

'100 Years of Progress' Will Be Theme of Republican Convention

Chicago—The Republican National Convention opening July 25—will be geared to the theme "100 Years of Progress" in this city where Abraham Lincoln was nominated for the presidency 100 years ago.

It will be the 14th time the Republican Party has held its national gathering in Chicago, beginning with the wigwag convention in 1856 in which "The Great Emancipator" first gained national political stature.

The Republicans will spend between \$500,000 and \$600,000 on an efficiently streamlined nominating session designed to transact business with dispatch and hold the attention of the millions of voters watching it on their TV sets.

Despite recent statements and political maneuvers by Gov. Nelson Rockefeller of New York, most of the nation's political observers still see the selection of Vice President Richard M. Nixon to carry the GOP presidential standard as a virtual certainty.

Considerable agitation at the convention itself for a draft nomination of Rockefeller would appear to offer the only possibility of any old-fashioned political fireworks.

But convention planners are ready with "canned" whoopee—stunts, parades, rallies and demonstrations, mostly by the younger Republicans—to provide suitable atmosphere and color if no balloting contest develops.

The convention will be held in the International Amphitheater, the stockyard-area where both parties held their 1952 conclaves, and where the Democrats gathered four years ago when the GOP met in San Francisco.

Convention headquarters will be at the Conrad Hilton Hotel, the world's largest, on Michigan ave.

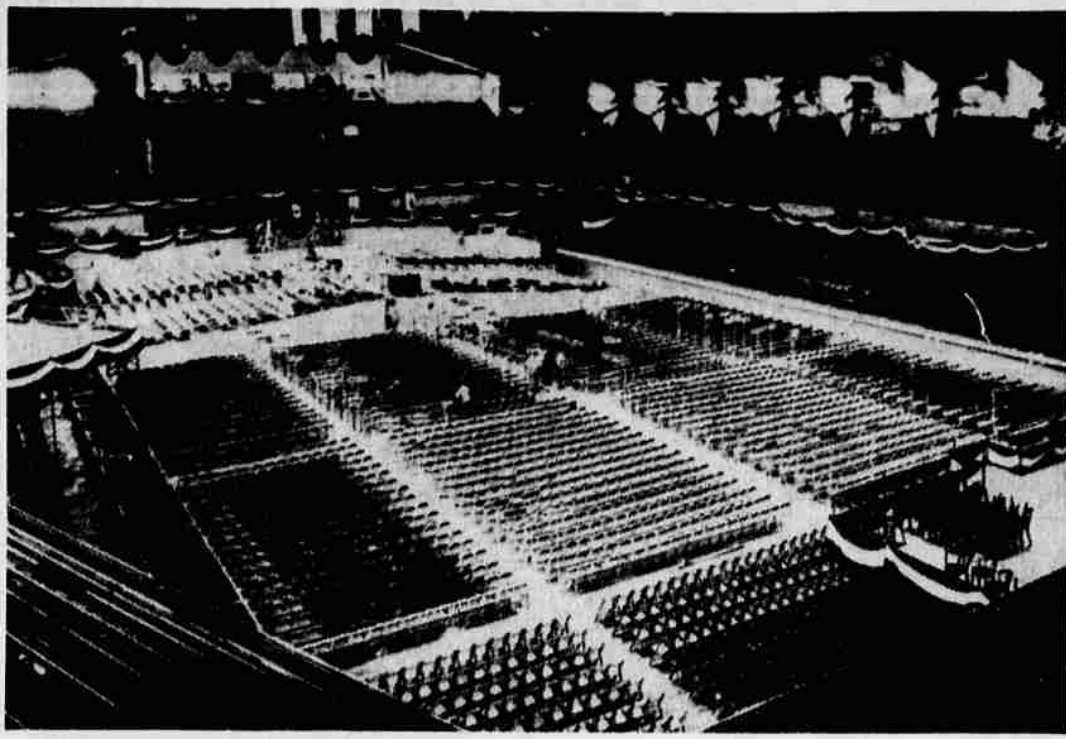
Jaren L. Jones, vice chairman of the arrangements committee and Republican national committeeman from Utah, said only one daytime business session is planned. It will be opening day.

All other sessions, he said, will take place in the evening and night hours when the nation's television audiences are at their largest.

It also is planned to use giant-screen, closed circuit television in the convention hall itself, according to Mrs. Webster Todd, chairman of the program planning subcommittee and Republican national committeewoman from New Jersey.

