

**The original documents are located in Box 27, folder “Republican Convention - Site Selection” of the Robert T. Hartmann Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

### **Copyright Notice**

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

RTH:

Did you want these for this  
meeting?

nm *copies to*

✓ *Burnsfield*

✓ *Cavanaugh*

✓ *Calhoun* ( *rulers*  
*he has*  
*one*  
*already* )



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

From: Robert T. Hartmann

To: Don Rumsfeld  
Rich Caraney

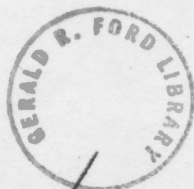
Date: 8/6/75

Time

a. m.

p. m.

For your information  
as directed by the  
President.



This memo has not  
had wide circulation  
beyond the Site  
Committee.

RTH



# Republican National Committee.

July 21, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT T. HARTMANN, COUNSELLOR TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Report on cities under consideration for the location of the  
1976 Republican National Convention

The Site Selection Committee held formal hearings in Washington, D. C. on April 4-5, 1975, with cities interested in having the 1976 Republican National Convention. Presentations were made by six cities: Cleveland, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Miami Beach, New Orleans and San Francisco. At the same time, representatives of the news media (ABC, CBS, NBC, non-network broadcasters, daily press, periodical press and photographic press) were invited to discuss their needs to adequately cover the convention.

Following this, each city was visited by several members of the Site Committee, some RNC staff and technical representatives of the television networks. In each case, considerable time was spent in studying all aspects of the convention facility, the major hotels were toured and other hotels were inspected for quality and adequacy, discussions were held with city officials, hotel representatives and convention bureau directors to secure as much information about each city as possible in a day or two. In most cities, Republican Party officials participated in these discussions and inspection activities.

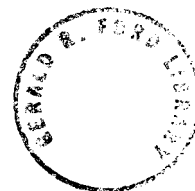
This is a factual report, without recommendation, listing the cities in alphabetical order not in the order of preference.

CLEVELAND: The Auditorium is the site of the 1924 and 1936 Republican National Conventions. It has a seating capacity of 10,300 seats (5,893 permanent seats arranged in two-level balconies and space on the floor level adequate for Delegates and Alternates). A large permanent stage serves the Auditorium and the Music Hall. A temporary wall can be moved to allow the Music Hall to become the back of the stage. This would provide 3,000 more seats, but they would not be very desirable since they would be in the back of the speaker. The stage would have to be utilized for the podium area with construction around and over it to provide access for participants and for press seats flanking the podium. There are no box seats, but they could be constructed. The parking facilities, air conditioning and power are adequate.

The auxiliary space in this convention complex is tremendous. It appears that all offices for the RNC, workspace for the news media and meetings could be managed in the various areas available.

The months of July and August are free in the entire complex -- no problem of availability in preparing for the convention.

(MORE)



The hotels are very limited. In the immediate area of the convention center there are 3,700 rooms allowing for 309 suites in 11 hotels. Moving out into the suburban area and nearby towns, an additional 8,749 rooms are available ranging in driving distance from 10 to 40 minutes according to the city officials. There is a total of 12,449 rooms, out of which 550 suites can be arranged. An additional 1,346 rooms are available in the City of Akron, which is said to be under most circumstances a one-hour drive from downtown Cleveland. There is a possibility that the community can secure cruise ships to add 1,300 or 1,400 more rooms. This requires creation of a profit-making corporation to raise the money to guarantee the availability of the ships. There is no hard evidence that this will be done and some question concerning the legality of such a procedure under the new Federal Election Campaign Act.

The political situation is superior to all other cities: Republican Governor, one Republican Senator, Republican Mayor, 15 out of 23 U. S. Representatives.

In a general evaluation of this city, the greatest disadvantage is the lack of hotel rooms. There is some question about the adequacy of restaurant facilities for a convention. The geographic location is good; the convention hall is adequate and the auxiliary space is the best. The Mayor has generated considerable publicity to make Cleveland the convention site. The city is an industrial city of ethnic groups and a large black community.

KANSAS CITY: The only facility possible for the convention is the Kemper Memorial Arena, located 5 or 10 minutes from the downtown area. It is a relatively new structure, ideal for sports events, but used for other activities such as concerts. The acoustical system is of excellent quality suitable for symphonic concerts. The dimensions of the floor area are such that only Delegates could be seated there, and allow space for the podium flanked by one-half of the required press seats with writing tables. To accommodate the remaining press and Alternates, a great deal of the permanent seating area at the first level would have to be used leaving an estimated 5,885 guest seats available (very low compared to past conventions). A few boxes could be constructed in the permanent seating area. There are no permanent boxes. Some of the club suites used for sports events would have to be utilized for the anchor booths. A few of these suites would be left for Party use.

Most of the workspace would be in two buildings located 100 yards or more south of the arena. The Governor's Exposition Building, which is air-conditioned, contains approximately 115,000 square feet of space. Another building next to it is not air-conditioned, but the city will consider doing this if the convention can be held there. The limited points of access to the arena create problems for the press and the Delegates and Alternates.

Hotel rooms are limited. In the immediate area of the arena (5 to 12 minutes driving time) there are 5,016 rooms with 436 suites. Moving outward to the city limits and suburbs of Kansas City, Missouri and into Kansas, there are an additional 9,680 rooms out of which 520 suites are possible. Of this number, almost 1,000 rooms are as far away as Topeka, Kansas with a driving time of 65 minutes. The total number of rooms, including those in the Topeka, Kansas area, is 14,696 with 956 suites. It appears that traffic is less of a problem

(MORE)



in the Kansas City, Missouri and Kansas area than in other cities. It flows easily and with few tie-ups.

The Radisson Muehlebach Hotel would be the Headquarters Hotel. There is insufficient public space in this hotel for the working needs of the news media, the RNC and for meetings. The additional space required is available in the Municipal Auditorium directly across the street.

The Governor of Missouri and the Governor of Kansas, both Republicans, have joined forces and actively support the effort to get the convention in their area. In Kansas there are two Republican Senators, four out of five U. S. Representatives and one out of ten U. S. Representatives in Missouri. The enthusiasm of the neighboring communities to have the convention is outstanding.

In an evaluation of this city, the convention hall presents the greatest problems. It would be possible to make it work, but there would be limitations as far as seating is concerned and some inconvenience for all in entering and leaving the arena. The hotel situation is not the most desirable, but it would be possible to manage. Kansas City is clean, attractive, entertaining and the support of the people there to have the convention and to do anything possible to help make it work, is truly great.

LOS ANGELES: The convention would be held in an exhibition type hall similar to Miami Beach, adequate in size with meeting rooms situated with windows overlooking the convention floor suitable for anchor booths. The news media workspace would have to be divided and would not be convenient for all of the press personnel. The parking facilities are excellent and there is plenty of outside space for mobile units. There is some question on the adequacy of restrooms. Approximately 13,000 seats would be available in the proposed configuration. Floor outlets eliminate necessity of false flooring, a very costly item.

