

Freedman found a fight — on seating

Gerald A. Freedman, who lives in Farmington Hills, was involved in one of the few fights at the otherwise calm National Convention.

Freedman, who attended the convention as an alternate delegate, pleaded to have Jimmy Carter become involved in a battle both with the Michigan delegation and with the heads of operations who arrived New York's Madison Square Garden to get better treatment for alternate delegates.

Usually at national conventions the alternate delegates are seated right behind the regular delegates. Freedman explained. But this time because the space at Madison Square Garden was so limited, the alternate delegates were seated way away from their delegates.

IN THE CASE of the Michigan delegation, the alternates were seated in the second balcony, easily 100 yards and a half hour of shouting through the crowds from the regular Michigan delegation.

Our first problem was that alternate delegates couldn't vote. Freedman explained. At a preliminary meeting of our delegates, we tried to vote using notes for alternates, but the delegation turned that down because it would have reduced the prestige of the regular delegates.

That's why, and in fact the alternates were allowed on the floor to replace delegates who were absent, which is the traditional function of alternates and we were allowed to vote when that happened. Freedman added.

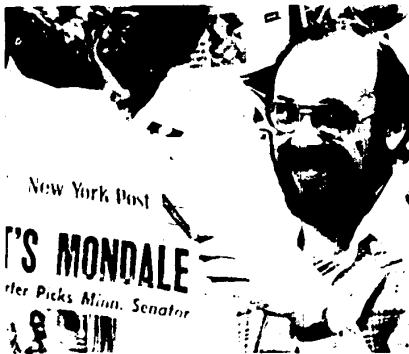
BUT OUR biggest problem was that all the people standing in the aisles of the Garden blocked our view, all the conversation

going on while people were making speeches made it impossible for us to hear what was going on and a lot of people

who were merely guests came into our seating area and took our seats so none of us could sit down. Freedman said.

Freedman wound up leading a group of alternates who organized themselves into a "scout" with people keeping strollers out of their seats and asking people standing in the aisles to move along. By the last day of the convention, their efforts were clearly successful.

I hope we can solve these problems at our next convention. Freedman remarked. Otherwise, we'll have to move the alternates to the Statue of Liberty along with the other huddled masses.



Gerald Freedman of Farmington Hills smiles at the news that Minnesota Sen. Walter Mondale has been selected as Gov. Jimmy Carter's running mate for the election this fall.

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SEMTA high on list

If Gov. William Milliken gets his way, one of the topics given high priority when the Michigan Legislature gets underway in the fall will be whether to reorganize and finance the Southeast Michigan Transportation Authority (SEMTA).

I know the legislative leaders are ready, we must get this program into high gear, making it a high priority item when the legislature returns in September, Milliken said in a meeting with members of the Michigan Highway Commission.

Milliken said he expects to have prepared for legislative discussion a comprehensive transportation program which includes:

- Additional transportation funds for Fiscal Year 1977-78
- Consolidation of revenues for transportation into a single transportation fund
- A shift from the weight tax to a value tax on motor vehicles

The governor said he will later work for adoption of a resolution to place on the ballot constitutional changes regarding the name of the department and the commission and the appointment of the director.

Milliken told the commissioners he was pleased with the support they have given to the total transportation concept. He and the commissioners agreed that the state must move this fall if it is to get federal assistance for a total transportation system for southeast Michigan—including improved bus service within the suburbs.

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