Republican National Chairman Thruston B. Morton, with Jones, Mrs. Todd and others of the 50-member arrangements committee, have been working more than a year in putting the nominating session together.

The full committee will have held at least four meetings prior to convention kickoff day, and the executive committee at least six. The full convention staff, an estimated 200 persons, will be



SITE OF GOP CONVENTION—The Republican National Convention, opening July 25, will be held in the International Amphitheater in Chicago. Interior of the amphitheater is shown above. The Democrats held their 1958 convention at the same site and in 1952 both parties gathered

ered in the huge building. The GOP convention is to be geared to the theme "100 Years of Progress" in the city where Abraham Lincoln was nominated for the presidency 100 years ago. Note the portrait of Lincoln just left of center in the background. (UPI Telephoto)

the entire eighth floor at convention headquarters.

Much of the convention's detail work and general housekeeping have fallen on Thomas G. Judd, executive secretary of the arrangements committee, and Robert L. Pierce, chairman of the housing subcommittee.

"Chicago is the ideal convention city," said Judd. "Although Mayor (Richard J.) Daley is a Democrat, his office is cooperating 100 percent to make a successful convention."

A Chicago Citizens Committee, head by Fred G. Gurely, retired board chairman of the Santa Fe Railroad, is charged with raising \$400,000 towards defraying convention costs.

The remainder of the convention tab, which may "run to \$800,000," will be picked up by the national party organization, reported Judd.

Convention planners have been able to play Santa Claus with hotel room allocations to the 50 state delegations and their retinues but turn

Serogee at mere mention of arena seats for the presidential nominating sessions.

Arranging housing for the 20,000-plus persons expected is "running smoother than silk" in this city of big hotels. The Chicago Convention Bureau alone handed the housing subcommittee a pool of 14,480 hotel and motel rooms.

But space at the International Amphitheater? "We don't have a ticket left," said Judd, "and nobody got as many seats as he needed."

At San Francisco's spacious Cow Palace in 1956, the Republicans had some 17,000 seats to allocate. This year, at the arena, they will have but 12,000.

The 1,331 delegates and 1,331 alternate delegates, plus their accompanying spouses, will occupy some 4,000 seats. Newspaper, wire service, radio, television and magazine correspondents will account for another 2,000.

"There go half of our seats right there," Judd said.

is being held for President Eisenhower.

The International Amphitheater on Chicago's South Side is being transformed by workmen to house the sessions.

In the huge, sprawling arena where bluebloods of the livestock world parade during the International Livestock Exposition every November, workmen are erecting TV and radio studios and building the speakers' platform on which the nation's attention will be focused.

Site Offered Free
The Amphitheater, offered free to the Republicans by the Union Stock Yard and Transit Co. boasts:

—So much overall space that the delegates, reporters and their equipment and all the other myriad elements that make up a national nominating convention will occupy only half, its 585,000 square feet.

—Two rooftop heliports that will be used by helicopters to shuttle from the convention sessions to the city's airports.

—An air conditioning plant which changes the air in the Amphitheatre 72 times daily and provides cooling equivalent to 2 million pounds of ice daily.

—Parking space for 4,650 automobiles.

Space actually is at a premium only in the Amphitheater's main arena which seat 12,000. Vast, two-story wings will provide ample room for the thousands of non-delegates who will work at the convention.

The nation's press, with its multitude of teletypes and maze of communication lines, will occupy the first "oor of the south wing. The first floor north wing will house the telephone center, c a u c u s rooms, dressing rooms for entertainers and headquarters for police guards and ushers.

Upstairs north will quarter the television studios and control rooms. Upstairs south will hold a TV lounge.

Andy Frain Crowd Engineers will have 172 waitmen and ushers on hand to guide ticket-holders and keep gatecrashers out.

Rights Retained
The Amphitheater management has retained concession rights and will be responsible for keeping the convention-goers from getting hungry.

"Republicans don't eat as much as Democrats," said Robert Foss, supervisor of concessions.

Even so, Foss said he'll order 40,000 hot dogs, 1,200 pounds of ham, 1,000 pounds of cheese for concession stands and 20 tons of steaks, chops and roasts for the Stockyard Inn next door.

To quench Republican throats he'll have 45,000 bottles of soft drink, 20,000 cups of coffee and 2,500 cartons of milk.
George Murphy of Desilu

Productions promises top-flight convention entertainment. But the convention will be no Hollywood extravaganza. The delegates will be there for serious business.

