

Negroes Cool In Reaction To GOP Slate

By Jean M. White

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Negro reaction has been "chilly" to both the Nixon-Agnew ticket and the Republican Party platform, Roy Wilkins, head of the NAACP, said yesterday.

Other black leaders and voters, including Republicans, used stronger language in expressing a widespread black backlash to the Republican choices in Miami Beach.

"There'll be more fishermen than black Republican voters in November," said one disenchanted GOP supporter of Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller.

James Farmer, the Negro civil rights leader who is running for Congress in Brooklyn's Bedford-Stuyvesant district under a joint Liberal-Republican Party banner, sees the Nixon-Agnew combination as "a heavy albatross around my neck."

On the opening day of the

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Republican convention, Farmer held a press conference in Miami Beach with Louis Lomax, Negro writer, to say he could not support Nixon.

Still Less Palatable

"Agnew makes him still less palatable to black men and women," the GOP-endorsed candidate said three days later after the balloting. "The Republicans are apparently more interested in the Southern vote than the black vote."

Negro Republican delegates, he added, were "sorely disappointed" with the choice of Maryland Gov. Spiro T. Agnew as the vice presidential candidate.

Most observers feel that Nixon blew whatever outside chance he had to attract any Negro voters by choosing Agnew, a candidate anonymous except to Negroes who

remember his lecture to black leaders called to the Governor's office after the Baltimore riots in April.

Estimates of Negro vote power range between 6 million and 8 million this year. The important point is that these votes are concentrated in the largest cities in the largest states—just where the Republican candidate is the weakest.

Committee Warned

Whitney Young Jr., head of the National Urban League, warned the Republican platform committee:

"It is extremely hard to foresee victory for the Party that fails to attract the black vote in New York, Chicago, St. Louis, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, and other cities . . ."

A spokesman for Young said yesterday that the Urban League head would have no comment on the Republican ticket but added: "Whitney will deliver the same warning to the Democrats before the platform committee on Aug. 23."

Yesterday's statement from Wilkins, whose NAACP maintains a non-partisan stance along with the Urban League, was unusual but not unprecedented. Four years ago, the NAACP convention passed a resolution condemning certain positions of GOP Candidate Barry Goldwater who drew only 6 per cent of the Negro vote in 1964.

Wilkins said Nixon's acceptance speech was "in harmony" with the Party platform and the choice of Agnew as the vice presidential candidate.

"The early Negro reaction to both has been chilly," the NAACP head concluded.

Commenting on Nixon's acceptance speech, Wilkins said that the Republican candidate "calls for substitution of the paycheck for the relief check but his platform relies on the private employer with little mention of the responsibility of a Federal employment program."

He also charged that Nixon ignored "the violence directed against the black population" while "rightfully" condemning rioting.

Appeal to Everyone

Wilkins said Nixon attempted to appeal to everyone without indicating how he proposes to deal "equitably with those who are basically satisfied with the status quo and those who are seething with discontent."

Yesterday Sen. Edward W. Brooke (R-Mass.), an early backer of Rockefeller, said he will campaign vigorously for the Nixon-Agnew ticket. The Negro Senator denied reports that he would limit his campaigning to Massachusetts and not go on the national trail.

Signs of Defections

But, elsewhere, there were signs of defections among Negro Republicans.

A "Republicans for Eugene McCarthy" headquarters was opened yesterday in Knoxville, Tenn., by Republican Party members unhappy over the Nixon-Agnew combination.

A group of Negro Democrats and independents who

had organized to support Rockefeller announced in New York it couldn't go along with Nixon's candidacy. Al Duckett, a spokesman, said his group will wait to see what the Democrats do in Chicago.

"We have no candidate right now," he said. "We are just anti-Nixon."

Duckett said former baseball star Jackie Robinson, a Rockefeller adviser, had joined his organization as an honorary chairman along with the Rev. Martin Luther King Sr.

A panel of leading Negroes formed to evaluate presidential candidates will meet in Washington today to discuss the GOP convention.

The National Committee on Inquiry plans to issue rating sheets to tell black voters about the records and positions of presidential candidates. Included in the membership are Rep. John Conyers (D-Mich.), Mrs. Martin Luther King Jr., Harry Belafonte, Floyd McKissick, Sidney Poitier and the Rev. Ralph David Abernathy.

Police Workshop

RICHMOND, Aug. 9 (AP) —A criminal investigation workshop for law enforcement personnel in Virginia will be held at Virginia Commonwealth University the week of Aug. 19.

The five-day program will include subjects such as search and seizure, interrogation, surveillance, sex crimes and laws of arrest.