

# Votes: Hill Record Reflects Political Pragmatism

By George Lardner Jr.

Washington Post Staff Writer

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Little more than three years ago, Vice President Spiro T. Agnew brought his crusade against permissiveness to Grand Rapids, Mich., for a fund-raising dinner on behalf of the hometown congressman.

In his abrasive style, Agnew rushed into his appeal for Republican votes with a series of sharp warnings against Democratic politicians who "vote to weaken our defenses . . . to weaken

our moral fiber . . . to weaken the forces of law."

It was standard GOP strategy in the elections that fall, but the congressman from Grand Rapids, House Minority Leader Gerald R. Ford (R-Mich.), knew better than to embrace it. He ran as "a man of peace." And while Republicans generally were taking a licking at the polls, Jerry Ford won re-election once again, with more than 60 per cent of the vote.

"He's basically conservative," a Ford aide says of the man whom President Nixon has now chosen as Agnew's successor. "But he always runs on a positive slogan. He's definitely in the mainstream of the Republican Party."

His critics back home in Grand Rapids put it more caustically, but they don't deny Ford's formula for success. It has been frustrating the Democrats of Michigan's Fifth Congressional District for years.

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