A gift show which uses all available space in the Convention Center will enter the building on July 21st, the show opens July 25th and ends July 30th, it moves out on August 2nd. If the Republican Convention is held on August 23rd, this would allow 19 days to prepare. This is possible, but tight. It would be impossible to have the Republican Convention in Los Angeles any sooner than August 23rd.

The hotels are excellent -- no problem in number of rooms and suites, location in relation to Convention Center; adequate public space in hotel that would serve as Headquarters Hotel; variety of rates; good quality.

The political situation in Los Angeles is not good. There is a Democratic Governor, two Democratic U. S. Senators, 28 out of 43 Democratic U. S. Representatives and a Democratic Mayor. However, the Site Committee was very impressed with Mayor Tom Bradley's participation and assurance that a Republican Convention would have the same assistance and support offered the Democratic Party. The Chairman of the Board of Supervisors of Los Angeles is a Republican and he confirmed the Mayor's statement.

The Delegates, Alternates and guests would be happy with the quality and location of their hotel accommodations, the recreational and entertainment possibilities in the area and the adequacy of the convention site.

(MORE)



MIAMI BEACH: The new addition to the Miami Beach Convention Complex gives advantages not available in 1972. Meeting rooms, office space, eating facilities, an attractive enlarged lobby and restrooms have been added. The meeting rooms can be utilized for anchor booths by placing windows in walls of rooms overlooking convention floor. It is possible to have approximately 14,000 seats (including Delegates, Alternates, news media and guests) by using the 1968 configuration.

The South Hall, which would be used by the news media is available on an unlimited basis from July 2 through August 27, 1976. The North Hall, where the convention would be held is available from July 25 through August 27, 1976. If the Republican Convention starts on August 23rd, the time available to set up the floor, construct the podium and press seats and put in all communications is very tight. If it is desired that the convention start a week earlier the lead time would not be adequate for the networks or the Party.

Slightly more than 14,000 rooms have been committed. There has been no new hotel construction since the 1972 convention and some hotels used in 1972 have been torn down or turned into condominiums. The quality of the hotels checked by the Site Committee was in most cases satisfactory. There is much renovation going on in the area.

The political situation is weaker on the Republican side than in 1968 and 1972. The Governor, two Senators, 11 out of 15 U. S. Representatives and the Mayor are Democrats.

The advantages of having the convention in Miami Beach are working with people experienced in handling national nominating conventions; familiarity with convention hall, hotels and city in general; security of city and experience of law enforcement agencies in the area in maintaining security for three conventions.

Since the last two conventions have been held in this City, there is little interest in having it there a third time.

NEW ORLEANS: The convention would be held in the Superdome, which is the largest and most unusual arena in existence today. When the Site Committee visited there, construction was still going on, but it was sufficiently completed to form an opinion. In order to diminish the size for a political convention, it would be necessary to black out the topmost level and pull in the retractable seating sections at the floor level. In spite of the magnificence of the Superdome, false flooring would be required, anchor booths would have to be built, a podium and press seats would have to be constructed as in most other convention halls. The Superdome officials are not willing to concede that this magnificent modern facility would not have every possible requirement already built in for immediate use. This is true for sports events, but not a political convention. Power, air conditioning and lighting are adequate.

In order to do the work necessary to prepare the Superdome for a political convention, it is essential to have 10 weeks of lead time (4 weeks limited access and 6 weeks unlimited). The Superdome has a commitment to the Saints professional football team to play two games in the month of August. They are also committed to a Lutheran Convention. The time of the Lutheran Convention may be

(MORE)



adjusted slightly, but it would seem very difficult to work two football games in also. The Mayor is trying to convince the networks that their work can be done outside and put in place later and that the work can be done around these events.

At the time of the visit of the Site Committee, the commitment of hotel rooms was 12,253; however, this included the Hyatt Regency, which is being built immediately across from the Superdome and will have a total of 1,252 rooms. They anticipate that it will be completed in time, but will not give unqualified assurance of this. The number of hotel rooms is limited to start with and the possible elimination of this hotel would be disastrous. Many of the hotels in the immediate vicinity of the Superdome are small, but elegant. It would be necessary to go to the suburban areas and nearby towns.

The political climate is all Democratic with the exception of two Republican U. S. Representatives. However, there was strong evidence of interest and cooperation on the part of the Governor and Mayor; Representatives Hebert and Boggs were present to show their support and there is some feeling that many members of the Democratic Party lean to the Republican Party in the matter of a Presidential choice.

In evaluating this city, the charm and uniqueness of New Orleans rate high; the Superdome is a fantastic structure and would be a source of great interest. The greatest problem is the lack of hotel rooms and the availability of the Superdome in time to do what is necessary without conflicting with other commitments.

SAN FRANCISCO: The Cow Palace where the convention would be held is much improved in appearance since the last Republican Convention was held there in 1964 -- new lobby, all new seats, entire complex repainted; outer buildings improved. Travel to the Cow Palace is much faster because of new highway facilities and it is now possible to go by subway (BART) in less than 15 minutes. The floor of the Convention Hall would no longer accommodate all of the Delegates, Alternates, press and podium. Some of the Alternates would have to sit in the permanent area. There are 10,297 permanent seats (some loss due to construction of anchor booths) and it is possible to have about 3,500 seats on the floor (including daily press section flanking the podium). The 1964 Convention was televised in black and white. The increased lighting required for color television would create a heat problem. There is no air conditioning in the Cow Palace -- only vents letting in the natural cool air. This could create a problem.

No problem of availability if convention held on August 16th or August 23rd. There is sufficient lead time to construct anchor booths.

The hotel situation is greatly improved since 1964. There are many new hotels and large additions to already existing hotels (St. Francis and Hilton Towers). The quality and number of rooms, suites and public space make the hotel requirements more than adequate.

The political picture is the same as Los Angeles with the exception of the Chief Administrative Officer for the City who is a Republican. Most of the members of the citizens committee formed to seek the convention are long time dedicated Republicans.

(MORE)



The City of San Francisco is a very popular city and with the hotel situation improved, it would be a delightful place to have the convention if the problems in the Cow Palace could be overcome. It is a very expensive city and this could be a problem for the Party and the guests. If the convention could be held in California, it would appear more practical to select Los Angeles.

CONCLUSION: None of the Cities under consideration are ideal. There is a problem of some sort in each one. If it is decided that the Convention should start on August 16th, Miami Beach, Los Angeles and probably New Orleans are ruled out.

This report of findings by the Site Committee and Miss Josephine L. Good, Convention Director, is submitted to give you the more detailed facts on which Chairman Smith and I based our pro and con observations last Wednesday with respect to the various cities.