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Midwest Reported Strong for Nixon

Washington—Vice President Richard M. Nixon, opposed for the Republican presidential nomination, now expects to carry the midwest "heavily."

This estimate, raising an already optimistic claim, was relayed to newsmen Saturday by Nixon's press secretary, Herbert G. Klein. Klein said Nixon is "upping his estimate on his own strength in this area."

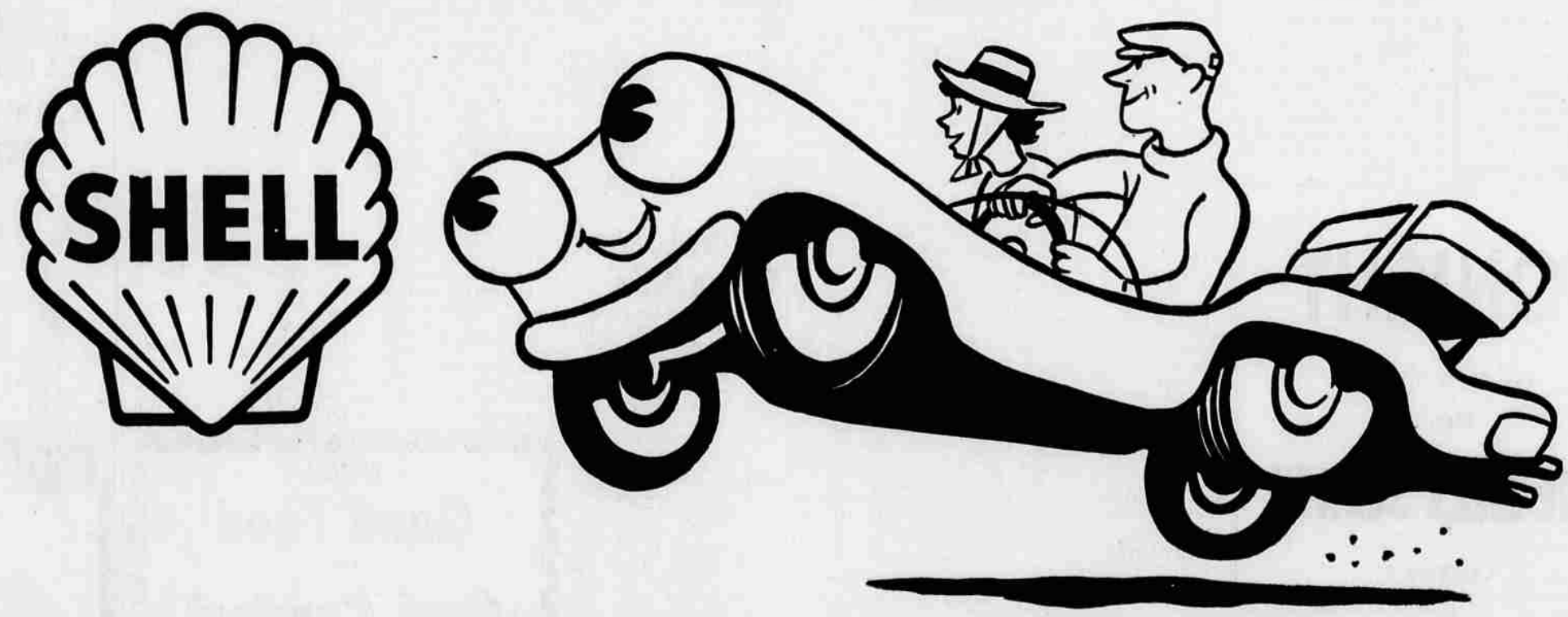
Klein credited the revision to the "tremendous" reception given Nixon in the Dakotas, St. Louis, and Texas during a four-day trip which ended Wednesday. Klein said crowds, far exceeding expectations, were "almost mob scenes" at stops such as Fargo, N. D.

He said the turnouts, in areas regarded by Nixon strategists as leaning toward the Democrats, suggest that many of the people who greeted the vice president were independent voters and Democrats. The crowds, and their enthusiasm, showed the "great personal popularity" of the vice president, Klein added.

Asked to define the turnouts in farm areas which have clearly voiced dislike for Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson, Klein suggested that, while the farm issue is an "important one," it will not be a "dominant factor" in the election.

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