Hart delegates swallow bitter pill

JANET/DOUG ASHLEY/staff photographers

Delegates Arrissie Evans (left) from Southfield and Millie Rowison from Redford wrap up some loose ends after seeing Walter Mondale win the Democratic presidential nomination at the convention in San Francisco.

By Tim Richard
staff writer

SAN FRANCISCO — In Michigan the Hart delegates may have a tougher time adjusting to Walter Mondale's nomination as Democratic presidential candidate than the Jackson delegates.

"You support the winner. It's not every man for himself," said Joel Ferguson, state coordinator for the Rev. Jesse Jackson's campaign.

He showed up at a news conference sporting a Mondale button the morning after the Minnesotan's first-ballot victory.

"The Hart campaign comes out of this with a willingness to participate," added George W. Sallade, state coordinator for the Colorado senator. If it hadn't been for black pride in Jackson's candidacy, he said, most blacks would have supported Mondale for his civil rights record.

But Sallade was wary of a "disillusionment factor" among the Hart crowd, many of them young, at least half attending their first national convention.

"I saw some tears. Well, in politics there's no room for tears. These people must be encouraged to stay in the game. Now, that's not hard for a professional like me," said the 61-year-old attorney and perennial candidate in normally Republican Washtenaw County.

Party Chairman Rick Wiener said in Michigan "the relationship between Hart, Mondale and Jackson delegates was clearly better than in a lot of states." He called the morning-after news conference "more than a symbolic gesture of unity. The job of working out details is going to begin this morning, at breakfast."

"Are you picking up the tab?" asked Sallade.

"Yes," said Wiener as Sallade smiled.

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THINGS ARE tough in the Hart camp, and not just because of the senator's loss of the presidential nomination.

Hart's campaign debt is $4.7 million, and Hart supporters can expect a lot of mail from Sallade inviting them to wine-and-cheese receptions to pay it off.

"Any candidate who has a $4.7-million debt hanging over his head is in a difficult position, and Gary has a 1986 Senate re-election campaign to face in a normally Republican state," Sallade said.

"The same thing happened to George McGovern," he said, recalling that the 1972 presidential nominee was defeated in his next South Dakota Senate campaign.

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ON PAPER, the 155-member Michigan delegation had 78 Mondale votes, 49 for Hart and nine for Jackson with 19 technically uncommitted.

The one-ballot nominating process showed 17 of the 19 uncommitted went to Mondale, one to Hart and one to Jackson. The final tally was 96, 50 and 10 respectively.

Wiener, who had been careful to maintain outward neutrality, admitted he voted for Mondale.

It was no surprise because the 37-year-old Lansing lawyer had been Gov. Blanchard's choice for chairman.

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IT WAS a long time between victories for Donald Tucker, Franklin Village lawyer and Mondale delegate.

He had supported nominee McGovern in 1972, Morris Udall in 1976 and Ted Kennedy in 1980.

"I'm batting .500," Tucker said after the vote. "Winning's a helluva lot better than losing, given a choice."

He was sympathetic to the Hart supporters, however, for their time-consuming demonstration. "It's difficult to second-guess the emotions of a candidate who has run as hard as Gary Hart has done."

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ARRISSIE EVANS, first-time Mondale delegate from Southfield, could only say it's "exciting . . . seeing the whole Democratic Party process in operation."

The 31-year-old sales specialist for AT&T Communications was raised in Florida and said she has been "always active" in politics.

But she refused to call any friends or relatives back home until after the Mondale nomination was complete.

She stuck to business during the week, attending receptions but not taking any of the local color tours.

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ELEVATOR and street talk in San Francisco:

- Plump Tennessee delegate shopping in a Chinatown boutique for a silk blouse: "My, these won't fit. You San Franciscans are so *skinny*. You don't eat enough cornbread and blackeyed peas."
- Down graffiti: "Bored? Revolt!"
- Poster displayed by right-wing LaRouche troops: "Mondale loses in Lance-slide."
- Mondale staffer in Meridien Hotel: "This place is so crowded I have to allow 10 minutes to get down the elevator from The Suite." Mondale HQ is on the 35th floor of the 36-story hotel.
- Grant Street banner: "Chinatown Welcomes Jesse Jackson."
- Store window sign at Fisherman's wharf: "Republicans Welcome, Too."

Roads closed

The Oakland County Road Commission has announced several road closures and lane reductions while improvement or maintenance projects are taking place.

Closures include:

- Bridge replacement, 10 Mile from Inkster to Beech in Southfield. Closed through the summer.
- Adams from Dutton to Tienken, Avon Township. Closed through Sept. 1.

Open but under reconstruction to add lanes is Orchard Lake from Maple to Walnut Lake, West Bloomfield. The work is expected to go on through the summer.

For safety reasons, motorists are urged to slow down to 45 miles per hour or less and to observe warning signs in construction and repair zones.

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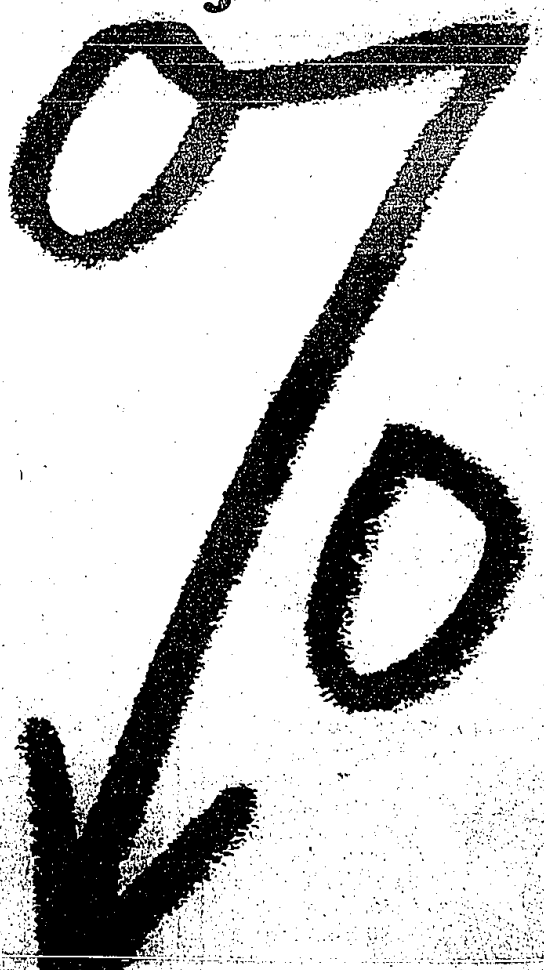

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