Respectfully submitted,



Edwin G. Middleton, Vice Chairman  
Site Selection Committee  
1976 Republican National Convention





# Republican National Committee.

July 21, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT T. HARTMANN, COUNSELLOR TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Report on cities under consideration for the location of the  
1976 Republican National Convention

The Site Selection Committee held formal hearings in Washington, D. C. on April 4-5, 1975, with cities interested in having the 1976 Republican National Convention. Presentations were made by six cities: Cleveland, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Miami Beach, New Orleans and San Francisco. At the same time, representatives of the news media (ABC, CBS, NBC, non-network broadcasters, daily press, periodical press and photographic press) were invited to discuss their needs to adequately cover the convention.

Following this, each city was visited by several members of the Site Committee, some RNC staff and technical representatives of the television networks. In each case, considerable time was spent in studying all aspects of the convention facility, the major hotels were toured and other hotels were inspected for quality and adequacy, discussions were held with city officials, hotel representatives and convention bureau directors to secure as much information about each city as possible in a day or two. In most cities, Republican Party officials participated in these discussions and inspection activities.

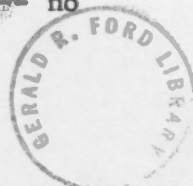
This is a factual report, without recommendation, listing the cities in alphabetical order not in the order of preference.

CLEVELAND: The Auditorium is the site of the 1924 and 1936 Republican National Conventions. It has a seating capacity of 10,300 seats (5,893 permanent seats arranged in two-level balconies and space on the floor level adequate for Delegates and Alternates). A large permanent stage serves the Auditorium and the Music Hall. A temporary wall can be moved to allow the Music Hall to become the back of the stage. This would provide 3,000 more seats, but they would not be very desirable since they would be in the back of the speaker. The stage would have to be utilized for the podium area with construction around and over it to provide access for participants and for press seats flanking the podium. There are no box seats, but they could be constructed. The parking facilities, air conditioning and power are adequate.

The auxiliary space in this convention complex is tremendous. It appears that all offices for the RNC, workspace for the news media and meetings could be managed in the various areas available.

The months of July and August are free in the entire complex -- no problem of availability in preparing for the convention.

(MORE)



The hotels are very limited. In the immediate area of the convention center there are 3,700 rooms allowing for 309 suites in 11 hotels. Moving out into the suburban area and nearby towns, an additional 8,749 rooms are available ranging in driving distance from 10 to 40 minutes according to the city officials. There is a total of 12,449 rooms, out of which 550 suites can be arranged. An additional 1,346 rooms are available in the City of Akron, which is said to be under most circumstances a one-hour drive from downtown Cleveland. There is a possibility that the community can secure cruise ships to add 1,300 or 1,400 more rooms. This requires creation of a profit-making corporation to raise the money to guarantee the availability of the ships. There is no hard evidence that this will be done and some question concerning the legality of such a procedure under the new Federal Election Campaign Act.

The political situation is superior to all other cities: Republican Governor, one Republican Senator, Republican Mayor, 15 out of 23 U. S. Representatives.

In a general evaluation of this city, the greatest disadvantage is the lack of hotel rooms. There is some question about the adequacy of restaurant facilities for a convention. The geographic location is good; the convention hall is adequate and the auxiliary space is the best. The Mayor has generated considerable publicity to make Cleveland the convention site. The city is an industrial city of ethnic groups and a large black community.

KANSAS CITY: The only facility possible for the convention is the Kemper Memorial Arena, located 5 or 10 minutes from the downtown area. It is a relatively new structure, ideal for sports events, but used for other activities such as concerts. The acoustical system is of excellent quality suitable for symphonic concerts. The dimensions of the floor area are such that only Delegates could be seated there, and allow space for the podium flanked by one-half of the required press seats with writing tables. To accommodate the remaining press and Alternates, a great deal of the permanent seating area at the first level would have to be used leaving an estimated 5,885 guest seats available (very low compared to past conventions). A few boxes could be constructed in the permanent seating area. There are no permanent boxes. Some of the club suites used for sports events would have to be utilized for the anchor booths. A few of these suites would be left for Party use.

Most of the workspace would be in two buildings located 100 yards or more south of the arena. The Governor's Exposition Building, which is air-conditioned, contains approximately 115,000 square feet of space. Another building next to it is not air-conditioned, but the city will consider doing this if the convention can be held there. The limited points of access to the arena create problems for the press and the Delegates and Alternates.

Hotel rooms are limited. In the immediate area of the arena (5 to 12 minutes driving time) there are 5,016 rooms with 436 suites. Moving outward to the city limits and suburbs of Kansas City, Missouri and into Kansas, there are an additional 9,680 rooms out of which 520 suites are possible. Of this number, almost 1,000 rooms are as far away as Topeka, Kansas with a driving time of 65 minutes. The total number of rooms, including those in the Topeka, Kansas area, is 14,696 with 956 suites. It appears that traffic is less of a problem

(MORE)



in the Kansas City, Missouri and Kansas area than in other cities. It flows easily and with few tie-ups.

The Radisson Muehlebach Hotel would be the Headquarters Hotel. There is insufficient public space in this hotel for the working needs of the news media, the RNC and for meetings. The additional space required is available in the Municipal Auditorium directly across the street.

The Governor of Missouri and the Governor of Kansas, both Republicans, have joined forces and actively support the effort to get the convention in their area. In Kansas there are two Republican Senators, four out of five U. S. Representatives and one out of ten U. S. Representatives in Missouri. The enthusiasm of the neighboring communities to have the convention is outstanding.

In an evaluation of this city, the convention hall presents the greatest problems. It would be possible to make it work, but there would be limitations as far as seating is concerned and some inconvenience for all in entering and leaving the arena. The hotel situation is not the most desirable, but it would be possible to manage. Kansas City is clean, attractive, entertaining and the support of the people there to have the convention and to do anything possible to help make it work, is truly great.

LOS ANGELES: The convention would be held in an exhibition type hall similar to Miami Beach, adequate in size with meeting rooms situated with windows overlooking the convention floor suitable for anchor booths. The news media workspace would have to be divided and would not be convenient for all of the press personnel. The parking facilities are excellent and there is plenty of outside space for mobile units. There is some question on the adequacy of restrooms. Approximately 13,000 seats would be available in the proposed configuration. Floor outlets eliminate necessity of false flooring, a very costly item.

A gift show which uses all available space in the Convention Center will enter the building on July 21st, the show opens July 25th and ends July 30th, it moves out on August 2nd. If the Republican Convention is held on August 23rd, this would allow 19 days to prepare. This is possible, but tight. It would be impossible to have the Republican Convention in Los Angeles any sooner than August 23rd.

The hotels are excellent -- no problem in number of rooms and suites, location in relation to Convention Center; adequate public space in hotel that would serve as Headquarters Hotel; variety of rates; good quality.

The political situation in Los Angeles is not good. There is a Democratic Governor, two Democratic U. S. Senators, 28 out of 43 Democratic U. S. Representatives and a Democratic Mayor. However, the Site Committee was very impressed with Mayor Tom Bradley's participation and assurance that a Republican Convention would have the same assistance and support offered the Democratic Party. The Chairman of the Board of Supervisors of Los Angeles is a Republican and he confirmed the Mayor's statement.

