

Levin leads platform fight against Jackson

By Tim Richard
staff writer

Michigan's Sen. Carl Levin helped presidential nominee Walter Mondale keep his grip on the Democratic National Convention during Tuesday's crucial platform debate.

Levin, a Detroit resident, took his second term this year, spoke against a minority plank, proposed by Rep. Jesse Jackson, opposing America's "first use" of nuclear weapons.

"Our platform's emphasis on arms control is an effort to make the world safer. But does this minority plank contribute to that effort?" Levin asked rhetorically.

"Is the world more secure if we assure the Soviets, with their tremendous conventional military forces, that they could invade western Europe and not fear any nuclear response?"

THE DELEGATES agreed with Mondale and Levin, rejecting Jackson's "no first use" plank, 2,218 to 1,405.

It indicated Mondale had the major-

ty be claimed, even when delegates favoring Jackson and Sen. Gary Hart came up.

It was the same within the Michigan delegation. Chairman Rick Wiener said 105 delegates voted with Mondale against the Jackson plank, 43 voted for it and seven abstained.

The Michigan delegation stands at about 100 for Mondale, 49 for Hart and nine for Jackson.

In the 2nd Congressional District, Mondale whip Alan Heimkamp reported the eight Mondale delegates under his jurisdiction held solid for Mondale on the platform issues.

"Levin's speech won't play well in Ann Arbor," said George W. Sallade, the 1982 congressional candidate and state leader of the Hart forces.

"THE PLATFORM," Levin argued, "does not commit the United States to use nuclear weapons in response to a Soviet attack on western Europe."

"It simply endorses keeping the Soviets guessing as to how we would respond to such an attack."

"Our platform's emphasis on arms control is an effort to make the world safer. But does this minority plank contribute to that effort? Is the world more secure if we assure the Soviets that they could invade western Europe and not fear any nuclear response?"

— Sen. Carl Levin

"And we want to keep them guessing because that uncertainty contributes to deterrence and makes war of any kind in Europe less likely."

THE MONDALE forces shot down two other Jackson minority planks and compromised on two other planks. Running almost two hours behind schedule, the national convention:

- Defeated 2,431 to 1,029 a Jackson plank saying "excessive military

spending endangers our national security just as inadequate spending does" on cities and the homeless. The majority plank calls for more help from NATO allies and more efficient defense spending. Michigan delegates voted for the Mondale version 111-37, with seven abstaining.

- Defeated 2,354 to 1,252 a Jackson proposal that "discriminatory" to "black" political chances. The Mondale version promises "serious, in-depth

study" of runoff, eliminating them only when they are found to be discriminatory. Michigan backed the Mondale version 110-37 with eight abstaining.

- Adopted by voice vote a compromise version of an affirmative action plank.

- Adopted overwhelmingly Hart's only proposed minority plank, spelling out conditions under which a president would use military force. These included using all diplomatic levers first, trying multilateral options and balancing objectives and costs. The original Mondale version had condemned "the automatic militarization of foreign policy" but had set out no ground rules for military deployment. Michigan voted 137-0 for it, with 18 abstentions.

WIENER SAW little significance to the divisions.



He declared there was only "a very, very narrow spectrum of disagreement between all Democrats and Ronald Reagan."

Nevertheless, the platform votes were the part of the convention many program-oriented Michigan Democrats relished most, since the numbers were known well in advance.



Sen. Carl Levin goes over his speech with Lt. Gov. Martha Griffiths before addressing the Democratic convention on platform issues.



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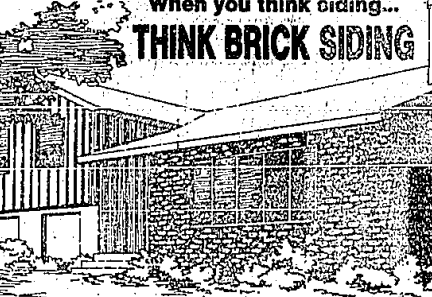
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