

Why Agnew Is Running

Nixon Pledge Reported

By J. F. Ter Horst
N.A.N.A.

Miami Beach

Spiro T. Agnew agreed to be President Nixon's running mate again this year with the understanding that he will have a "clean shot" at the Republican presidential nomination in 1976.

Without such an agreement, according to a high

White House

source, Agnew would not be in Miami Beach preparing to accept the

vice presidential renomination from the GOP convention.

The agreement is not cast in concrete. But it is as firm as any pact upon which two politicians shake hands. A Republican close to both men calls it "realistic."

It commits Mr. Nixon to an assurance that he will not erect roadblocks to an Agnew candidacy in 1972, win or lose the White House this November.

It means, at least in Agnew's view, that the President will not openly back another man for the GOP nomination four years from now so long as Agnew is interested and so long as his rapport with Mr. Nixon remains solid.

CONNALLY

That sanction particularly applies to former Texas Governor John B. Connally, the former Treasury Secretary now leading a "Democrats for Nixon" crusade.

As one high-placed Republican put it:

"If Ted (Agnew) wants to do his thing, he has a green light from the President. Otherwise, why be vice president for four more years and go through all this again?"

"On the other hand, Ted will have to earn it on his own. The President can't deliver it to him in '76. But he (Agnew) can assume that the President won't promote somebody else — like Connally — at Ted's expense."

Agnew has signaled a

slightly different role for himself ever since July 22, a week after the Democratic convention, when Mr. Nixon announced that Agnew again would be his choice for vice president.

COOL

A cooler, more confident, less of a hip-shooting Agnew has emerged here in Miami Beach — one who apparently has more than a vice presidency on his mind.

Many Republican delegates here sense it, too.

Southerners, conservatives and small-state Republicans blocked a big-state bid for a larger share of the 1976 convention delegates on grounds that it represents an effort to block an Agnew nomination four years hence.

At a reception in his honor at an estate overlooking Bis-

cayne Bay, Agnew told reporters that the rules reform battle "should not be interpreted as favoring one candidate over another" for 1976.

But he acknowledged that he has more than a passing interest in the GOP nomination then.

"I think I could appeal to a broad cross section of the Republican party," he said, adding that at this stage he is just "keeping my options open."

ROLE

That process could mean a different kind of stumping for Agnew than the free-swinging style he demonstrated in 1968 and in the off-year congressional elections of 1970.

It's no secret, according to those close to him, that the vice president wants to be

known as something more than a Nixon hatchet man of the press, Democrats and liberals.

At the same time, he is aware that he gained his present stature with the public in precisely that fashion. He has decided to try to broaden his public appeal without losing that ardent base of support.

One big reason is Connally. The handsome Nixon confidante still says he's a Democrat. Until he formally changes political horses, it's inconceivable, as Agnew has said, that he can be nominated for any national post by a Republican convention.

The betting around Agnew is that Connally will switch parties by the 1974 congressional election year—if Mr. Nixon wins re-election this November and if Connally

decides his political future can only be realized within the GOP.

Again



AP Wirephoto

A Job for Two

California's Governor Ronald Reagan, who was temporary chairman of the Republican national convention in Miami, turned the hefty convention gavel over to the permanent chair-

man yesterday afternoon. Representative Gerald R. Ford of Michigan will wield the gavel until the convention's close sometime tonight.