The Delegates, Alternates and guests would be happy with the quality and location of their hotel accommodations, the recreational and entertainment possibilities in the area and the adequacy of the convention site.

(MORE)



MIAMI BEACH: The new addition to the Miami Beach Convention Complex gives advantages not available in 1972. Meeting rooms, office space, eating facilities, an attractive enlarged lobby and restrooms have been added. The meeting rooms can be utilized for anchor booths by placing windows in walls of rooms overlooking convention floor. It is possible to have approximately 14,000 seats (including Delegates, Alternates, news media and guests) by using the 1968 configuration.

The South Hall, which would be used by the news media is available on an unlimited basis from July 2 through August 27, 1976. The North Hall, where the convention would be held is available from July 25 through August 27, 1976. If the Republican Convention starts on August 23rd, the time available to set up the floor, construct the podium and press seats and put in all communications is very tight. If it is desired that the convention start a week earlier the lead time would not be adequate for the networks or the Party.

Slightly more than 14,000 rooms have been committed. There has been no new hotel construction since the 1972 convention and some hotels used in 1972 have been torn down or turned into condominiums. The quality of the hotels checked by the Site Committee was in most cases satisfactory. There is much renovation going on in the area.

The political situation is weaker on the Republican side than in 1968 and 1972. The Governor, two Senators, 11 out of 15 U. S. Representatives and the Mayor are Democrats.

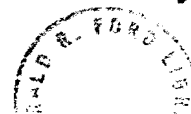
The advantages of having the convention in Miami Beach are working with people experienced in handling national nominating conventions; familiarity with convention hall, hotels and city in general; security of city and experience of law enforcement agencies in the area in maintaining security for three conventions.

Since the last two conventions have been held in this City, there is little interest in having it there a third time.

NEW ORLEANS: The convention would be held in the Superdome, which is the largest and most unusual arena in existence today. When the Site Committee visited there, construction was still going on, but it was sufficiently completed to form an opinion. In order to diminish the size for a political convention, it would be necessary to black out the topmost level and pull in the retractable seating sections at the floor level. In spite of the magnificence of the Superdome, false flooring would be required, anchor booths would have to be built, a podium and press seats would have to be constructed as in most other convention halls. The Superdome officials are not willing to concede that this magnificent modern facility would not have every possible requirement already built in for immediate use. This is true for sports events, but not a political convention. Power, air conditioning and lighting are adequate.

In order to do the work necessary to prepare the Superdome for a political convention, it is essential to have 10 weeks of lead time (4 weeks limited access and 6 weeks unlimited). The Superdome has a commitment to the Saints professional football team to play two games in the month of August. They are also committed to a Lutheran Convention. The time of the Lutheran Convention may be

(MORE)



adjusted slightly, but it would seem very difficult to work two football games in also. The Mayor is trying to convince the networks that their work can be done outside and put in place later and that the work can be done around these events.

At the time of the visit of the Site Committee, the commitment of hotel rooms was 12,253; however, this included the Hyatt Regency, which is being built immediately across from the Superdome and will have a total of 1,252 rooms. They anticipate that it will be completed in time, but will not give unqualified assurance of this. The number of hotel rooms is limited to start with and the possible elimination of this hotel would be disastrous. Many of the hotels in the immediate vicinity of the Superdome are small, but elegant. It would be necessary to go to the suburban areas and nearby towns.

The political climate is all Democratic with the exception of two Republican U. S. Representatives. However, there was strong evidence of interest and cooperation on the part of the Governor and Mayor; Representatives Hebert and Boggs were present to show their support and there is some feeling that many members of the Democratic Party lean to the Republican Party in the matter of a Presidential choice.

In evaluating this city, the charm and uniqueness of New Orleans rate high; the Superdome is a fantastic structure and would be a source of great interest. The greatest problem is the lack of hotel rooms and the availability of the Superdome in time to do what is necessary without conflicting with other commitments.

SAN FRANCISCO: The Cow Palace where the convention would be held is much improved in appearance since the last Republican Convention was held there in 1964 -- new lobby, all new seats, entire complex repainted; outer buildings improved. Travel to the Cow Palace is much faster because of new highway facilities and it is now possible to go by subway (BART) in less than 15 minutes. The floor of the Convention Hall would no longer accommodate all of the Delegates, Alternates, press and podium. Some of the Alternates would have to sit in the permanent area. There are 10,297 permanent seats (some loss due to construction of anchor booths) and it is possible to have about 3,500 seats on the floor (including daily press section flanking the podium). The 1964 Convention was televised in black and white. The increased lighting required for color television would create a heat problem. There is no air conditioning in the Cow Palace -- only vents letting in the natural cool air. This could create a problem.

No problem of availability if convention held on August 16th or August 23rd. There is sufficient lead time to construct anchor booths.

The hotel situation is greatly improved since 1964. There are many new hotels and large additions to already existing hotels (St. Francis and Hilton Towers). The quality and number of rooms, suites and public space make the hotel requirements more than adequate.

The political picture is the same as Los Angeles with the exception of the Chief Administrative Officer for the City who is a Republican. Most of the members of the citizens committee formed to seek the convention are long-time dedicated Republicans.

(MORE)




The City of San Francisco is a very popular city and with the hotel situation improved, it would be a delightful place to have the convention if the problems in the Cow Palace could be overcome. It is a very expensive city and this could be a problem for the Party and the guests. If the convention could be held in California, it would appear more practical to select Los Angeles.

CONCLUSION: None of the Cities under consideration are ideal. There is a problem of some sort in each one. If it is decided that the Convention should start on August 16th, Miami Beach, Los Angeles and probably New Orleans are ruled out.

This report of findings by the Site Committee and Miss Josephine L. Good, Convention Director, is submitted to give you the more detailed facts on which Chairman Smith and I based our pro and con observations last Wednesday with respect to the various cities.

Respectfully submitted,



Edwin G. Middleton, Vice Chairman  
Site Selection Committee  
1976 Republican National Convention



## (1976 CONVENTIONS)

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- THE REPUBLICANS APPARENTLY HAVE NARROWED THEIR SELECTION OF A 1976 NATIONAL CONVENTION SITE TO MIAMI BEACH, CLEVELAND AND KANSAS CITY.

THE THREE CITIES EMERGED AS THE SEMI-FINALISTS WITH THE DISPATCH OF A THREE-MEMBER DELEGATION OF GOP OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE CONVENTION CONTRACTS WITH LOCAL OFFICIALS STARTING MONDAY IN THE FLORIDA BEACH RESORT.

THE GROUP, HEADED BY GOP SITE SELECTION COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRMAN ED MIDDLETON, WILL GO ON TO CLEVELAND AND KANSAS CITY AFTER IT COMPLETES THE CLOSED-DOOR DISCUSSIONS IN MIAMI BEACH. A GOP NATIONAL COMMITTEE SPOKESMAN EMPHASIZED THAT THE ORDER OF VISITS TO THE THREE CITIES WAS A MATTER OF TRAVEL CONVENIENCE, AND NOT THE RANKING OF THE THREE IN SITE COMMITTEE PREFERENCE.

