

# 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 good  
government, Rizzo called a  
press conference to demand  
Camiel's resignation and to  
throw out the candidates who  
threw the fight and to work  
for the election of the  
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 the mayor  
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.