

If other papers treat Agnew's 8/18/73 appearance at Centerville, Md., as the WxPost did, what

I regard as a significant indication will be lost. Under any circumstances I would consider an audience of 1,000 for a v.p. an affront to him or a reflection of low esteem. In that constituency and for that occasion, the small size of the crowd is astounding. Centerville is on the upper Eastern Shore of the Chesapeake. The entire Eastern Shore is quite conservative, and not only politically. It is an old-timey place, one of the most hospitable. The politics of the constituency in which Agnew appeared are ultra. The man he supported is an ultra-ultra, about as far to the right as one can get and not be off the political map. He, this candidate, Bauman, has always had his own constituency. He has just led a fight in the state legislature that must have made him more popular in that land in which hunting is so popular—a fight against the gun-control measure. Ordinarily I'd expect Bauman alone to draw that many people or more. (The opening comes from the suicide of the man who had taken Rogers Morton's place. He had gotten some of Nixon's cash loot, unaccounted and through Morton. His name was Mills. He seems to have been the only recipient of Nixon's cash to have been strongly repentant, to have had very deep misgivings. Agnew sunk to the occasion, dewatering the national sobbing and calling for interests in other things more important to him. At a time when man after man has confessed putting graft in his hot, sticky hands! In that constituency, one that considers itself moral and old-fashioned, it may not have been the best appeal for Bauman. For GLs junior and senior and the TV coverage, maybe. If Bauman doesn't win big, it will be a measure of The Watergate's impact on natural Nixonians. HW 8/19/73