

Special Republican Panel Will Meet Nixon Monday

Committee Created in Party Crisis of '64
and Newly Revived Accepts President's
Invitation—Some Oppose a 'Pep Rally'

By CHRISTOPHER LYDON
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Nov. 9—A Republican "coordinating committee," born in the party crisis that followed the Goldwater defeat of 1964 and revived in the crisis over President Nixon's leadership, accepted today Mr. Nixon's invitation to a White House breakfast on Monday.

But restless party leaders indicated that they would not allow the meeting to be turned into a "Nixon pep rally." And some said the real purpose of the committee was to put more distance between the embattled President and the Republican party cause.

Several members of the 28-member group suggested today that they would stress to the President the urgency of a personal appearance by him before the Senate Watergate committee or perhaps the full Congress, and full disclosure of the Watergate tapes and other secret White House records.

George Bush, the Republicans' national chairman, said today that he was authorized to reconvene the coordinating committee at a meeting Sept. 10 of the Republican National Committee.

Atmosphere of Concern

Invitations to Monday's session, the first in more than five years, were issued six weeks later, on Oct. 23, after the forcible departure, three days earlier, of the Watergate special prosecutor, Archibald Cox, Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson and his deputy, William D. Ruckelshaus.

An atmosphere of concern stemming from that "Saturday night massacre," as many Republicans now call it, compounded by generally disappointing Republican performances in scattered elections Tuesday, hangs over Monday's meeting.

"A lot of Republican incumbents are worried now that Watergate is going to be affecting them in the not too distant future," said the spokesman for one of the five Governors on the coordinating committee.

"The party has to demonstrate," said another Governor who will attend the Monday meeting, "that it wasn't a part of Watergate or even of the President's campaign."

'Good First Step'

Representative John B. Anderson of Illinois, chairman of the House Republican Conference and a member of the coordinating group, commented hopefully this afternoon that Monday's breakfast would extend the discussion opened today between Mr. Nixon and Congressional Republicans. The White House meeting today, Mr. Anderson said, was "a very, very good first step in opening up dialogue and getting some concrete suggestions on the table."

"I certainly got the impression that the President senses the gravity of the situation," Mr. Anderson added. Yet he said the possibilities of Mr. Nixon's impeachment or forced resignation remained implicitly part of the discussion. "The very fact that these meetings are being held is eloquent testimony to the fact that those things are not just academic topics."

Other members of the coordinating committee have expressed varying degrees of uncertainty that Mr. Nixon could recover his popular mandate.

Senator Barry Goldwater of

Arizona, granted a place on the coordinating committee as a former Presidential candidate, said earlier this week, "The only way he has out now would be to show up some morning at the Ervin committee and say, 'Here I am, Sam [to Senator Ervin, Democrat of North Carolina, chairman of the Watergate panel]. What do you want to know?'"

Gov. Robert Ray of Iowa, a member of the coordinating committee, said in Des Moines yesterday that in the face of impeachment and resignation pressures on Mr. Nixon, "perhaps the only alternative left is an appearance by the President before the Senate Watergate committee."

Gov. Francis W. Sargent of Massachusetts, another coordinating committee member, said today "I don't see how" Mr. Nixon could recover.

Members Listed

The coordinating committee, which lists President Nixon as an "honorary member," includes the following:

Senators Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania, Robert P. Griffin of Michigan, Norris Cotton of New Hampshire, Wallace F. Bennett of Utah, John G. Tower of Texas and Bill Brock of Tennessee.

Also, Governors Linwood Holton of Virginia, Winfield Dunn of Tennessee, Jack Williams of Arizona, Mr. Sargent and Mr. Ray.

Also, Representatives—Gerald R. Ford of Michigan, Leslie C. Arends, Robert H. Michael and Mr. Anderson of Illinois, John J. Rhodes of Arizona, Samuel L. Devine of Ohio, Jack Edwards of Alabama, Barber B. Conable Jr. of Upstate New York, and Dave Martin of Nebraska.

Also, Mr. Bush and Janet J. Johnston, his co-chairman of the Republican National Committee, and four regional officers of the national party organization: Ray C. Bliss of Ohio, Mrs. J. Willard Marriott of Washington, D.C., Mrs. Paula F. Hawkins of Florida and Mrs. Isabel C. Moberly of Montana.

Alfred M. Landon of Kansas, the Republican presidential candidate in 1936, qualifies with Senator Goldwater for membership in the coordinating committee as former nominees. In a telephone interview from Topeka today, Mr. Landon said he would not attend the meeting but would urge Mr. Nixon to hold fast and his critics to "put up or shut up" on impeachment. "I haven't seen the slightest evidence of any facts that would warrant impeachment," Mr. Landon said.

Pentagon Says Fitzgerald Has Been Given New Job

WASHINGTON, Nov. 9 (AP)—A. Ernest Fitzgerald, dismissed nearly three years ago after disclosing a \$2-billion cost overrun on the C-5A transport plane, has been assigned a new job with the Air Force, the Pentagon said today.

Mr. Fitzgerald, after waging a constant fight for reinstatement, returns to the Pentagon only after the Civil Service Commission ordered him reinstated with back pay.

Reached shortly after the Pentagon announcement, Mr. Fitzgerald said the Air Force had made no specific job offer to him, although he has an appointment scheduled at the Pentagon Monday.