

Sen. Schweiker, GOP's Pariah,

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Hungers for Redemption

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HERSHEY, Pa.—For the first time since the Republican convention, Sen. Richard Schweiker—Ronald Reagan's three-week running mate—came home to face the lions of the Pennsylvania Republican Party last weekend.

The occasion was a \$125-a-plate kickoff fund-raiser for the Ford-Dole ticket and a farewell to retiring Sen. Hugh Scott, Schweiker's colleague who had triumphantly roared the Pennsylvania convention delegation's overwhelming support for President Ford in Kansas City. Pennsylvania gave Reagan fewer votes than he had expected when he picked Schweiker.

When conservative Reagan picked liberal Schweiker, their marriage of convenience made pundits and Republicans of both wings criticize Schweiker as a rank opportunist.

Pennsylvania Republicans were not silent in that criticism, but that was all politics, they say now; now is time for a linking of arms for pictures, and ritualistic expressions of love. "He is here a a Republican—and a friend,"

said Scott as he greeted Schweiker the other night.

But there are private grumblings, and not all wounds have healed. Absent was Pennsylvania's Ford campaign chairman, Drew Lewis, a friend of Schweiker's for 35 years. They were "like brothers," said one of the politicians present, but they have not spoken since the convention. Schweiker refused one call and an aide, Dave Newhall, labeled Lewis a "Judas" for not turning from Mr. Ford to Schweiker.

The smile leaves Schweiker's face when Lewis is mentioned. "I expect we're going to resume our friendship," he says.

Schweiker is fond of saying that he is independent of his party, and advantageous position for a politician who does well with independents and Democrats. He is the only senator in either party with a 100 per cent rating from the AFL-CIO for his pro-labor votes.

Lewis, a chairman of his past campaigns and a vital link for him to the party, said recently that Schweiker's first step in fence-mending would be

to campaign willingly for the entire Pennsylvania Republican ticket.

That is just what Schweiker is doing, a "selective" campaigner in the past this fall, he will go anywhere for anyone he says, "because of what happened."

Schweiker's record of flexibility is impressive. In July, he told reporters he would not mind running with Mr. Ford, although he chastised the President for "kowtowing" to Reagan.

Three weeks later he teamed with Reagan to "stop the Ford bandwagon." Last weekend he stood under a huge Ford banner and praised the President for his integrity and statesmanship: "The real reason I'm supporting President Ford is he has restored our faith in the country."

There was lukewarm applause. State Sen. and party chairman Dick Frame repeatedly had to cajole the audience to applaud Schweiker for his willingness to campaign.

A long-time Republican Party leader here busily backslapped Schweiker. But privately he said, "It wasn't what he did so much as how. He never told anyone in the party,

