

Ford team member keeps up pace

By LORRAINE MCLEISH

Mary Lou Barth ordered breakfast sent to her room in Kansas City's Crown Center Hotel at 7 a.m. Tuesday. She cancelled her appointment at the hotel beauty salon and at the same time realized there would be no swimming for her that day. Nor would she be able to accept any of the invitations offered by the city's residents to see Kansas City stars.

She is a member of the Ford team, a resident of Farmington and a delegate to the Republican national convention from the 17th Congressional District.

Her breakfast was eaten while she read literature—from Reagan propaganda, from officials—that had been dropped at her door following her return to her room Monday night.

HER ROOM OVERLOOKS the NBC facilities, set up on the mezzanine of the hotel, and she says she gets a kick out of watching John Chancellor and David Brinkley going through their paces in person and on her TV at the same time.

Mrs. Barth was one of nine who were called to a strategy meeting at 9 that morning by her group leader. Immediately after, about 11 a.m., the entire Ford contingent met in yet another strategy session with the aim of outmaneuvering the Reagan forces.

"It's a matter of sticking together," she said. "If we don't do that, we're lost."

The two closed-door sessions in the Ford camp came up with one concrete idea. This stemmed from the fact that, to a person, they were all smarting over the fact that Reagan T-shirts are being worn all over their hotel.

"I feel that's embarrassing to the President," Mrs. Barth said.

TO COUNTER this, a Kansas City Ford car dealer was contacted, and 55 white blazers—bearing the Ford name—were ordered with the promise of delivery by five that afternoon.

The old expression "quick bite" can be taken very literally for the time allotted for lunch. Ordering any meal here is not easy, particularly in the hotel. More often than not, it's a hurry-up-and-wait experience.

But restaurant prices are moderate, compared to those in Southfield, Lathrup, Redford Township, Farmington and Farmington Hills, the communities Mary Lou Barth represents.

At 2 p.m. Mrs. Barth was seated with the entire Michigan delegation to hear reports from the platform credentials permanent organization, and rules and order committees.

DENNY HAMMOND, 17th District chairman, is serving on the credentials and gave his report.

ERA and abortion remain the two issues

nobody can get together on, but Mrs. Barth didn't have to go to Kansas City to find that out.

She was an officer in the State Federation of Republican Women's Clubs in 1971 when the subject of the Equal Rights Amendment was first brought to that body, and the split in her own backyard was as wide then as it is in Kansas City today.

Back in her room at 3:30 p.m. for a press conference, she finds more literature at her door and inside, some on the bed.

"How did this get here?" she asked no one in particular. "What's the Reagan stuff doing here? I know my roommate hasn't been here all day. Are those people bringing the mads now to get this stuff in our rooms?"

The press conference reveals that the other day she had gotten a personal letter from Ford asking her to list five persons she would like to see considered for vice-president.

Her responses were Sen. Howard Baker and John Connally, predicated on an informal survey she did in Oakland County.

"I'm sure I talked to at least 80 people on that subject, and those were the two names that kept coming up over and over again," she said.

"THESE ARE THE PEOPLE I'm representing," she cautioned. "On every issue I vote to represent them."

In the ensuing discussion of names, ex-

es, and how to choose the vice president, Mrs. Barth says, "Oh, I wish Barbara Jordan was on our side. We sure could use her." (Rep. Jordan stirred delegates at the Democratic national convention with her speech.)

She is adamant in her belief Ford will win the nomination, but predicted the Tuesday evening session will be long and drawn out. There will be a lot of debate if all goes smooth, you cannot say something is very wrong.

While she is talking, she shows a cloth banner that says "Hello, Farmington" and another that says "Hello, Redford," which she puts into her handbag. She will hold them up in front of the TV cameras if she gets a chance.

The Farmington message comes from residents of Jamestown Apartments, where she lives. The Redford message is from her, because she doesn't have a delegate from there, and I want those people to know they're remembered.

HER MESSAGES are written on cloth because it is easy to fold and carry and you can't hit someone in the head with them in a crowd," she says.

There is little time now to change clothes, get another quick bite and board the bus which leaves at 5:45 for Kemper Arena.

Best bet for dinner is a hot dog at the convention center's concession stand but only if you can find an alternate to take your seat.

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Optimistic

Halima Fruzzelle of Farmington predicted everything would be A-OK for her candidate Ronald Reagan earlier in the week at the Republican National Convention in Kansas City.

3 sniffers join ranks of police

Three new tracking dogs have been trained to give the Michigan State Police some canine capability in sniffing searches for illegal narcotics and bombs.

Two of the dogs have been trained to find caches of narcotics and the other has a specialty of hunting illegal bombs or similar devices.

One of the narcotic finders, "Captain" and the bomb locator, "Ivan," are assigned to the Ypsilanti post under the leadership of Trooper Roger Simpson, 34.

The other narcotic finder, "Shane," is based at the new state police academy in southwest Lansing and is handled by Sgt. Leonard Hankins, 49, supervisor of the tracking unit who has been associated with this activity since 1961.

Simpson is a new handler and is the first state police handler to have custody of two tracking dogs at the same time. Counting Hankins and Simpson, the department has 38 handlers who handle the 21 dogs.

This is the first time that the state police tracking unit has employed a dog other than a German shepherd. "Ivan," the bomb hunter, is a golden retriever.

The narcotics dogs were trained in their specialty with the use of samples of heroin, hash, marijuana and cocaine. The bomb finder was trained in sniffing out six different types of explosives. Training lasted about three months and was done at airports in Detroit and Lansing and in buildings where the dogs would most likely be hunting.

The new specialty dogs will be used not only by state police but also by other agencies requesting their services.

National list matches students to rural jobs

The Rural Employment Registry invites high school and college students to register for jobs in farming, ranching, horse husbandry, forestry, wildlife management or recreation.

The registry is mailed to more than 35,000 potential employers across the country. Any employer in a rural area with a job to fill may also list with the registry. The service is free.

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