

Evans and Novak

A Key Young Nixon Assistant Quits After Quarrel with Campaign Chief

WASHINGTON—The hidden turmoil inside Richard M. Nixon's personal staff immediately after his nomination has erupted in the abrupt and unannounced resignation of one of Nixon's brightest young men: Richard J. Whalen, an innovative, conservative intellectual and writer.

Whalen flew with the rest of the top-level Nixon staff from Miami Beach to San Diego, Calif., but suddenly returned home to Washington after a bitter clash at a San Diego staff meeting with John Mitchell, Nixon's law partner and campaign manager.

Whalen is keeping his mouth shut about what precipitated his resignation; Nixon men, expressing hope that Whalen will return, dismiss it as a personality clash.

But more than personalities seem involved. Nixon's younger and newer staff members such as Whalen, 32, have been quietly downgraded since their dominant role in the primary election campaigns. In the month prior to the Miami Beach convention, Nixon relied increasingly on veterans of his losing 1960 campaign now returning to the staff.

Two events may have set the stage for Whalen's departure. The first was the arrival of Time-Life executive James Keogh, an old-time Nixon staffer, to take over research for the campaign. The second was Nixon's selection of Gov. Spiro Agnew for vice president.

Whalen was not alone. Most of Nixon's younger aides left Miami Beach in a blue funk over the Agnew selection.

The shock value of Whalen's departure could be salutary for the Nixon campaign. Its initial impact seems to have strengthened the position of Robert Ellsworth, the former Kansas congressman. Another new Nixon staffer, Ellsworth had worked closely with Whalen as chief architect of the Nixon primary victories but had been subtly downgraded before the convention.

However, the loss of Whalen in itself would be a serious blow to the flexibility of the



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Nixon campaign. Although he is scarcely a liberal, Whalen was instrumental in pushing Nixon leftward on Vietnam and the urban crisis.

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The racially integrated Mississippi loyalist delegation, likely to be seated at the Democratic national convention in place of Gov. John Bell Williams' Wallaceite regulars, will vote heavily for Vice President Hubert Humphrey — thanks largely to the ineptitude of Sen. Eugene McCarthy's campaign.

Until recently, McCarthy persisted in referring to the loyalists as the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party when, in fact, the leftist FDP is but a small fraction of the loyalist coalition. Moreover, the McCarthy campaign's paid field worker in Mississippi, Jan Goodman has been anathema to the moderates dominating the loyalist delegation, dating back to her days as an FDP office manager.

While Miss Goodman was working the far left, a key McCarthy strategist — former Democratic national chairman Stephen Mitchell — was wooing the far right. The loyalists were outraged when Mitchell paid Gov. Williams a recent visit in Jackson to plead McCarthy's cause.

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