

Dems expect Mondale-Ferraro visit in fall

By Tim Richard
staff writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Top Michigan Democrats say the Metropolitan Detroit suburbs almost certainly will be visited this fall — perhaps as early as Labor Day — by Walter Mondale and Geraldine Ferraro in the Democratic bid for the White House.

Gov. James J. Blanchard wants Congresswoman Ferraro to visit Macomb County — "a key large, ticket-splitting county" where the New Yorker's appeal to blue-collar workers should be strong.

"This state has been targeted by both

parties," said state Chairman Rick Wines. "You're likely to see both several times in the course of the campaign."

But nothing definite has been worked out, they said.

SAM FISHMAN, state AFL-CIO president, said Mondale has been invited to address a Labor Day rally in Detroit.

"We're waiting for an answer. It will be a few weeks before we know. They haven't scheduled any of this yet," the Southfield resident said.

He was unable to say whether it would be a parade, a rally or both be-



cause "we haven't worked out the logistics yet."

Fishman said other Labor Day rallies are being planned for Flint, Lansing and the Upper Peninsula.

"BETWEEN NOW and the end of the campaign," Wines said in a dawn news conference, "a presidential candidate can make 150 segments of appearances." (A segment may include two or three related stops.)

"That excludes TV appearances and fund-raising."

"That means the presidential and vice presidential candidates can make 300 appearances," said Wines, predicting both would make it.

Wines is looking to the revival of Labor Day rallies when Democratic candidates, until 1960, traditionally opened their campaigns in downtown Detroit.

THAT TRADITION fell by the wayside as Labor Day increasingly became a another summer holiday for the homebound middle class, and a strip deadline for television networks.

But in 1984, Wines noted with pleasure, several Michigan cities revived Labor Day rallies. "The size of the rally in Detroit surprised a lot of people," he said. "We had a lot of people, a crowd of 100,000."

Ronald Reagan opened his second 1980 fall campaign with a Labor Day picnic in the blue-collar auto town of Allen Park, an idea spawned by U.S. Rep. Carl Albert, R-Flint.

ANOTHER POSSIBILITY for Mon-

dale or Ferraro is the Democratic State Convention in Detroit's Cobo Hall, Aug. 24-26. There the party nominates its candidates for state, congressional and presidential offices.

No keynote has been lined up for that convention, he said.

Republicans used their August 1984 state convention to take a look at the new vice presidential member, as did

several Michigan state freshmen governor named Spiro T. Agnew.

Not to be overlooked, said Wines, are appearances by Sen. Gary Hart and Rev. Jesse Jackson, second- and third-

rounding candidates for the presidential bid.

Williams jurors accused of 'softening the law'

By Kathy Parrish
staff writer

"It's sympathy. It's not the law." That's how one disgruntled sheriff's deputy sees the acquittals of two groups of peace activists involved in blockades of a Commerce Township defense supplier's driveway.

But the defense — which sought jury trials in order to educate the public about nuclear arms — denies sympathy was a factor.

"They loved our defendants," said defense attorney Beverly Safford, who contended the blockaders took a stand against "a unique form of death which they feel to be a threat to human life."

"But it wasn't sympathy. We ought to

have pride in these people and their acts."

JUST AS THE defense hoped, Walled Lake District Court juries have gone easy on those charged with blockading the driveway at Williams International.

More than 50 people were arrested during the Nov. 27-Dec. 2 protest against the company's manufacture of engines for low flying cruise missiles.

Williams also manufactures turbine engines for cars and trucks, industrial gas turbines and low pollution turbines for generating electric power from natural gas and coal. A version of the cruise missile engine is used in WASP II, a small one person flying device.

TWO WEEKS AGO, Judge Michael Batchik dismissed the conspiracy charge against English demonstrator Jean Hutchinson. A six-woman jury also acquitted Adrian College students Crystal McCartney of Detroit and Michael Hoffman of Constantine. They were charged with conspiracy to trespass.

Last week, the prosecution dropped conspiracy charges against Detroiters Benita Mullins and Mt. Pleasant residents Ann Laurio and the Rev. Thomas Jones.

Thursday, a jury found the three not guilty of obstructing employees on their way to work. They were judged guilty of failing to obey police officers directing traffic.

Judge Martin Boyle gave them a \$50

fine or three days in Oakland County Jail on the misdemeanors, but suspended the sentence because they had served time in December.

The three are appealing three other charges to Oakland County Circuit Court.

DURING THE LATEST trial, defendants admitted walking into Williams driveway during morning rush hour carrying a banner with a passage from Isaiah: "Of peace there shall be no end."

They sat down in the driveway and were quickly removed by sheriff's deputy patrolling the area.

A five woman and one man jury listened intently as the three witnesses talked about their long-term commit-

ment to peace. All said they had written to legislators, worked on the Nuclear Freeze movement and been frustrated in attempts to stop nuclear weapons manufacture.

They also told about their decisions to sit in the driveway.

"I cried, my wife cried, my kids cried," said the Rev. Thomas Jones, 33, a Methodist minister who runs a campus chapel at Central Michigan University.

"Despite the fact I'm a pastor, there was a chance of losing my job. It was very, very risky."

Social worker Benita Mullins told about writing her grandchildren a letter after seeing the film "The Day After," which deals with nuclear war. "I

told them I was going to do something about nuclear arms," the 65-year-old said.

ALTHOUGH UNHAPPY WITH the verdict, Assistant Civil Prosecutor Richard Thompson said he believes justice was done. "While I might be disappointed with a jury verdict, they're the supreme authority."

Thompson said he wishes consider factors other than just the law.

"Jurors have a way of softening the law. And we know that when we went into these trials," he explained.

"These defendants are well meaning people doing what they believe in. They are not your normal lawbreakers. But we still felt we had to take them to trial."

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