

# Platform blues strike Michigan

By NICK SHARKEY and LYNN ORR

An unenthusiastic Michigan delegation swallowed the Republican platform Tuesday night, although some disregarded its importance to the fall campaign. A controversial plank requiring judicial candidates seeking GOP endorsement to go on record as opposing abortion was one of the few items deleted from the platform to ease the strain on moderate Republicans who unsuccessfully fought for inclusion of support of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Congressman Carl Pursell of the 2nd District was one of those in the state delegation who attempted to downplay the platform. Although he supports the plank affirming a two-China policy with strong support for Taiwan, Pursell predicted that the platform wouldn't be crucial to the fall campaign.

He said Reagan will have to reach out to the pro-ERA people and others to unite the party.

"He's got to keep reaching out. He was meeting with the pro-ERA people today (Tuesday) and he's got to keep those communications open."

A few of the state delegates were delighted with the anti-abortion/ERA position, but the subdued majority clearly knew it had been beaten on the ERA issue by early that afternoon.

And the Hawaiian delegation's defeat to get the rules suspended to allow floor debate on the platform that night clearly ended any hopes for more moderate positions in the 78-page document.

AS DELEGATES filed into their caucus room at the airport Hilton that afternoon, many wore "ERA Now" buttons. But it soon became apparent that they were unwilling to

wage a floor fight over the GOP platform's opposition to the Equal Rights Amendment that night.

Nancy Chase, a member of the GOP platform committee, told the Michigan delegation it would be almost impossible to change the platform. She said any amendment required 27 signatures from platform committee members.

According to Miss Chase, a majority from six states could call for a roll call vote on any proposal coming before the convention. But even then, a change would require support of two-thirds of the delegates.

"It will not happen," she successfully predicted. Former Michigan Sen. Robert Griffin urged the delegates not to wage a floor battle Tuesday night.

"If you'll remember, in 1976 there were many fights on Tuesday evening. This delayed the keynote speech until 1 a.m. Wednesday so it was not seen on prime time television."



Wild and crazy headgear was the dress of the week for many of the Republican delegates who found themselves with a lot of spare time to kill. New Jersey delegate Phil Matalucci sported this elephant head on top of his head for most of the convention. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

## Zany costumes match moods of delegates

By MARY GNIEWEK

Republicans shed a stuffy image at their premiere party Monday at the Joe Louis Arena.

The Hawaiian delegation came in matching muumus and flowery shirts, Californians wore white Stetsons and Maine gleaned across the convention hall in bright yellow fishermen's rain hats. Rhode Island wore sailors caps.

Much of the crowd went crazy with headgear. Elephant hats topped more than a few heads and one delegate wore a hat with an inflatable pink elephant beating a set of drums.

A 10-gallon cowboy hat on a bald-domed delegate was smothered in Reagan slogans blaring from buttons and pins. Furry knit berets and floppy cloth hats were similarly covered. One hat was topped with fake fruit à la Carmen Miranda.

Even traditional delegate hats with red, white and blue ribbon bands were personalized. A man in the Michigan delegation was spotted with three bites out of his rim. A woman covered the flat top of her hat with at least 30 tiny paper American flags on toothpicks and carried it in front of her.

Martian antennae bobbed up and down on some heads. One Hawaiian delegate wore a wreath of greenery in her hair.

No doubt who the Guam delegates were. Their clothing was emblazoned with "Guam" in letters to rival designer signatures on blue jeans.

A LOUISIANA woman topped off her outfit with a "Cajuns Love Reagan" T-shirt. Detroit police in London bobby uniforms posed for visitors' cameras. And Californians weren't the only ones with cowboy hats; they were predominant everywhere on the convention floor.

One alternate delegate stuck in the last row of her state's section peered at most of the proceedings through opera glasses. Across the aisle, a North Dakota delegate clipped a schedule of convention week events from a newspaper he was reading during the speech-making.

Robin Riddle, 17, a Utah alternate delegate, paced the arena aisles while Young Republicans spoke from the platform below.

"I've been involved in the party many years," she said. "This is my first convention. Next time I hope to be a delegate."

A man who emigrated from Czechoslovakia 12 years before Ms. Riddle was born was also at his first Republican National Convention. The man, Vaclav Hymnar of Cleveland, participated in Sunday's captive nations march downtown.

"I LIKE Reagan's conservative way of thinking and strong hand in foreign affairs," he said.

"All my family is still in Czechoslovakia so I feel in touch with the situation there. Reagan will do something — spend more money on defense."

Antoinette Cristina walked around the convention hall to find a place where she could hear the main floor proceedings despite a faint sound system. A guest pass hung around her neck. Her husband was on the floor, a delegate from California.

"I've been to five conventions. My husband has been to more," said Mrs. Cristina, who lives in Santa Clara County.

"We knew Reagan when he was helping in the Goldwater campaign in 1964. We're longtime supporters," she gushed.

BILL RUNCO, a Michigan delegate who worked for George Bush in his 16th Congressional District (Dearborn), is slowly switching to John Anderson.

"Party politics is a lot of bull—," said Runco, a first-time conventioneer.

Others, like Bill Cobey, were lapping it up. Though Cobey was a long way from his Chapel Hill home, he took the convention as an opportunity to stump for his own campaign for lieutenant governor of North Carolina.

"Cobey, 41, left his job as athletic director of the University of North Carolina in April to campaign fulltime. He was handing out literature Monday.

"This is my first convention," he said. "I'm going to enjoy it — soak it all in."

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