ALTHOUGH NO GOP OFFICIAL WOULD VERIFY IT, THE ORDER OF PREFERENCE WAS REPORTED TO BE CLEVELAND, KANSAS CITY AND MIAMI BEACH.

SAN FRANCISCO AND LOS ANGELES, CALIF., NEW ORLEANS AND NEW YORK CITY ALSO SUBMITTED BIDS FOR THE GOP MEETING, EXPECTED TO BEGIN EITHER AUG. 16 OR AUG. 23, 1976, A FULL MONTH AFTER THE DEMOCRATS MEET.

THE DEMOCRATIC SITE SELECTION COMMITTEE WILL MEET AUG. 27 TO MAKE ITS RECOMMENDATION TO THE PARTY'S NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. THE DEMOCRATIC CHOICE IS BELIEVED CENTERED ON NEW YORK CITY AND LOS ANGELES, ALTHOUGH THE SAME GROUP THAT SOUGHT THE GOP MEETING ALSO INVITED THE DEMOCRATS. THE DEMOCRATIC MEETING PROBABLY WILL BEGIN JULY 12, 1976.

-0-

MIAMI BEACH (UPI) -- DELEGATES OF THE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE WILL MEET WITH MIAMI BEACH CITY OFFICIALS NEXT WEEK IN A FINAL STEP BEFORE THE GOP DECIDES WHETHER TO HOLD ITS 1976 NATIONAL CONVENTION HERE.

MIAMI BEACH CITY MANAGER FRANK SPENCE SAID THE REPUBLICANS HAVE NARROWED THEIR CHOICE OF CONVENTION SITES TO MIAMI BEACH, KANSAS CITY AND CLEVELAND -- AND ARE DISCUSSING CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS WITH CITY LEADERS BEFORE MAKING THE FINAL DECISION SEPT. 8.

THE DEMOCRATS HAVE RULED OUT MIAMI BEACH AS A POSSIBLE CONVENTION SITE.

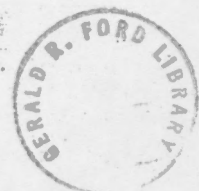
-0-

MIAMI BEACH (UPI) -- MIAMI BEACH BUSINESSMEN, SAYING SOUTH AMERICAN VACATIONERS ARE ALL THAT'S KEEPING THEM GOING THIS SUMMER, ARE ASKING FOR HELP TO BRING DOMESTIC TOURISTS BACK HERE.

AFTER A RECORD BREAKING WINTER SEASON, TOURISM HAS SAGGED BADLY HERE THIS SUMMER, AND HOTELMEN, RESTAURANT OPERATORS AND OTHER MERCHANTS WANT THE CITY TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TOURIST INDUSTRY ASKED THE CITY COUNCIL TO INCREASE THE CITY'S ADVERTISING BUDGET, TO PROVIDE LOANS SO HOTELMEN CAN MODERNIZE AGING STRUCTURES AND TO COME UP WITH SOME MONEY TO RESTORE THE BEACH.

UPI 08-15 11:29 RED



FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

August 16, 1975

From: ROBERT T. HARTMANN

Subject: 1976 Republican National Convention Site



Mary Louise Smith called on Monday to say that time was running out on the Site Committee announcing its decision, or at least publicly narrowing the field for final negotiations. The recommendation must be formally confirmed by the whole National Committee which is meeting in Washington on Sept. 8.

As you know, I thought we had settled this before going to Europe, and the announcement would come during your absence abroad to further keep the President out of the choice. But during our absence some potent elements, presumably spearheaded by Dick Herman (see enclosed Herman memo to Rummy) apparently cast doubt on the credibility of my signal to Mary Louise and to other Site Committee members, to the extent that she was unwilling to go ahead.

Upon my return from Europe and after our discussion, I supplied copies of the enclosed factual summary of the Site Committee's findings on 6 cities to Don R. and Red Cavaney. Last Monday or Tuesday I phoned Rummy at Vail to inquire what had happened to the Advance/Security check they were supposed to make. He indicated that he was unaware of any urgency and I explained that there was. He said he would expedite it and give me a copy of the report, but I have not seen any. I would be willing to bet, however, that it will find in favor of Miami Beach because this is the familiar playground for all the old Nixon people and the Secret Service and it is a lot easier (1) to manage a convention and (2) have fun when you know your way around. Under other circumstances, I too would be plugging to go back to the Fontainebleau.

In our previous discussion I have tried not to inject my own feelings too much (though I'm sure you know I favor Kansas City) but rather to serve as a conduit of the Site Committee's views to you and yours to Mary Louise -- though she was not to identify them as the President's. I would like now to make one more pitch against Miami Beach. Perhaps we are needlessly worried about the Nixon/Agnew ghosts of 1968 and 1972, although I still think a brand new setting is a plus and evidently the Democrats do too. I concede that the facilities in M.B. are superior.

It seems to me that by August of 1976, the way things are going, we are going to have reached or be in the process of reaching a detente with Castro. Without going into the merits, that is certainly going to be a political issue and one problem we don't need is a million protesting Cubans from the Miami area. They could also be a factor if Panama becomes an issue, though I hope it won't.

The other primary argument is that M.B. is a rich man's play town. The hotel backdrop is luxurious. There is no Southern dividend to be gained in Florida as there might be in New Orleans, M.B. is not really a part of Dixie. Indeed, lots of middle class and retired New Yorkers have moved

there who are liberal by habit and at the same time burned up about high prices and pension caps. The Governor, legislature and mayor are all Democrats. It is Wallace country and Reagan country. Bill Cramer and Paula Hawkins and the new Florida State Chairman don't want the GOP Convention in M.B., according to Mary Louise Smith, and the townspeople aren't particularly anxious to have either party convention again.

Finally, if the convention is to start August 16 rather than August 23, the latest possible date, M.B. is virtually ruled out. I strongly favor the earlier date so that we have the extra week for campaign planning and reorganization to combine the PFC with the RNC.

Now, with California definitely ruled out, the only good alternative in my opinion is Kansas City. They want us badly. There are attractive Republican Governors in Missouri, Kansas and Iowa. It is the heartland of America, your natural habitat and constituency, and where Republicans must make up losses from 1974. Both travel and living costs for delegates will be lower. If some accommodations are Spartan it may cause some delegate grumbling but do no harm to the GOP image. There may be a seating problem for alternates on the floor but that will keep the hall full. The headquarters facilities are first-rate. You could make a pilgrimage to Abilene for Ike and to Independence for Harry. Finally, Central Time (Cleveland is Eastern) is the best for all the media coverage.

