

Delegate takes on her first national convention

BY ZINA KRAMER
SPECIAL WRITER

NEW YORK -- When I was in the fourth grade, I learned that in order to be president of the United States, you had to be born here. Having been born in Poland, I would never ascend to the presidency.

I may never be president, but I am helping to select the Democratic presidential candidate this week as I take my place as a delegate at the national convention - my first.

Being enough of a political realist to know many important policy decisions had already been made, I decided to learn as much as I could, meet as many interesting people as possible and really listen to the speeches.

Shortly after arriving on Sunday we attended a small gathering at Carnegie Hall hosted by Verner Lippert, Bernhard McPherson and Hans, former Gov. James Blanchard's Washington law firm. The event honored Sen. Patrick Moynihan of New York and his wife. My husband Michael and I were greeted by the warm hospitality of the principals of the firm and had an opportunity to see my old Michigan friends, Jim and Janet Blanchard, Ralph Gerson, Bob Larson and Bob Smith.

A highlight for me, as an admirer of fine photographs, was seeing

Richard Avedon, who photographed so many famous faces so brilliantly.

Our next stop was a reception given for the Michigan delegation by General Motors and hosted by Alan Smith. Among the beautifully displayed Saturos and Corvettes in the GM building, the delegates dined on potato-zucchini pancakes, beautifully presented vegetables, chicken tidbits and other hors d'oeuvres.

Among those from our area were Ron and Kitty Thayer, U.S. Rep.

John and Debbie Dingell, the Blanchards, Gail Nolin, Steven Yokich, Donald Tucker and his daughter Megan, Mickey Meltzer and Jonathan Grossman.

Delegates discussed the choice of Sen. Al Gore as the vice presidential running mate for Gov. Bill Clinton with a positive tone. Women delegates looked forward to easing their women candidates center stage.

The delegates were looking forward to the next day and the beginning of the convention. I was looking forward to learning from many of the candidates I admire.

Monday morning after a Michigan delegation meeting, I attended

an American-Israeli PAC briefing with Mickey Meltzer of Birmingham. U.S. Rep. Lee Hamilton of Indiana spoke of his strong support for Israel and was only cut short when Sen. Gore arrived. After a

strong introduction to this group of Israel supporters.

A Clinton at-large delegate, Zina Kramer, a Bloomfield Hills resident, operates Events Marketing in Bingham Farms.



Conventioneers: Zina Kramer, a first-time delegate to the Democratic National Convention, and Sen. Carl Levin were photographed walking out of the Michigan Caucus Room.

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