staff writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Michigan Democrats attending the 39th national convention are boused in the Meridien Hotel, the city's newest, most luxurious and probably most expensive.

It is also the headquarters hotel of presidential nominoce Waiter Mondale and his running mate, Rep. Geraldine Ferraro.
How did it happen?
"It was part draw and park luck," explained Rick Wiener, the 37-year-old state chairman attending his first national conclave.
"We draw a high number (among state delegations). We were given a list and just sasigned here." He surveyed the surroundings. "Not too had. Sometimes life treats one well." he said.

TED MONDALE, the standard bearer's son, provided one clue. Saying hello to the Michiganians Monday morning, he recalled the Wolverine state had provided his father a critical victory on March 17 when the Hart bandwagon was going strong. "They say my fathers an old-time politician," Ted said. "The beauty of that is that old-time politicians don't forget their friends."

NO NEED to worry about finding a shuttlebus, a costly cab or a cable car schedule to get to "work." The underground Moscone Center is a half-block

or room overlooks the Moscone Center and the infamous parking lot, where all the assembled unelected nonconformists can do their various things. They can't bother the delegates, who are free to gawk or move on, whatever their pleasure.

FOR MANY of the party faithful, a national convention is a place to take a vacation. Not this year. The Moscone Center is tiny, by convention hal standards, and credentials (tickets) for friends of the party are few.

"We have only 31 passes," chairman Wiener told his 155-member delegation. "Nineteen will be awarded by lottery at 3 pm. each day. The other 12 Lave the dublous honor of distributing. I already have 50 requests."

Just to make sure the chairman's 12 were spread around fairly, the delegation voted that the list of receiptents be displayed on the bulletin board.

THE MERIDIEN is French-owned with a continuous and the Meeting rooms are named for whea. Michigan meets in the Sauterne Room.

They say the help are all at least billingual, or even multi-lingual, but my own foreign languages are too rusty to verify this.

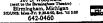
The manager is called the concierge. The book of guest services is in English, French, Spanish and ichinese.



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The bars of soap aren't Dove or Lifeboy but arved, scented French soaps. A compilmentary ottle of wine — Macon Biane, 1983 — awatu sach guest. The room comes equipped with gold-amped bath gel, shampoo and book jotion. Price is \$180 a day, or almost \$1,000 for two for so convention, paid in advance, and no refunds if ou cancel.

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Breakfast from room service is \$10.75 for juice, two eggs, bacon, toast and coffee. If you're from Battle Creek and are loyal to corn flakes, it's \$3.

For dinner there's a rie ye at \$16.50, chef saind at \$3.50 and French onion soup at \$4.25. A bottle of Johnny Walker Red will cost the expense account \$356 McMaster's and Grand MacNish aren't listed. "My wife and I are Egg McMuffin fans," confessed Alan Helmkamp, 32-year-old budget correctors Livenia attorney and Mondate delegate.

The McDonald's a few blocks away was charging back-home prices, though the orange juice was from Florida.



The Michigan delegation struck it rich when they drew the hotel that also housed the Mondale-Ferraro headquarters.

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