

Gov. Sargent: "I think we better go it alone here."

Mass. Gov. Urges Agnew to Stay Out

AP Photo/John F. Kennedy

From News Dispatches

BOSTON, June 19—Republican Gov. Francis W. Sargent, seeking election to the job he inherited 18 months ago, was politely invited Vice President Agnew to stay out of the Massachusetts campaign.

Democrats are feuding and face a divisive four-way primary for the right to challenge Sargent. The lanky liberal GOP governor is anxious to keep them at it and doesn't want to offer them the national administration as a political target.

Sargent isn't interested, at least for the present, in any political assistance from President Nixon, either.

"I think we'd better go it alone here," Sargent said in an interview. So, when the national party suggested an Agnew appearance at a June 9 GOP fund-raising dinner, Sargent declined.

Favored to Win

"I said that I thought it would not be all that helpful," the governor recalled.

Sargent currently is favored to win the job he took over when John A. Volpe resigned as governor to become Secretary of Transportation. "But I'm a realist," he said. "I'm a Republican, and there aren't that many Republicans in this state. Any Republican has to run scared."

Furthermore, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy tops the Democrats slate this year, and has promised a vigorous home-state campaign.

"I think he's going to work like the devil," Sargent said.

That will make the Republican task more difficult, although Massachusetts voters have a reputation for ticket splitting. "I just pray it continues," said Sargent.

Sargent switched his choice of a running mate Thursday, contending challengers were running a "smear campaign" against his original pick.

Convention Scheduled

Sargent named Administration Commissioner Donald R. Dwight as his choice for lieutenant governor in place of State Rep. Martin A. Linsky. The dramatic switch came only nine days before the State Republican Convention meets to endorse candidates.

The governor said supporters of State Sen. John M. Quinlan, one of the candidates for lieutenant governor, were conducting a "smear campaign" against Linsky over an incident involving a prostitute.

Linsky, 29, of Brookline, at a June 5 news conference said that in March 1969 he offered to give a woman a ride home from a Boston nightclub. Linsky said he was stopped by police about six blocks from the club and was informed the woman was a known prostitute. He denied any wrongdoing.

Sargent at first maintained his support of Linsky, but said Thursday the party was split over the issue.