Jo Good polled the 7 Site Committee members for Mary Louise who reports the following 1st and 2nd preferences:

Mrs. Smith (Iowa), Chmn. Strong for Kansas City. No 2nd.  
Ed Middleton (Ky.) Vice-Chmn. 1-Los Angeles. 2-Kansas City.  
Alsop (Ct.) Kansas City. No 2nd.  
Mrs. Bolton (Okla.) 1- Miami B. 2-New Orleans.  
Rosenzweig (Ariz.) 1- Los Angeles or Miami B. 2-Kansas City.  
Mrs. Rogers (N.C.) 1- Los Angeles. 2-Kansas City. NOT Miami B.  
Ody Fish (Wisc.) 1.- Miami Beach. 2-Kansas City.

From the above we see that if Los Angeles boosters vote their second choice, the Committee would pick Kansas City by a vote of 4 to 3 over Miami Beach. I think California must be ruled out because such a choice, announced now, would be universally interpreted as a nod from the RNC to Reagan, and we would have to rule out a N.Y. site for the same reason. Mary Louise agrees. So if you can firmly eliminate Los Angeles and state a preference for the earlier August 16 date, I think Kansas City would win in the committee naturally, but narrowly.

There is little support for New Orleans, none for Cleveland (even Ray Bliss, a non-voting adviser who leans to Miami B. for obvious reasons of familiarity and facilities) and none for San Francisco.

The Site Committee is now taking a second look at Cleveland, Kansas City and Miami B. (see enclosed UPI ticker.) I believe both Mary Louise in Des Moines and Ody Fish in Milwaukee will want to talk with you about this matter, and I again express my best judgment that Kansas City is the best. Thank you for listening.



(1976 CONVENTIONS)

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- THE REPUBLICANS APPARENTLY HAVE NARROWED THEIR SELECTION OF A 1976 NATIONAL CONVENTION SITE TO MIAMI BEACH, CLEVELAND AND KANSAS CITY.

THE THREE CITIES EMERGED AS THE SEMI-FINALISTS WITH THE DISPATCH OF A THREE-MEMBER DELEGATION OF GOP OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE CONVENTION CONTRACTS WITH LOCAL OFFICIALS STARTING MONDAY IN THE FLORIDA BEACH RESORT.

THE GROUP, HEADED BY GOP SITE SELECTION COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRMAN ED MIDDLETON, WILL GO ON TO CLEVELAND AND KANSAS CITY AFTER IT COMPLETES THE CLOSED-DOOR DISCUSSIONS IN MIAMI BEACH. A GOP NATIONAL COMMITTEE SPOKESMAN EMPHASIZED THAT THE ORDER OF VISITS TO THE THREE CITIES WAS A MATTER OF TRAVEL CONVENIENCE, AND NOT THE RANKING OF THE THREE IN SITE COMMITTEE PREFERENCE.

ALTHOUGH NO GOP OFFICIAL WOULD VERIFY IT, THE ORDER OF PREFERENCE WAS REPORTED TO BE CLEVELAND, KANSAS CITY AND MIAMI BEACH.

SAN FRANCISCO AND LOS ANGELES, CALIF., NEW ORLEANS AND NEW YORK CITY ALSO SUBMITTED BIDS FOR THE GOP MEETING, EXPECTED TO BEGIN EITHER AUG. 16 OR AUG. 23, 1976, A FULL MONTH AFTER THE DEMOCRATS MEET.

THE DEMOCRATIC SITE SELECTION COMMITTEE WILL MEET AUG. 27 TO MAKE ITS RECOMMENDATION TO THE PARTY'S NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. THE DEMOCRATIC CHOICE IS BELIEVED CENTERED ON NEW YORK CITY AND LOS ANGELES, ALTHOUGH THE SAME GROUP THAT SOUGHT THE GOP MEETING ALSO INVITED THE DEMOCRATS. THE DEMOCRATIC MEETING PROBABLY WILL BEGIN JULY 12, 1976.

-0-

MIAMI BEACH (UPI) -- DELEGATES OF THE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE WILL MEET WITH MIAMI BEACH CITY OFFICIALS NEXT WEEK IN A FINAL STEP BEFORE THE GOP DECIDES WHETHER TO HOLD ITS 1976 NATIONAL CONVENTION HERE.

MIAMI BEACH CITY MANAGER FRANK SPENCE SAID THE REPUBLICANS HAVE NARROWED THEIR CHOICE OF CONVENTION SITES TO MIAMI BEACH, KANSAS CITY AND CLEVELAND -- AND ARE DISCUSSING CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS WITH CITY LEADERS BEFORE MAKING THE FINAL DECISION SEPT. 8.

THE DEMOCRATS HAVE RULED OUT MIAMI BEACH AS A POSSIBLE CONVENTION SITE.

-0-

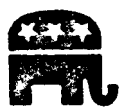
MIAMI BEACH (UPI) -- MIAMI BEACH BUSINESSMEN, SAYING SOUTH AMERICAN VACATIONERS ARE ALL THAT'S KEEPING THEM GOING THIS SUMMER, ARE ASKING FOR HELP TO BRING DOMESTIC TOURISTS BACK HERE.

AFTER A RECORD BREAKING WINTER SEASON, TOURISM HAS SAGGED BADLY HERE THIS SUMMER, AND HOTELMEN, RESTAURANT OPERATORS AND OTHER MERCHANTS WANT THE CITY TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TOURIST INDUSTRY ASKED THE CITY COUNCIL TO INCREASE THE CITY'S ADVERTISING BUDGET, TO PROVIDE LOANS SO HOTELMEN CAN MODERNIZE AGING STRUCTURES AND TO COME UP WITH SOME MONEY TO RESTORE THE BEACH.

UPI 08-15 11:29 RED





# Republican National Committee.

July 21, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT T. HARTMANN, COUNSELLOR TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Report on cities under consideration for the location of the  
1976 Republican National Convention

The Site Selection Committee held formal hearings in Washington, D. C. on April 4-5, 1975, with cities interested in having the 1976 Republican National Convention. Presentations were made by six cities: Cleveland, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Miami Beach, New Orleans and San Francisco. At the same time, representatives of the news media (ABC, CBS, NBC, non-network broadcasters, daily press, periodical press and photographic press) were invited to discuss their needs to adequately cover the convention.

Following this, each city was visited by several members of the Site Committee, some RNC staff and technical representatives of the television networks. In each case, considerable time was spent in studying all aspects of the convention facility, the major hotels were toured and other hotels were inspected for quality and adequacy, discussions were held with city officials, hotel representatives and convention bureau directors to secure as much information about each city as possible in a day or two. In most cities, Republican Party officials participated in these discussions and inspection activities.

This is a factual report, without recommendation, listing the cities in alphabetical order not in the order of preference.

CLEVELAND: The Auditorium is the site of the 1924 and 1936 Republican National Conventions. It has a seating capacity of 10,300 seats (5,893 permanent seats arranged in two-level balconies and space on the floor level adequate for Delegates and Alternates). A large permanent stage serves the Auditorium and the Music Hall. A temporary wall can be moved to allow the Music Hall to become the back of the stage. This would provide 3,000 more seats, but they would not be very desirable since they would be in the back of the speaker. The stage would have to be utilized for the podium area with construction around and over it to provide access for participants and for press seats flanking the podium. There are no box seats, but they could be constructed. The parking facilities, air conditioning and power are adequate.

