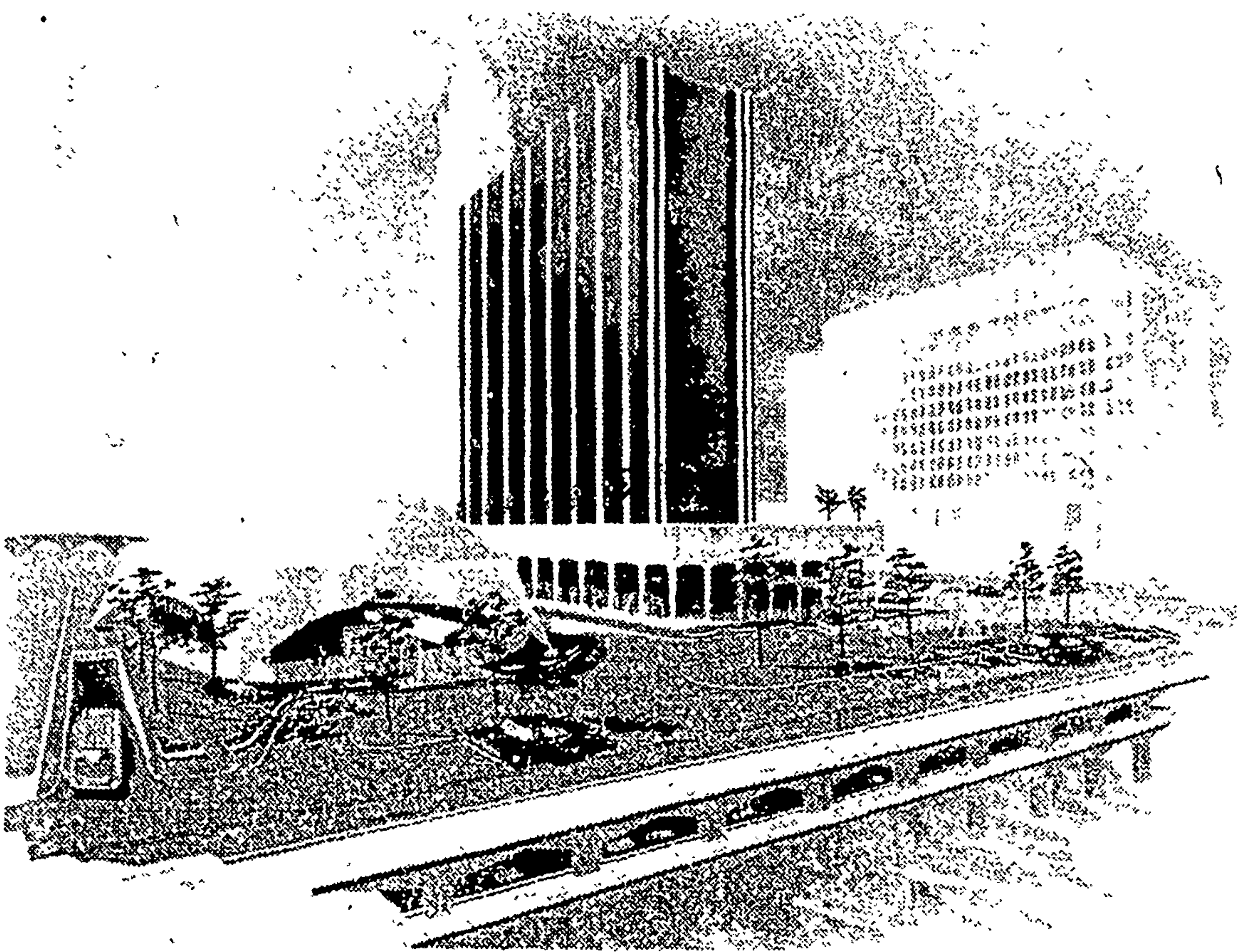




ON THE RIVER — This proposed \$25 million convention center would be built on a platform above the Scioto River. Looking northeast, the sketch shows the

LeVeque-Lincoln tower in the background, left, and the State Office Building, right background.

Convention Center Proposed Over River

By **NED STOUT**
Of The Dispatch Staff

A Columbus river-top convention center proposal which its proponents say could reduce if not remove the demand for an increase in the city's income tax was unveiled Thursday.

Two prominent Democrats informally submitted to the city's Ohio Convention Commission a plan for a \$25 million complex, to be built on a huge platform above the

GOP Chief, Candidates To Meet

By **HOWARD HUNTZINGER**
Of The Dispatch Staff

State Republican Chairman John S. Andrews was to meet Thursday with State Treas-

Scioto River. The convention center would be between Broad and State Sts.

GEORGE W. Twyford, Reynoldsburg mayor and Democratic county chairman, and **Herbert J. Pfeifer**, mining engineer, oilman, president of Chief Drilling Inc., 3175 Cleveland Ave., and one-time political opponent of U.S. Rep. Samuel R. Devine, developed the concept. They envision that a publicly-owned corporation would finance the center. They would head the company.

Pfeifer said he has been working on the proposal "since November."

William Bryant, economic consultant with another Pfeifer enterprise, the Economic Research & Development Co., researched income projections for the proposed center and calculated:

"THE NEW income (\$1.5 million yearly in taxes)

which would be created, if used for the Police Division alone, could provide for an additional 200 to 240 police jobs and increase the total police payroll by 14 per cent or a minimum 10 per cent."

Mayor Sensenbrenner, after a conference with Twyford and Pfeifer, said he would attempt to arrange a breakfast for Columbus City Council members Monday to permit the center promoters to outline their proposal.

The City Council would have to make the final decision on granting a long-term, river top lease before the center construction could proceed.

The state owns the Scioto River but the city, since the river is classified as non-navigable, has jurisdiction over it.

TWYFORD asserted, "This is the first proposal in the

See **CENTER** on Page 8A