

Republicans May Turn to Reagan

Washington

Unless the war is ended and the economic situation is improved, there may not be a Nixon-Agnew ticket in 1972, Senator Mark O. Hatfield (Rep.-Ore.) said yesterday.

The Republican beneficiary of such a development, Hatfield added, would be Governor Ronald Reagan of California.

"I'm not making these as predictions," Hatfield said. "But I want to make very clear that Mr. Nixon has to deliver."

Hatfield, interviewed on *Metromedia* Radio news, said that unless conditions improve, President Nixon may do as former President Lyndon Johnson did in 1968—withdraw as a candidate.

"I think the people of his country elected Mr. Nixon in great numbers on the basis that they were disenchanted with the previous Administration on the war issue, on the problems of the economic life, and they expected a change," Hatfield said.

"Mr. Nixon has yet to produce that change. I think the congressional elections will reflect that in 1970, and therefore, I would say that it might be a moot point as to whether you would commit yourself to the Nixon-Agnew ticket in 1972 at this time, because there just may not be one fielded," Hatfield said.

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Considering the present rate and direction of Mr. Nixon's actions, Hatfield said

he is somewhat skeptical as to the President's ability to end the war and improve the economy. If the goals are met, the Senator added, Mr. Nixon would be renominated and easily re-elected.

If Republicans feel the need to dump Nixon, the logical choice would be Reagan, Hatfield said.

"There's no secret that Governor Reagan and the President are not the closest

of political friends," Hatfield said. He said many delegates of the 1968 Republican National Convention "voted as delegates for Richard Nixon, but their heart was with Ronald Reagan, and therefore, there's every possibility that . . . Reagan could lead some kind of an insurgency."

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