



JANET/DOUG ASHLEY

Former UAW president Douglas Fraser, Mondale delegate Donald Tucker of Franklin (center) and Hart delegate Peter Kupell of Southfield exchange anecdotes during a break at the National Democratic Convention.

Politicking within the party

By Tim Richard
staff writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Even if the Mondale-Ferraro outcome of the Democratic National Convention seems cut and dried, there's a lot of work to do, local delegates say.

"It's important for the party to be together," said Laurence Delich, Birmingham attorney and Mondale supporter.

"I'm very active in fund-raising, and I have a lot of meetings and planning sessions to attend here," said the 36-year-old at-large alternate.

He and other delegates acknowledge it's technically possible to hold a national convention in a single day through electronic communications. It's even possible delegates wouldn't

have to leave their home states to cast votes for presidential nominees and on platform planks.

But they are emphatic they don't want to do it that way. They like the four-day national convention.

DONALD TUCKER, attending his fourth convention, said it is still wise to schedule a four-day convention, even though it has been decades since it took more than one evening to nominate a presidential candidate.

"It's very foreseeable there could be a lot of fights. You have the presidential nomination. There's a real possibility a convention could not be so well defined as this."

"You'd have the vice presidential nomination afterward."

"There's the structuring of the Dem-

ocratic National Committee to be done. "There's the platform. It could be a lot of test votes for candidates."

"In a close convention, there could be fights over credentials and even rules."

"We didn't know two years ago (when the convention was planned) there would be no fights. Who knew?"

At 37, the Franklin Village resident is a national convention veteran. In 1972 he was McGovern chairman for the state; in '76, a Udall alternate; in '80 a Kennedy delegate and member of the rules committee; and this year, for the first time, he is backing the winner: Mondale.

"IT'S PAGEANTRY. It's like opera," said Mary Ryan, Tama, Birmingham teacher and Mondale delegate from the 18th Congressional District.



"These delegates have all come here because they went through a political process," she said, gesturing to the 3,000 other Democrats cheering former President Jimmy Carter's Monday night address.

"The Democratic Party is broad-based. This (convention) is part of the bonding and commitment."

Behind the scenes at Moscone

The crowded 1984 Democratic National Convention in the cramped Moscone Center has put a damper on attendance and cramped the style of young volunteers.

College students used to find work as pages and "gofers." This year the pickings are slim, as are the numbers of tickets for guests.

"I WAS A page 20 years ago at Atlantic City," said a man who has become a governor.

"I begged, borrowed and stole my

way in," said James J. Blanchard, a 21-year-old Michigan State student at the time Lyndon B. Johnson was nominated.

"I can remember when Jim Blanchard snuck into that convention. I helped him get in," laughed Attorney General Frank J. Kelley.

When Blanchard got out of Minnesota Law School, Kelley gave him a job as an assistant attorney general serving several departments of state government. Blanchard parlayed the job into four terms in Congress and the

governor's chair.

RICK WIENER, the current Democratic state chairman, is using only an administrative assistant and three pages to staff the Michigan delegation.

Wiener wouldn't knock San Francisco's brand-new Moscone Center, but he bluntly said Cobo Hall is better and would relish holding the 1988 national convention there.

COMPLAINTS about the Moscone Center from the press corps have been loud and harsh, according to the San Francisco Examiner.

Although it's the size of three football fields, the Moscone Center was intended as an exhibition hall rather than as an arena.

"You can't see the podium," Richard Ryan of The Detroit News told the Examiner.

The Michigan delegation is particularly tough to cover. It's seated in the upper right corner of the hall. The desk where reporters get floor passes is located at the lower left corner.

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