The auxiliary space in this convention complex is tremendous. It appears that all offices for the RNC, workspace for the news media and meetings could be managed in the various areas available.

The months of July and August are free in the entire complex -- no problem of availability in preparing for the convention.

(MORE)



The hotels are very limited. In the immediate area of the convention center there are 3,700 rooms allowing for 309 suites in 11 hotels. Moving out into the suburban area and nearby towns, an additional 8,749 rooms are available ranging in driving distance from 10 to 40 minutes according to the city officials. There is a total of 12,449 rooms, out of which 550 suites can be arranged. An additional 1,346 rooms are available in the City of Akron, which is said to be under most circumstances a one-hour drive from downtown Cleveland. There is a possibility that the community can secure cruise ships to add 1,300 or 1,400 more rooms. This requires creation of a profit-making corporation to raise the money to guarantee the availability of the ships. There is no hard evidence that this will be done and some question concerning the legality of such a procedure under the new Federal Election Campaign Act.

The political situation is superior to all other cities: Republican Governor, one Republican Senator, Republican Mayor, 15 out of 23 U. S. Representatives.

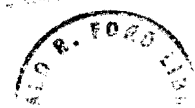
In a general evaluation of this city, the greatest disadvantage is the lack of hotel rooms. There is some question about the adequacy of restaurant facilities for a convention. The geographic location is good; the convention hall is adequate and the auxiliary space is the best. The Mayor has generated considerable publicity to make Cleveland the convention site. The city is an industrial city of ethnic groups and a large black community.

KANSAS CITY: The only facility possible for the convention is the Kemper Memorial Arena, located 5 or 10 minutes from the downtown area. It is a relatively new structure, ideal for sports events, but used for other activities such as concerts. The acoustical system is of excellent quality suitable for symphonic concerts. The dimensions of the floor area are such that only Delegates could be seated there, and allow space for the podium flanked by one-half of the required press seats with writing tables. To accommodate the remaining press and Alternates, a great deal of the permanent seating area at the first level would have to be used leaving an estimated 5,885 guest seats available (very low compared to past conventions). A few boxes could be constructed in the permanent seating area. There are no permanent boxes. Some of the club suites used for sports events would have to be utilized for the anchor booths. A few of these suites would be left for Party use.

Most of the workspace would be in two buildings located 100 yards or more south of the arena. The Governor's Exposition Building, which is air-conditioned, contains approximately 115,000 square feet of space. Another building next to it is not air-conditioned, but the city will consider doing this if the convention can be held there. The limited points of access to the arena create problems for the press and the Delegates and Alternates.

Hotel rooms are limited. In the immediate area of the arena (5 to 12 minutes driving time) there are 5,016 rooms with 436 suites. Moving outward to the city limits and suburbs of Kansas City, Missouri and into Kansas, there are an additional 9,680 rooms out of which 520 suites are possible. Of this number, almost 1,000 rooms are as far away as Topeka, Kansas with a driving time of 65 minutes. The total number of rooms, including those in the Topeka, Kansas area, is 14,696 with 956 suites. It appears that traffic is less of a problem

(MORE)



in the Kansas City, Missouri and Kansas area than in other cities. It flows easily and with few tie-ups.

The Radisson Muehlebach Hotel would be the Headquarters Hotel. There is insufficient public space in this hotel for the working needs of the news media, the RNC and for meetings. The additional space required is available in the Municipal Auditorium directly across the street.

The Governor of Missouri and the Governor of Kansas, both Republicans, have joined forces and actively support the effort to get the convention in their area. In Kansas there are two Republican Senators, four out of five U. S. Representatives and one out of ten U. S. Representatives in Missouri. The enthusiasm of the neighboring communities to have the convention is outstanding.

In an evaluation of this city, the convention hall presents the greatest problems. It would be possible to make it work, but there would be limitations as far as seating is concerned and some inconvenience for all in entering and leaving the arena. The hotel situation is not the most desirable, but it would be possible to manage. Kansas City is clean, attractive, entertaining and the support of the people there to have the convention and to do anything possible to help make it work, is truly great.

LOS ANGELES: The convention would be held in an exhibition type hall similar to Miami Beach, adequate in size with meeting rooms situated with windows overlooking the convention floor suitable for anchor booths. The news media work-space would have to be divided and would not be convenient for all of the press personnel. The parking facilities are excellent and there is plenty of outside space for mobile units. There is some question on the adequacy of restrooms. Approximately 13,000 seats would be available in the proposed configuration. Floor outlets eliminate necessity of false flooring, a very costly item.

A gift show which uses all available space in the Convention Center will enter the building on July 21st, the show opens July 25th and ends July 30th, it moves out on August 2nd. If the Republican Convention is held on August 23rd, this would allow 19 days to prepare. This is possible, but tight. It would be impossible to have the Republican Convention in Los Angeles any sooner than August 23rd.

The hotels are excellent -- no problem in number of rooms and suites, location in relation to Convention Center; adequate public space in hotel that would serve as Headquarters Hotel; variety of rates; good quality.

The political situation in Los Angeles is not good. There is a Democratic Governor, two Democratic U. S. Senators, 28 out of 43 Democratic U. S. Representatives and a Democratic Mayor. However, the Site Committee was very impressed with Mayor Tom Bradley's participation and assurance that a Republican Convention would have the same assistance and support offered the Democratic Party. The Chairman of the Board of Supervisors of Los Angeles is a Republican and he confirmed the Mayor's statement.

The Delegates, Alternates and guests would be happy with the quality and location of their hotel accommodations, the recreational and entertainment possibilities in the area and the adequacy of the convention site.

(MORE)



MIAMI BEACH: The new addition to the Miami Beach Convention Complex gives advantages not available in 1972. Meeting rooms, office space, eating facilities, an attractive enlarged lobby and restrooms have been added. The meeting rooms can be utilized for anchor booths by placing windows in walls of rooms overlooking convention floor. It is possible to have approximately 14,000 seats (including Delegates, Alternates, news media and guests) by using the 1968 configuration.

The South Hall, which would be used by the news media is available on an unlimited basis from July 2 through August 27, 1976. The North Hall, where the convention would be held is available from July 25 through August 27, 1976. If the Republican Convention starts on August 23rd, the time available to set up the floor, construct the podium and press seats and put in all communications is very tight. If it is desired that the convention start a week earlier the lead time would not be adequate for the networks or the Party.

Slightly more than 14,000 rooms have been committed. There has been no new hotel construction since the 1972 convention and some hotels used in 1972 have been torn down or turned into condominiums. The quality of the hotels checked by the Site Committee was in most cases satisfactory. There is much renovation going on in the area.

The political situation is weaker on the Republican side than in 1968 and 1972. The Governor, two Senators, 11 out of 15 U. S. Representatives and the Mayor are Democrats.

