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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 21, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JIM BAKER

FROM:

JIM CONNOR *JE*

The attached clipping was returned in the President's outbox with the following notation:

"Information
Someone sent me this."

cc: Dick Cheney
Jim Field

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Dick Cheney) Jim Baker

Info.
someone sent me this.

after visiting ...
or new book, described as a novel
about sex in the capital.

In a separate development, Rep. Al-

stances that led him to want an
overdose of sleeping pills, his doctor
says.

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

Midland delegates split among Ford, Reagan

By TODD MASON
Daily News staff writer

Midlanders Margaret Riecker and Joanna Shaker are traveling to Kansas City August 16 to enter the Republican presidential fray on opposite sides.

State GOP convention delegates elected both women to the Michigan delegation Saturday in Grand Rapids. Mrs. Riecker among the 55 Ford delegates, and Mrs. Shaker among the 29 Reagan delegates.

Midland alternates are Dennis Starner, for Reagan, and U.S. Rep. Elford A. Cederberg, for Ford. This is the largest Midland contingent to any national convention that anyone can remember.

"If we can keep it going for three ballots, I think we'll have a good chance," said Mrs. Shaker, a former Californian and long-time Reagan supporter.

As the convention was winding down this weekend, Mrs. Shaker was winding up her efforts in a meeting of the newly-elected state delegation. "I'm planning on bringing a good deal of (Michigan) Ford people over on the third ballot."

"When you only have two candidates," said Mrs. Riecker, "you don't get to three ballots."

Michigan delegates, selected proportionally to the 65 per cent Ford win in the state's May 18 primary, are committed to the respective candidates for the first two ballots in Kansas City.

After that, persuasion will prevail.

Ford and Reagan are neck and neck with 11 state caucuses to settle delegates yet. Newsweek predicts Ford would go to the convention with 1,160 votes, 30 more than the magic number.

But neither Midland delegate is ruling out a tough floor fight in Kansas City. The Ford delegates, Mrs. Riecker said, were people "who know how to be persuasive among those who are uncommitted and who have contacts in other states."

She expects Ford's floor leader, U.S. Sen. Robert Griffin, to issue "marching orders" shortly for Michigan Ford delegates, dividing up uncommitted slates to work on.

The job to be done in Kansas City

called for "people who could really work the floor in Kansas City and had broad experience," agreed Mrs. Sue Willison, county Republican Chairwoman.

Those requirements worked against younger Republicans, she said. Nonetheless, Mrs. Riecker said, the Michigan delegation found a good representative balance of the state's Republicans, quite close to 50 per cent women, for example.

Experience belongs to the Ford people, in Michigan anyway. Mrs. Riecker is bound for her third national convention. Mrs. Shaker is bound for her first.

In the Reagan caucuses, "we were hoping we'd just get solid Reagan people," Mrs. Shaker said. In the coming weeks, she holds the distinction of being the Midlander most likely to get a phone call from the president of the United States.

"You think it would help?" Mrs. Riecker chuckled. But Mrs. Shaker believes national pressure won't get far with Michigan Reaganites.

The state copnvention was much more solidly behind Ford than the 65-35 primary split. Mrs. Shaker conceded the Reagan backers faced the prospect of district caucuses filling the Reagan spot with a Republican whose first interest was getting to the convention.

Nonetheless, the 29 selected are the "conservative regulars," Mrs. Shaker said. "I keep running into them time and again on conservative causes."

Mrs. Riecker agreed the Reagan contingent is "strongly, philosophically behind Reagan." There are familiar faces across the fence, she said, however, and she believes some would entertain a switch.

The Ford column has some people who are "native son" Ford backers, Mrs. Shaker said. Some of those may bend, too, she believes.

There will be ample opportunity for intramural arm-bending. The delegation is staying as a group at the Crown Center hotel in Kansas City, also headquarters for the presidential entourage.

The Shaker Report

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