headquarters are as different in style and dress from their contemporaries in Flamingo Park as one might expect.

There are, however, some notable exceptions like Mark Tulis, 21-year-old former

Corps for Nixon at Miami

student body president at Brandeis University whose long hair and faded jeans could easily pass muster across town.

"There are a lot of kids here who surprised me," Tulis said of his colleagues in the Nixon camp. "I had a rather narrow view of the typical Nixon supporter. But I'm beginning to think now that even at a place like Brandeis the President might find more support than we would normally think. I don't know why this is, but McGovern has been disappointing to me while Nixon has done a steady job."

No one has yet developed a "profile" of the 3000 Nixon

youths, but a casual inspection suggests that nearly all are white and most are middle-class. Some are of high school age, some are college students, some are non-college youths — a key group where Nixon strategists think they can do better than McGovern.

The Republican party did not subsidize their trip — it cost each of them between \$200 and \$285 for transportation, hotel rooms, and meals — but the party helped them and, to some extent, hand-picked them. The party arranged charter flights and group fares, for example, and some of the youths said they were invited to attend

by their congressmen — evidence of some kind of pre-screening process.

The group is also strikingly well organized — a tribute to nearly a year's planning by Tom Bell, a 24-year-old Tennessean and constituent of Senator Bill Brock, chairman of the YVP effort.

Dividing his charges into 10 person units, Bell has deployed them all over Miami Beach — to stand at booths, act as hosts and hostesses, collate the GOP platform, welcome delegates and party officials, held at a day-care center for Republican children, mail letters and deal with the press.

Journalism students

among the YVPs have been given a special assignment: interviewing their colleagues and sending the tapes and stories back to hometown newspapers and radio stations.

The Nixon youths have also served cosmetic purposes. Because persons under 25 comprise only 3 per cent of the total number of voting delegates at the convention (9 per cent of alternates are included), about 700 YVPs have been assigned seats around the perimeter of the convention floor to give the gathering a more youthful appearance that it would otherwise have.

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