

AGNEW DISCOUNTS

A CONNALLY RACE

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Says Republican Convention Will Not Name Democrat for Vice Presidency

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WASHINGTON, May 19—

Vice President Agnew said today that it would be "totally unrealistic" to expect the Republican National Convention to replace him with John B. Connally, the retiring Secretary of the Treasury.

"I don't understand how anybody could seriously believe that a man who is registered as a Democrat in the middle of May can turn Republican and be nominated Vice President," Mr. Agnew said.

President Nixon, in announcing Mr. Connally's resignation earlier this week, praised him so effusively that it revived speculation that he might find some new post for Mr. Agnew and invite the Texas Democrat to join the Republican ticket.

Mr. Connally has privately and publicly insisted that while he might be receptive to such an offer, he does not believe the President will make it. The Secretary, who will remain in his post until his successor, George P. Shulz, is confirmed by the Senate has indicated that he will campaign for the President this fall, and some of his friends believe that he might switch parties as well.

In response to questions, Mr. Agnew, who appeared some-

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what nettled by the questioning, said he was not going to "pre-decide" his own political future "until I'm asked." He said the President had yet to ask him to be his running mate again, and that Mr. Nixon had every right to delay his choice.

However, he emphasized, "Mr. Connally is just not it."

The Vice President described Mr. Connally as a "capable and dynamic" man. But he said

"any political pro will tell you" that Mr. Connally "is not a realistic alternative." Mr. Agnew said that the Republican convention would be unlikely to reverse old loyalties and give the nomination to a man identified so long and so prominently with the Democratic party.

Mr. Agnew appeared before newsmen at the White House after a 40-minute meeting with the President. He reported on his recent trip to Japan, Thailand and South Vietnam.

When asked if the White

House had any comment on Mr. Agnew's views, a press spokesman said, "I just don't have anything to add to it."

Vice President Agnew was the guest of honor tonight at a gala show starring Bob Hope and Frank Sinatra. The event was aimed at bolstering the state Republican campaign treasury. Seats for the show ranged from \$100 to \$250 at a "Salute to Ted Agnew night."

The two-hour performance and testimonial for the former Maryland Governor included stage, screen and sports stars.

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