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**Marquis Childs**  
**Nixon Feared  
Agnew Critics**

The chances that President Nixon might "dump" Vice President Spiro Agnew being all along close to zero, the President's announcement that he would keep the "team" together for another four years was hardly a surprise. The only surprise was in the timing which removed a month in advance of the Republican convention the one element of lingering suspense in that ratification ceremony.

Republicans on Capitol Hill believe they have the answer to the timing. Two Republican senators, Jacob Javits of New York and William B. Saxbe of Ohio, had expressed their opposition to keeping Agnew on the ticket. At least five or six others were ready to say the same thing. The concern in the White House was that this would look like a ground swell among liberal and moderate Republicans. Against such a showing the President might have felt a certain embarrassment in standing up before the convention to announce his decision to keep Agnew. This last was the preferred way, since it would have added a dash of much-needed drama.

Republicans from the big-city industrial states are concerned about the negative effect of Agnew once again in the No. 2 spot. The darling of right-wing Republicans, he is the embodiment of the hard-shell party of the past.

SO GREAT is the confidence in a Nixon sweep that fear for the political consequences for November are comparatively minor. The real concern is largely unspoken or spoken only in private conversation. It is the single heart beat away from the most powerful office in the world, with reservations about the Vice President's capacity to fill that office.

The one conspicuous mark he has made, and it has helped to endear him to the right, is his war on the media. He has conducted a highly selective attack against those newspapers that have from time to time criticized the administration. Charging monopoly domination, he has omitted any mention of other print empires.

Put together with repressive measures taken by the administration and the tight control exercised over the news from the White House, this appears to be an effort to squelch all dissent. More than any President in this century, with the possible exception of Herbert Hoover in the last year or two in the office, Mr. Nixon has used the screen of executive power to control and manage the news.

His Vice President, in the part of angry man, has played Mr. Hyde to the Presidents benign Dr. Jekyll. The prospect that Agnew will do a repeat performance in the fall gives moderates and liberals in his party a sinking feeling. You can fill the auditoriums with apostles of the right who will give their hero wild acclaim. But what does it mean in votes after the cheers have died away?

ASIDE from his assault on the media, the Vice President's image is that of a serious, rather solemn spokesman for the virtues of middle America. He is propriety itself. Like other recent Vice Presidents, he has traveled widely as an emissary of the President and has always been both correct and cautious. Eight Vice Presidents have succeeded to the presidency. Four came to the office as a result of assassination of the President. Given the lottery in the selection of a Vice President, with all the vagaries of ticket balancing, we have been more fortunate in the successors than we deserved.

But there have been disasters. One was Andrew Johnson who succeeded Abraham Lincoln in the turbulent aftermath of the Civil War. Tapped for the No. 2 place because he was nominally a Democrat and, therefore, could win the votes of the Border States, he was impeached by the House of Representatives and narrowly escaped conviction by the Senate.

Eight out of 37—that is a sobering statistic. The vice presidency should be more than a front for the President.