

convention this week is one of the largest in recent memory here in St. Louis, are delighted with the city but may not return because of a shortage of downtown hotel rooms, a spokesman said.

Limited accommodations forced some of the 30,000 people at the convention to stay in hotels and private homes as far as 35 miles away, said Fred Williams, the group's deputy director of publicity.

Because of the inability of St. Louis and similar-sized cities to house the conventioners, Williams said that the annual event may rotate between New York, Philadelphia, Washington, Chicago, Los Angeles, Miami and New Orleans, which he said are more able to accommodate large groups.

BUT A CITY convention official said many of the conventioners — members of the Prince Hall Shrine and its auxiliary group, the Imperial Court of the Daughters of Isis — opted to stay with friends and relatives and that more hotel space could have been available to them.

"As far as hotel rooms, we have not reached our limit," said Terry Tumbrink, director of sales for the Convention and Visitors Bureau.

More than 4,500 hotel rooms were set aside downtown and in midtown, Clayton, West Port Plaza and near Lambert St. Louis International Airport for the convention, he said. Tumbrink said there are more than 3,500 rooms downtown, and 13,000 rooms in hotels with convention facilities in the city and St. Louis County.

ANOTHER 1,900 rooms — most of

town hotel space for future conventions.

them downtown — will be available by mid-1986, under plans for three new hotels and enlargement of a fourth, Tumbrink said.

"It's not a problem to the extent that we're dissatisfied (with St. Louis)," Williams said of the room shortage. "There are few cities in this country that can handle a convention this size.

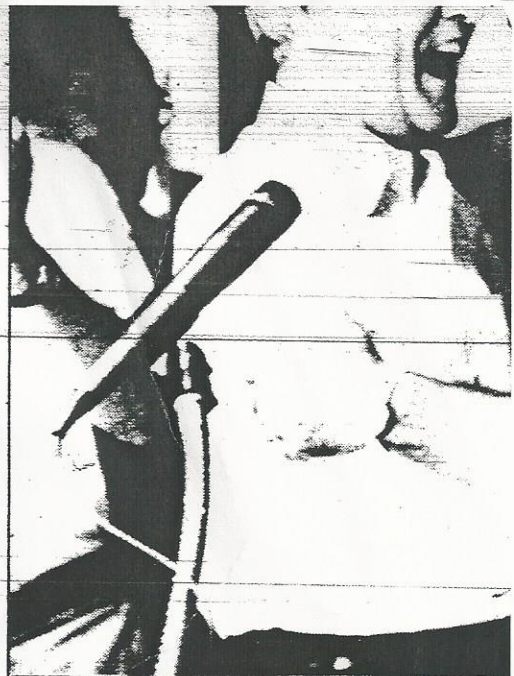
"They have been wonderful here," he added. "The people of St. Louis have been gracious hosts."

"We have received better cooperation in St. Louis than (in) any other city in 25 years. The mayor has bent over backwards to help us," said B.B. Simmons, imperial director of publicity.

THE WEEKLONG convention, which ends Saturday, has been a blockbuster for St. Louis, and officials are working to get the Shriners to come back, Tumbrink said. By the end of the week, conventioners will have spent an estimated \$12 million here.

Williams said efforts have been made by the Shriners, of whom 85 percent are black, to channel the cash into black-owned businesses.

Some attending the convention also have complained of parking shortages and parking tickets. "Usually, when you get a convention of this size, the city makes concessions," said Williams, who is head of public information for the Detroit Police Department.



Former Vice President Walter F. Mondale, D-Ill., at a rally in Springfield.

Mondale leads

By **JIM BROADWAY**
Globe-Democrat Springfield, Ill.,
Bureau Chief

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — Joining state Democrats in refusing to cross a union picket line at the main entrance to the Illinois State Fair here, former Vice President Walter F. Mondale led a rally of about 3,000 partisans at a nearby park Thursday afternoon.

"The decision (not to cross the line) was made before I arrived, but I concurred," Mondale told reporters.

Mondale was invited to speak at the annual "Democrats Day" rally usually held on the State Fair grounds. He was the only one of six announced candidates for the Democratic presidential nomination at the rally.

PICKETS FROM a local chapter of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers have marched at the main gate since the fair opened last week, protesting a Bell Telephone Co. exhibit and the phone-maintenance activities of the

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Mistrial declared in case of slain woman

A mistrial was declared Thursday in the capital murder trial of Rodney Lee Lincoln when a St. Louis Circuit Court jury could not reach a verdict after 15 hours of deliberations.

Lincoln was charged with two counts of first-degree assault in addition to capital murder in the slaying of Jo Ann Tate and the wounding of her two daughters April 27, 1982. The attacks occurred in an apartment at 1418 Farrar Street in the Hyde Park neighborhood.

CIRCUIT JUDGE James J. Gallagher declared the mistrial after the jury told him it had voted 7-5 on all three charges in five ballots since deliberations began about 10 a.m. Wednesday.

Gallagher did not ask the jury to disclose whether the voting favored conviction or acquittal.

Lincoln, who was defended by Robert Hampe, will be retried on the

same charges, chief trial assistant Sam C. Bertolet of the circuit attorney's office said.

AUTHORITIES SAID Mrs. Tate was molested and stabbed to death; her daughter Melissa Davis, 8, was stabbed 10 times, and another daughter, 5-year-old Renee Tate, was stabbed three times. Both children recovered.

During the trial, the jury heard Melissa identify Lincoln as the man who repeatedly stabbed her and her sister.

Lincoln, a 38-year-old truck driver who authorities said lived at 8116 Minnesota Ave., did not testify. He has been in jail in lieu of \$1 million bond since his arrest in May 1982.

Defense witnesses testified that Lincoln was at home in South St. Louis the night Mrs. Tate and her daughters were attacked in the North St. Louis apartment.

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Globe Democrat
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