

CN 218

US --1ST ADD -- DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION OPENS (CN 217) XXX BALLOT

THE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION WILL TAKE PLACE UNDER HEAVY SECURITY PRECAUTIONS. FEAR OF RACIAL DISTURBANCES OR VIOLENT DEMONSTRATIONS BY ANTI-WAR PICKETS HAVE PROMPTED CHICAGO MAYOR RICHARD DALEY TO ASSEMBLE A FORCE OF 25,000 POLICE, NATIONAL GUARD AND FEDERAL TROOPS IN THE CITY.

THE INTERNATIONAL AMPHITHEATER WHERE THE CONVENTION TAKES PLACE IS SURROUNDED BY A POLICE CORDON 1.5 KILOMETERS FROM THE BUILDING, WITH NUMEROUS OTHER SECURITY BARRIERS CLOSER TO THE BUILDING AND INSIDE.

THE 15,000 PERSONS WHO MUST ENTER THE BUILDING, DELEGATES, NEWSMEN AND OFFICIALS, WILL HAVE THEIR CREDENTIALS CHECKED BY AN ELECTRONIC IDENTITY CHECKING MACHINE, TO DETECT ANY FAKED CREDENTIALS.

RL/HI

2400/68/3

RF