

Maryland Negroes Threaten to Boycott GOP Ticket

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Maryland Negroes, who voted nearly unanimously for Spiro T. Agnew when he won the governorship in 1966, threatened yesterday to boycott the Republican ticket, which Agnew will share with Presidential nominee Richard M. Nixon.

Even leaders of moderate organizations such as the Urban League and the

NACP were stinging critical of Agnew, who by adopting a series of hard-line positions on crime, civil disobedience and poverty has lost in a few months the widespread black support he enjoyed a year ago.

"I was a Negro before I was a Republican," said Baltimorean Archie M. Jones, treasurer of Maryland's GOP Central Committee and a delegate to the Miami

convention. "This will not help the ticket."

Furman Templeton, who heads the Baltimore chapter of the Urban League, said the GOP national ticket was "reactionary" and was incapable of drawing black support. An NAACP official, Lilly M. Jackson, echoed Templeton's remarks. Democratic leaders, both white and Negro, predicted the selection of Agnew by Nixon would aid their party.

Two years ago, when Agnew faced a Democrat who based his campaign on an adamant opposition to open occupancy laws, some Negro wards and precincts voted as heavily as 95 per cent Republican.

In county after county, Marylanders were placing differing interpretations of the strengths and weaknesses of the Nixon-Agnew ticket, but there seemed to

be agreement on one point:

The tough law-and-order posture of Nixon and Agnew can be expected to cut into the support in Maryland for independent presidential candidate George C. Wallace, who won 42 per cent of the vote in the State's 1964 Democratic primary.

There was also some feeling that the presence of Agnew on the national

ticket will be of some aid for the Senate campaign of Maryland's Republican Rep. Charles McC. Mathias.

The reasoning behind this was that both State pride and a conservative national ticket would lure some Maryland Democrats and potential Wallaceites into the Republican column to vote for Agnew and Nixon and hold them there just long enough to cast a ballot for Mathias.

Mathias, who opposed Nixon's nomination in Miami but called Agnew's selection "a proud and historic moment for Maryland," was in Maine and could not be reached for comment. Aides said the Congressman had not indicated whether he thought the national ticket which he pledged to support, would benefit his own campaign.