

toward the end, "I want you to be my Vice President." Later Reagan called his chief of staff Mike Deaver to report: "We've had a very good meeting. I'm convinced this guy is with us on the key issues and we'll have a compatible ticket."

**THE SECRET COMES OUT**

Except for phone calls to key Reagan supporters around the country, the unlikely pairing remained top secret through the weekend until Reagan himself announced it Monday from California. "After long hours of study and discussion," he said, "I have selected a man who believes in the same basic values in which I believe: . . . a strong America . . . compassionate . . . moral and decent . . ."

In Washington, Schweiker hailed Reagan's "bold, unprecedented action" and predicted that the new ticket would unite Republicans left and right. He said he had been promised "input" to Reagan's decisions and had pledged in return to follow Reagan's conservative policies should he have to assume the Presidency. Later, he added that he would even drop his long-standing support of pro-labor legislation if the GOP platform so dictated. As a Pennsylvania senator, he explained, he represented a state with strong organized-labor interests. "I am now changing constituencies," he concluded.

But in the hours following the Schweiker announcement, the only thing that many Republicans seemed united on was outrage. "Governor Reagan's announcement appears to be an effort to exchange the second highest office in the land for a handful of delegates," said Ford campaign chairman Rogers C.B. Morton. New Hampshire Governor Thomson, who two years ago became the first major GOP officeholder to sign on with Reagan, now became the first to quit. "Reagan has . . . scuttled his own political principles," said Thomson. Connally, who got the news on his Texas ranch, left on a business trip to Washington and had his wife call the White House to arrange an appointment for

**ODD MAN IN**

to work in the family business. He married a local girl, the original "Miss Claire" of TV's Romper Room; they have five children. He also took charge of the local Jaycees, worked on campaigns and joined a conservative discussion group of young Republicans.

**Enemies List:** Schweiker began challenging the GOP Establishment in 1960 when, denied party endorsement, he wrested a Congressional seat from its GOP incumbent. A middle-of-the-roader in the House, he often broke with his party in the Senate—opposing the Vietnam war, the anti-ballistic-missile system, the Supreme Court nominations of C. Harrold Carswell and Clement Haynsworth—and in the process won a place high on Richard Nixon's enemies list. In 1974 he became one of the first Republicans to call for Nixon's resignation.

He has continued as party heretic under Gerald Ford, voting against deregulation of natural gas and for breaking up the big oil companies. He has, however, taken a conservative stand on some major issues: school prayers (he wants them), busing (he is in favor of neighborhood schools), abortion (only to save the life of the mother) and gun control (Pennsylvania issues more hunting permits than any other state).



As a sailor in World War II



James K.W. Atherton—The Washington Post

Smiles all around: Schweiker with family; Senator Laxalt is in the rear

Like his kindred spirits in the Senate's liberal Republican Wednesday Club, which he helped found, Schweiker is one of those senators who wins elections handily back home but has little standing on the Hill. He is regarded in the Senate as a "loner," his liberalism suspect as a cynical appeal to Pennsylvania's large labor and liberal vote. "Dick Schweiker is a nice guy, but I do not regard him as one of us," says one Republican senator. What influence he had was badly eroded last year when Schweiker called for a reopening of the investigation into the assassination of John Kennedy. "The Warren Commission [report] is like a house of cards," he declared. "It is going to collapse." Such flamboyance was "un-senatorial," his colleagues murmured; some blamed it on ambition and a search for publicity.

Many regard Schweiker's alliance with Reagan as equally calculated. "Schweiker's been looking for lightning to strike for a long time," says one Senate

aide. "Then Reagan came along and it fell into his lap." Until last week, Schweiker had been a Ford delegate to the GOP convention, confiding to one fellow Republican over golf recently that "Reagan's nomination would be a disaster to the party."

Whether Schweiker's overnight conversion is a sincere attempt to broaden the party's appeal, or an act of "political prostitution," as some charge, he seems to have little to lose and, at least in his view, much to gain. Shortly after Reagan picked him last week, Schweiker said privately: "If this succeeds, I can guarantee you I will be the Republican candidate for President in 1980." In addition, there is the fact that his Senate seat is secure until 1980—which gives Pennsylvania voters four long years to forget whatever misgivings they may have about their liberal senator's decision to join Ronald Reagan's campaign.

—SANDRA SALMANS with JEFF B. COPELAND in Worcester Township, Pa., and JOHN J. LINDSAY in Washington