

'Banished' Air their gripes

NEW ORLEANS — "I'm a delegate," the 30 conservatives say proudly. Actually they are non-voting delegates, and Tuesday they made headlines in the Times-Picayune with their complaints about the Republican National Convention floor seating arrangements.

"It's like we've been banished," said Debbie Schlussel, 19, of Southfield. The youngest Michiganian in the group, she complained that the non-voting delegates were seated 50 feet from the main delegation.

"It would have been better if we were in the same seating area," said Elaine Donnelly of Livonia. "What we wound up with isn't what we were led to believe would happen. Everybody's understanding was that we would be under the same banner."

THE DEAL was that Kemp-Robertson supporters who attended the downstairs ("rump") state convention in January would be brought back into the Bush-led mainstream by (1) being given five voting delegate seats and (2) being given 30 "non-voting delegate" posts, an unprecedented arrangement.

Schlussel, Donnelly and Michael Legg of Northville were all supporters of Jack Kemp. Others call them "Kamikazi Kemples" because they walked out with the Robertson faction.

"It's not where you were seated on the floor," said Donnelly. "It's that

the delegation is together." Schlussel, a University of Michigan junior also complained that party mainstreamers targeted conservatives for defeat at the Aug. 2 precinct delegate election. "They want to get rid of the so-called troublemakers. . . . We should be targeting Democrats, not Republicans."

"PRETTY CAUSTIC comments," said Peter Soechla, the blunt, outspoken GOP national committeeman from Grand Rapids.

"We did the best we could do," Soechla said publicly at the Michigan caucus Tuesday morning. "You couldn't move Georgia, you couldn't move Kentucky."

"I don't know who would support some of these comments," said Soechla, waving the top-of-the-page story. "Debbie, Elaine, Mike — I'm sorry you're not happy."

The national committee people hold the floor sacred at this convention. It's a position of honor. There are many, many people who have done great things for their country who have never been on the floor of a national convention.

"Getting this non-voting status was very, very difficult. We were down here nine days (prior to the convention) and rode around in buses and cabs without air conditioning."

"If anybody else supports their comments, I'd like to explain to you how hard everybody worked so we could be part of this, making history."

County selects advisers for I-696

Lavenoth and Horwath and Villan-Leman are the firms selected as the consultant team for the economic development of the I-696 corridor, Oakland County Executive Daniel P. Murphy announced.

"These consultants, who specialize in real estate and community development, will address the opportuni-

ties and challenges which will come when the I-696 freeway is completed next year," said Murphy.

The \$90,000 study will concentrate on real estate, trends and potentials in the 144-square-mile corridor.

The corridor is bounded by Eight Mile Road on the south, Fourteen Mile on the north, Dequindre on the

east and Napier road on the west. With 17 percent of Oakland's land area, the corridor has 40 percent of its tax base, 43 percent of the population, 47 percent of its jobs and 68 percent of its office space.

I-696's "missing link," through Southfield and the Royal Oak area,

will be completed next year. Two other links — through Macomb County on the east and through Farmington Hills on the west — also will feel the impact.

The study will be completed in early 1989 under a county grant.

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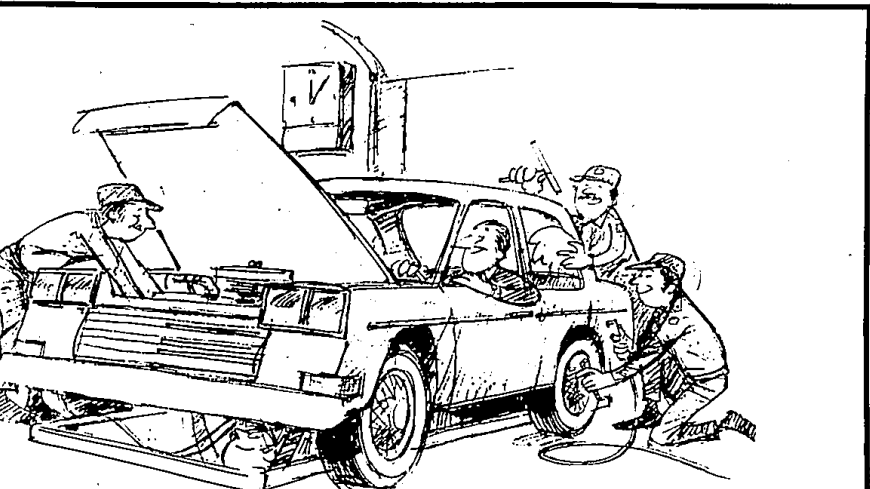
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