

Rizzo Hints Switch to the GOP For Governorship Race in 1974

By John Katz
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Mayor Frank Rizzo, who
already has most of his
ties with the Democratic political
machine in Pennsylvania and the
national alliance that if Dem-
ocratic Mayor Shapp is a candi-
date for governor, Rizzo may be
involved in running for that of-
fice.

Rizzo's statement came at
his weekly City Hall news con-
ference. He said he was not
sure if he will run for governor,
perhaps even a Republican.
Aides in the city hall close
to the Democratic mayor, who
has repeatedly described Rich-
ard Nixon as "the greatest
President this country has
ever had," say Rizzo is prepar-
ing to switch to the Republi-
can Party in advance of de-
claring for governor in 1974.
Rizzo, who supported Presi-
dent Nixon's re-election last
year, severed his final ties
with the state's Democratic es-
tablishment last week. He ac-
cused Philadelphia's Demo-
cratic leader, Peter J. Camiel,
of "boasting" and promised to
fight against his party's candi-
dates for district attorney and
city controller.

The mayor has been feuding
bitterly with Shapp for nearly
a year, but until recently he
always described Camiel, the
Democratic City Committee
chairman and political leader,
as "my good friend and my po-
litical adviser."

Last week, however, Rizzo
charged that the district attor-
ney and controller candidates
were picked behind "closed
doors" and their selections
were final three weeks before
their candidacies were actu-
ally announced.

Terming the selections
"step backwards" for a good
government, Rizzo called a
press conference to demand
Camiel's resignation. He
threw out a list of names
that he said he would
work for the election of
Republican candidates.

Camiel responded that Rizzo
was upset only because he
could not dictate his choices
to the party. Camiel asserted
that Rizzo wanted "his candi-
dates" or none.

Under the provisions of the
Philadelphia City Charter,
Rizzo must resign as soon as
he declares himself a candi-
date for another elective of-
fice.

If he decides to run for gov-
ernor, he must file nominating
petitions in February of 1974,
and immediately resign, turn-
ing the mayor's chair over to
City Council President George
Schwartz, a close ally of Camiel.
Rizzo's term expires in
1976.

The mayor has created a
Charter Revision Committee
to change the charter provi-
sion requiring him to resign,
but his feud with Camiel
could mean that provision
won't be changed, since a

number of the committee
members are Democrats.

If Rizzo decides to switch to
the Republican Party, he
could do it as early as the pri-
mary election for district at-
torney and city controller in
May or as late as early 1974,
preceding the filing of nomi-
nating petitions.

The Democratic candidate
Rizzo opposes, Emmett Fitzpat-
rick, is supported by virtu-
ally every element of the mayor
party. The Democratic Party
includes Gov. Shapp, U.S.
Rep. William Green of Phila-
delphia and council president
Schwartz.

He is not going to let me and
my men put down in order
to turn on him when he was
aid one of Rizzo's closest po-
litical advisers. "We'll have
enough trouble as it is."

Fitzpatrick was chosen at a
meeting of the Democratic
City Committee a week ago
Sunday. He will oppose Re-
publican Arlen Specter in the
November election.

At his weekly press confer-
ence today, Rizzo insisted his
only strategy is to let the
Democratic candidates lose
and then let Sen. Camiel
(Camiel is a state senator) fall
flat on his face. "Then maybe
the ward leaders will do the
job (of removing Camiel) for
me."

The mayor said people are
fed up with politicians who
are only in the game of polit-
ics for their own personal
gain.