

# Rizzo Hints Switch to the GOP For Governorship Race in 1974

By John Katz

PHILADELPHIA, March 13 (UPI)—Mayor Frank Rizzo, already an open contender with the Democratic political machine in Pennsylvania and the national arena, has said that if Democratic Gov. Shapp is a candidate for reelection, he will intervene in the running for that office.

Rizzo's statement, made at his weekly City Hall news conference, was interpreted as a major hint that he will seek the governorship, perhaps even as a Republican. Aides in Philadelphia close to the Democratic mayor, who has repeatedly described Richard Nixon as "the greatest President this country has ever had," say Rizzo is preparing to switch to the Republican Party in advance of declaring for governor in 1974. Rizzo, who supported President Nixon's reelection last year, severed his final ties with the state's Democratic establishment last week. He accused Philadelphia's Democratic leader, Peter J. Camiel, of "boycott" and promised to fight against his party's candidates for district attorney and city controller.

The mayor has been feuding bitterly with Shapp for nearly a year, but until recently he always described Camiel, the Democratic City Committee chairman and political leader, as "my good friend and my political adviser."

Last week, however, Rizzo charged that the district attorney and controller candidates were picked behind "closed doors" and their selections were final three weeks before their candidacies were actually announced.

Terming the selections "step backwards" for good government, Rizzo called a press conference to denounce Camiel's demands to be thrown out of the party, and threatened to file suit and work for the election of Republican candidates.

Camiel responded that Rizzo was upset only because he could not dictate his choices to the party. Camiel asserted that Rizzo wanted "his candidates" or none.

Under the provisions of the Philadelphia City Charter, Rizzo must resign as soon as he declares himself a candidate for another elective office.

If he decides to run for governor, he must file nominating petitions in February of 1974, and immediately resign, turning the mayor's chair over to City Council President George Schwartz, a close ally of Camiel. Rizzo's term expires in 1976.

The mayor has created a Charter Revision Committee to change the charter provision requiring him to resign, but his feud with Camiel could mean that provision won't be changed, since a

number of the committee members are Democrats.

If Rizzo decides to switch to the Republican Party, he could do it as early as the primary election (for district attorney and city controller) in May or as late as early 1974, preceding the filing of nominating petitions.

The Democratic candidate Rizzo opposes, Emmett Fitzpatrick, is supported by virtually every element of the mayor party. The Democratic Party includes Gov. Shapp, U.S. Rep. William Green of Philadelphia and council president Schwartz.

"He's not going to get us and kick them out of the party to turn on him when he was laid one of Rizzo's closest political advisers. We'll have enough trouble as it is."

Fitzpatrick was chosen at a meeting of the Democratic City Committee a week ago Sunday. He will oppose Republican Arlen Specter in the November election.

At his weekly press conference today, Rizzo insisted his only strategy is to let the Democratic candidates lose, and then let Sen. Camiel (Camiel is a state senator) fall flat on his face. "Then maybe the ward leaders will do the job (of removing Camiel) for me."

The mayor said people are fed up with politicians who are only in the game of politics for their own personal gain.