

# Cruce maps way for Michigan delegation

By Tim Richard  
staff writer

DALLAS — "Do you know the way to the Anatole?" asked the woman delegate who wanted to attend the rally at Vice President George Bush's headquarters hotel.

"Yes, I do. I'll give you a map," replied the Michigan delegation's transportation director — better known as state Sen. Doug Cruce of Troy.

The lean, tanned, 36-year-old lawmaker quickly has become an expert on the network of highways, roads and hotels in America's seventh largest metropolis, which this week is hosting the Republican National Convention.

"I thought it would be a breeze," said Cruce, wiping his brow in the 107-degree heat.

CRUCE'S JOB has been to get 77 delegates, 77 alternates, assorted guests and newspaper people from the airport to hotels to the convention parking lot and from the parking lot to the Dallas Convention Center.

His problems have included 11 lost delegates, a fellow senator who wound up on a musical airline flight and a pair of delegates who just plain didn't show up.

Assisting him were five college students from Michigan and Texas.

"He just volunteered," said GOP State Chairman Spencer Abraham. "He wanted to do something."

"He personally met the majority of planes, and he personally drove a bus," said an admiring Jane Hershey, one of two Michigan GOP staff workers.

SEVERAL OTHER legislators are delegates, but Cruce didn't want to come to Dallas that way.

"As an elected person, I don't want to compete with party workers for delegate positions," Cruce said. He also admitted to being more interested in the 1988 convention, which will pick new party leaders and be more than a Reagan coronation.

Early in the year he volunteered his services to Abraham. Two main jobs were open — housing, which National Committeewoman Margaret (Ranny) Flecker spoke for, and transportation, which Cruce thought would be "a breeze."

"Originally," he said, "Everyone was supposed to be going on American Airlines (designated the official airlines of the convention). That would have meant everyone would be coming on

just a few flights and could be transported by bus.

"Then Piedmont and Braniff ran specials, and a lot of people cancelled and switched."

"So American began running its own specials, and we had a lot of changes and cancellations back again the last two weeks."

"I lined up large buses with the Dallas Transit Service, but then we had to rent a couple of vans too."

"Jason Allen (college student from Traverse City) and Joe Underwood (college student from Warren) called and wanted to do volunteer work," he said.

Cruce also heard of a college professor in Texas who had lined up student interns. Cruce landed a couple. "They knew the lay of the land," he said.

A MAJOR problem came when 11 delegates flying from Grand Rapids were delayed by thunderstorms. They missed their connecting flight at Chicago and had to make other arrangements.

Cruce stood waiting for them in vain at the Dallas-Ft. Worth airport. "We didn't know what happened to them until they started showing up on other flights," he said. "We finally found all but two."

Checking his schedule, Cruce found that fellow state Sen. Nick Smith of Hillsdale County was to arrive on a non-existent flight. "I didn't know anything about it until Doug called my office a couple of days before," Smith said.

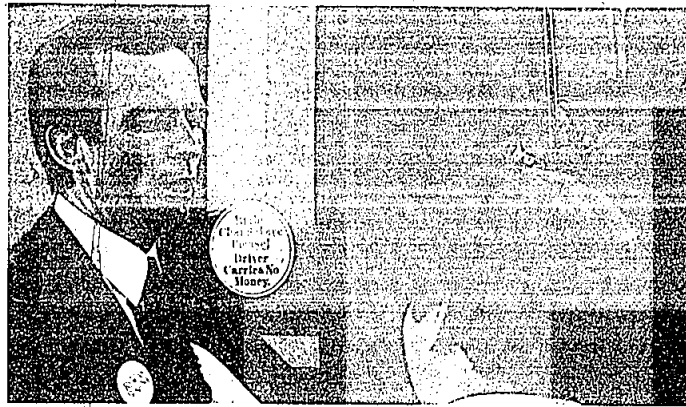
The mixup was caused by the fact that Smith's flight was to arrive in Houston, not Dallas-Ft. Worth. Smith eventually made it to Dallas in time for the first caucus.

After U.S. Sen.-nominee Jack Louma gave a pep talk, Cruce found himself addressing the Michigan caucus, not on convention strategy but on what passes were good for what shuttlebuses.

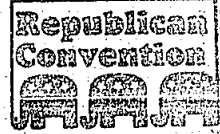
Air-conditioned chartered buses took the delegation from the Marriott Quorum Hotel to the convention parking lot, four blocks from the Convention Center.

Cruce's strong advice: "It's a hot walk. Don't walk it. Take the shuttlebus."

As each delegate, alternate, reporter and guest boarded the bus at the hotel, Cruce told each one, "Remember, this is bus No. 12. It's the only one coming back to the Quorum. Remember, take only bus 12."



DOUG ASHLEY



State Sen. Doug Cruce of Troy (left) doubles as the Michigan delegation's transportation director. His job has been to get 77 delegates, 77 alternates, assorted guests and newspaper people from the airport to hotels, from hotels to the convention parking lot and from the parking lot to the convention center.

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