The advantages of having the convention in Miami Beach are working with people experienced in handling national nominating conventions; familiarity with convention hall, hotels and city in general; security of city and experience of law enforcement agencies in the area in maintaining security for three conventions.

Since the last two conventions have been held in this City, there is little interest in having it there a third time.

NEW ORLEANS: The convention would be held in the Superdome, which is the largest and most unusual arena in existence today. When the Site Committee visited there, construction was still going on, but it was sufficiently completed to form an opinion. In order to diminish the size for a political convention, it would be necessary to black out the topmost level and pull in the retractable seating sections at the floor level. In spite of the magnificence of the Superdome, false flooring would be required, anchor booths would have to be built, a podium and press seats would have to be constructed as in most other convention halls. The Superdome officials are not willing to concede that this magnificent modern facility would not have every possible requirement already built in for immediate use. This is true for sports events, but not a political convention. Power, air conditioning and lighting are adequate.

In order to do the work necessary to prepare the Superdome for a political convention, it is essential to have 10 weeks of lead time (4 weeks limited access and 6 weeks unlimited). The Superdome has a commitment to the Saints professional football team to play two games in the month of August. They are also committed to a Lutheran Convention. The time of the Lutheran Convention may be

(MORE)



adjusted slightly, but it would seem very difficult to work two football games in also. The Mayor is trying to convince the networks that their work can be done outside and put in place later and that the work can be done around these events.

At the time of the visit of the Site Committee, the commitment of hotel rooms was 12,253; however, this included the Hyatt Regency, which is being built immediately across from the Superdome and will have a total of 1,252 rooms. They anticipate that it will be completed in time, but will not give unqualified assurance of this. The number of hotel rooms is limited to start with and the possible elimination of this hotel would be disastrous. Many of the hotels in the immediate vicinity of the Superdome are small, but elegant. It would be necessary to go to the suburban areas and nearby towns.

The political climate is all Democratic with the exception of two Republican U. S. Representatives. However, there was strong evidence of interest and cooperation on the part of the Governor and Mayor; Representatives Hebert and Boggs were present to show their support and there is some feeling that many members of the Democratic Party lean to the Republican Party in the matter of a Presidential choice.

In evaluating this city, the charm and uniqueness of New Orleans rate high; the Superdome is a fantastic structure and would be a source of great interest. The greatest problem is the lack of hotel rooms and the availability of the Superdome in time to do what is necessary without conflicting with other commitments.

SAN FRANCISCO: The Cow Palace where the convention would be held is much improved in appearance since the last Republican Convention was held there in 1964 -- new lobby, all new seats, entire complex repainted; outer buildings improved. Travel to the Cow Palace is much faster because of new highway facilities and it is now possible to go by subway (BART) in less than 15 minutes. The floor of the Convention Hall would no longer accommodate all of the Delegates, Alternates, press and podium. Some of the Alternates would have to sit in the permanent area. There are 10,297 permanent seats (some loss due to construction of anchor booths) and it is possible to have about 3,500 seats on the floor (including daily press section flanking the podium). The 1964 Convention was televised in black and white. The increased lighting required for color television would create a heat problem. There is no air conditioning in the Cow Palace -- only vents letting in the natural cool air. This could create a problem.

No problem of availability if convention held on August 16th or August 23rd. There is sufficient lead time to construct anchor booths.

The hotel situation is greatly improved since 1964. There are many new hotels and large additions to already existing hotels (St. Francis and Hilton Towers). The quality and number of rooms, suites and public space make the hotel requirements more than adequate.

The political picture is the same as Los Angeles with the exception of the Chief Administrative Officer for the City who is a Republican. Most of the members of the citizens committee formed to seek the convention are long time dedicated Republicans.

(MORE)



The City of San Francisco is a very popular city and with the hotel situation improved, it would be a delightful place to have the convention if the problems in the Cow Palace could be overcome. It is a very expensive city and this could be a problem for the Party and the guests. If the convention could be held in California, it would appear more practical to select Los Angeles.

CONCLUSION: None of the Cities under consideration are ideal. There is a problem of some sort in each one. If it is decided that the Convention should start on August 16th, Miami Beach, Los Angeles and probably New Orleans are ruled out.

This report of findings by the Site Committee and Miss Josephine L. Good, Convention Director, is submitted to give you the more detailed facts on which Chairman Smith and I based our pro and con observations last Wednesday with respect to the various cities.

Respectfully submitted,



Edwin G. Middleton, Vice Chairman  
Site Selection Committee  
1976 Republican National Convention



R. L. "DICK" HERMAN  
P.O. Box 189  
OMAHA, NEBR. 68101

August 4, 1975

Mr. Donald Rumsfeld  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Don:

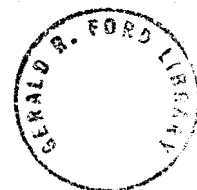
I had three urgent telephone calls last Thursday regarding the site selection and date for the 1976 Republican Convention. Two of the callers are members of the Site Selection Committee. They are fearful of a catastrophe similar in scope to San Diego if the decision is Kansas City or Cleveland. I urged them to go direct, but there appeared to be a reluctance on their part, using as an excuse the fact that I had been through San Diego and would understand better than anyone the problems that can and will be encountered if an improper site selection is permitted.

The hospitality and willingness of the San Diego people were no less than that which is being experienced by the Site Committee and others in Kansas City and Cleveland, but, hell, they just can't do the job.

One of the problems not previously discussed is the fact that even though the hotels commit five-day control for the Convention, what hotel owner is going to honor our commitments when the Bell System and the news media come in and commit for six to ten weeks of occupancy? This is one of the untold problems we were looking at in San Diego. Were we to sue to force these units out of the hotels -- what was to be our course of action? This is a major problem, particularly when you look at the union contracts the telephone and media people have regarding interim housing for their employees.

These and all the other factors previously mentioned can screw up our convention to where it could impair the November election.

What some members of the Site Committee would like to have is an indication that the selection of cities other than Kansas City or Cleveland would be acceptable.



Rummy, it's hard to write this info, but I thought it best to get it to you.

Sincerely,

*Dick*

R. L. "Dick" Herman

RLH:ld



HARTMANN - CONFIDENTIAL

(1976 RNConvention Site)

THE WHITE HOUSE

Rnc.

*[Handwritten signature]*

MEMORANDUM FOR: ROBERT HARTMANN

THRU: MAX FRIEDERSDORF *m.c.*

FROM: PATRICK O'DONNELL *POD*

SUBJECT: Convention Site

DATE: September 4, 1975

Senator Taft (R-Ohio) who is up for re-election in '76 called to pass on the following information regarding the site selection issue:

1. He obviously supports Ohio (Cleveland) as the site where the matter holds much political sex appeal.
2. He doesn't see any particular political gain for selection of Kansas City, Missouri.
3. However, if some place other than Cleveland is chosen, the negative impact on Ohio can be lessened by some favorable comment to effect that Cleveland is a great city and Perk a great mayor, etc., etc.

Can this be done?

Thanks.

*HHS* *[Signature]*

