



Rowland Evans and Robert Novak



Agnew Didn't Get the Word

PRESIDENT Nixon's cumbersome campaign bureaucracy totally broke down Wednesday when Vice President Spiro T. Agnew unleashed an emotional assault on Sen. George McGovern in violation of a high-level White House strategy decision to turn the other cheek.

That decision was made Tuesday morning at the daily meeting of "The Attack Group," a committee of key White House and Nixon campaign aides who determine strategy against McGovern. Discussing McGovern's attack Monday on the Nixon administration as the most corrupt in history and the adverse reaction to McGovern from his influential audience (the United Press International editors' meeting), the Nixon advisers decided to make no response at all. McGovern's shrillness was hurting only himself, they determined.

The word to turn the other cheek was to be relayed to Agnew on the campaign trail by a low-level Nixon political operative, who was first delayed by another task and then simply forgot his mission. Uninstructed, Agnew on Wednesday in Rapid City, S.D., permitted his emotions

full reign for the first time in the current campaign and delivered an old-fashioned Agnewesque assault on McGovern.

But Agnew's aberration does not alter the basic judgment at the White House that McGovern's shrillness helps maintain Mr. Nixon's big lead and certainly should not be answered in kind. Even presidential aide Charles Colson, the member of "The Attack Group" with the strongest instinct for bludgeoning the enemy, has come to agree with this policy of letting McGovern sink himself.

So confident of this theory are they that the daily Republican radio feed out of Washington to local stations will in the future contain not only the customary pronouncements by Republicans but, when possible, the shrillest attacks by Democrats. The first example of this came Sept. 28 when the Republican radio feed included a raucous attack on the President as "Tricky Dicky" delivered by Sargent Shriver at Galveston, Tex.

Daley's New Friend

PARTLY as a result of Sen. McGovern's total collapse in Illinois, Mayor Rich-

ard J. Daley has secretly committed at least \$100,000 to anti-Daley Democrat Dan Walker's financially bankrupt campaign for governor.

Such an astonishing alliance between regular and reformer would have been unthinkable last March when Walker, excoriating Daley's "boss rule," dealt the Daley organization its most humiliating defeat ever by winning the Democratic primary for governor. Since then, Walker has stopped baiting Daley. But relations between them have remained icy cold.

Thawing them out, however, is the catastrophe of McGovern's Illinois campaign. McGovern is running so badly there, Daley's lieutenants fear, that he may drag to defeat the one candidate whose reelection the Daley organization feels most deeply about: law-and-order State's Attorney Edward Hanrahan of Cook County (Chicago).

Although McGovern can help nobody in Illinois (including himself), Walker might yet pull in enough votes on the top of the ticket to help save Hanrahan down below. But Walker's lead over Republican Gov. Richard Ogilvie is fading, and he

has scarcely a penny left for campaign financing.

The Daley-Walker entente was born some 10 days ago when the two men lunched together at the Mid-America Club in downtown Chicago (Walker's club, Walker paying for lunch), surprisingly without attracting attention. They were together again last Tuesday night at the International Amphitheatre, attending the annual outing of Daley's 11th Ward organization at the circus, this time amazing bystanders with their "Dick" and "Dan" first-name cordiality.

Behind the social amenities, Daley has promised Walker desperately needed eleventh-hour financing. The amount is as secret as the existence of the deal itself, but Daley's first contribution is believed around \$100,000 with the possibility of more to come.

A footnote: Ironically, Walker operatives three weeks ago were dropping hints, totally unsubstantiated, that the Daley organization might deal with Ogilvie to make sure the governor did not demand federal marshals to guarantee an accurate count in Hanrahan's reelection contest.

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