

Strauss Hits 'Hero' Image Of Agnew

From News Dispatches

Democratic National Chairman Robert Strauss said yesterday he does not consider Spiro T. Agnew a "heroic, self-sacrificing man" who resigned as Vice President merely for the good of the nation.

Strauss said it wasn't the national interest that led Agnew to resign under negotiations that included a promise he would not be imprisoned for income tax evasion.

Strauss also commented, in an interview during an appearance at the Western State Democratic Conference, that he is sympathetic with Agnew's personal plight, but added: "I refuse to buy this posture they are trying to put him in as this brave, heroic, self-sacrificing man who resigned in the nation's interest."

Senate Republican Whip Robert P. Griffin of Michigan proposed that Congress have the final say in who will be Vice President in the future to assure that the nominees get more careful scrutiny.

He said he may propose a constitutional amendment to permit a Vice President to be nominated after the President is elected but before inauguration. The President would submit his nomination to Congress for confirmation or perhaps give Congress a choice of three names.

Meanwhile, he said, both parties can do a more careful job at their conventions.

Griffin appeared on the ABC television program "Issues and Answers" (WMAL) with Sen. Robert C. Byrd (D-W. Va.), who also said a mechanism is needed to be sure vice presidential nominees get close scrutiny.

In Las Vegas, publisher Hank Greenspun labeled the former Vice President a "cheap, crooked ward heeler," in a front-page editorial in yesterday's Las Vegas Sun.

Greenspun said he feels no compassion for Agnew, because he "catered to fat cats who stuffed his pockets with bribes."

Greenspun added. "And it is not that he came to Las Vegas in 1970 to speak for the election of the Republican candidate of the U.S. Senate at which time he called me a radical that I cannot find tears for this cheap, crooked ward heeler, but because he ridiculed and bullied the poorest people in the land while catering to the big fat cats who stuffed his pockets with bribes."