

Rowland Evans and Robert Novak

Goldwater's Warning

Sen. Barry Goldwater, the conservative Republican elder whose advice on the Agnew affair is widely respected, has privately warned President Nixon through intermediaries that a vice presidential vacancy would be no blessing either for the President or his party.

Goldwater declines to confirm or deny that he has discussed the Agnew affair with the White House. In truth, however, the senator specifically told Mr. Nixon that either Gov. Nelson Rockefeller or John B. Connally would "split the GOP" if named to succeed Agnew.

He was reacting to widespread reports of the White House plotting Agnew's early exit, thus giving Mr. Nixon the opportunity not only to anoint his successor but also to pull public attention off Watergate by naming a new Vice President.

Not so, Goldwater is said by high party officials to have warned the White House. If Agnew resigned, Mr. Nixon could not name a prospective 1976 Republican presidential candidate without doing serious damage to the Republican Party.

The reason: party factions controlled

by a leader not named to the vacancy would resent the new Vice President having a long leg up on the 1976 nomination. Consequently, creation of a vacancy in the vice presidency during a time that the President himself is at so low an ebb of popularity could splinter the party.

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Democratic politicians are grumbling that Baltimore City Councilwoman Barbara Mikulski has not only sold out to the extreme reformers as chairman of the party's Delegate Selection Commission but has compounded that error by needlessly offending Jewish voters.

Miss Mikulski scheduled working sessions of her commission's 17-member drafting committee over two weekends to coincide with the two most important Jewish religious holidays, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

When this was pointed out to Miss Mikulski, she responded that no member of the drafting committee or the commission staff is Jewish, so it did not make any difference. But it did make a difference to Democratic National Chairman Robert Strauss, who

is Jewish and was personally offended by Miss Mikulski's attitude.

Moreover, many non-Jewish Democratic politicians felt that both the unintentional exclusion of Jews from the reformer-dominated drafting committee handpicked by Miss Mikulski and her scheduling of the meetings showed insensitivity to a harsh political reality: the 1972 convention delegate quotas, now being reconsidered by the Mikulski Commission, contributed to massive Jewish defections from Sen. George McGovern.

So George Barrett, a labor lawyer from Nashville, Tenn., made one last effort in the drafting committee Sept. 30. Could the committee at least recess between Friday sundown Oct. 5 and Saturday sundown Oct. 6, the 24 hours of Yom Kippur? Miss Mikulski objected on grounds the agenda could not be changed.

Two months earlier, she had been asked by Lawrence Peirez, chairman of the National Civil Rights Committee of the Anti-Defamation League, not to schedule meetings that would "conflict with days of holy obligation, high holidays or the Sabbath."

That Aug. 8 letter from Peirez also

complained that commission hearings were not conducted in three states with heavy Jewish population: New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. "This commission has frustrated its charge by skipping over these areas in which the majority of Jewish voters live," he wrote. "This is the antithesis of affirmative action (to insure minority representation)."

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Key advisers to Gov. Dale Bumpers of Arkansas, including some of the state's powerful Democratic politicians, are privately pushing him to run against one of the Senate's most important doves: Sen. J. W. Fulbright, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Bumpers, 48, still popular after three years as governor, would be strongly favored to defeat Fulbright, first elected to the Senate in 1944, in the 1974 Democratic primary. But Bumpers, hoping for a place on the national ticket in 1976 and backed by several Democratic governors as a presidential darkhorse, will think twice about alienating the politically potent peace bloc by opposing Fulbright.

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