

OCT 4 1971
NYTimes

24

C

REAGAN TO WORK FOR NIXON IN '72

Backs President in Speech
to G.O.P. in California

By WALLACE TURNER
Special to The New York Times

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 3— Gov. Ronald Reagan made it clear to delegates to the California Republican State Central Committee convention this weekend that the Reagan Here-sy was dead and that he would be a Nixon man all the way in 1972.

This means that President Nixon is in complete control of his party in his home state. It was not always thus. In 1968 Governor Reagan, backed by some conservatives, tried unsuccessfully to snatch the Republican nomination from Mr. Nixon. And, in the first two years of the Nixon Administration, Mr. Reagan was the nucleus of right-wing Republican agitation against the President and his advisers.

"Unlike our opponents, we have a pretty good idea who our nominee will be," Governor Reagan told 1,200 delegates in a speech last night at the Ambassador Hotel here. He also defended the President's forthcoming trip to China.

State Delegation

Mr. Reagan also said that, by Presidential invitation, he had accepted the assignment to organize and lead the Republican National Convention delegation from California. But he added that the "final approval [of delegates] will be in the President's hand."

Mr. Nixon's interests have been watched over at the State convention by Attorney General John N. Mitchell, who spoke Friday night to urge selfless unity in support of Mr. Nixon's re-election. Robert H. Finch, a Presidential counselor, former Lieutenant Governor of California and no close friend of Mr. Reagan, also attended the convention.

In his speech last night, Governor Reagan poked fun at the Democratic Presidential candi-

dates with some new "one-liners," including the following samples:

¶"Up in San Francisco, John Lindsay said he had the second hardest job in the country — and it probably is; the way he does it."

¶"Senator McGovern has been around testing the water — probably to see if Teddy can walk on it."

¶"They [the Democrats] may not have cured poverty, but they've sure cured wealth."

For close followers of political trends in this state, Governor Reagan's defense of the new Nixon policy on China was the most significant section of his speech.

The Governor, who does not read a speech well, usually speaks from note cards; his press secretary customarily distributes in advance materials that are described as excerpts and that cover the same subject matter as the notes from which he will speak.

The China material was omitted, however, from Mr. Reagan's advance excerpts for his speech last night.

Support for Taiwan

Continued support of the Nationalist China regime in Taiwan is important to the conservative Republicans in California. The forthcoming Nixon trip to Peking has caused some of these Republicans to threaten that they will "withhold support" from Mr. Nixon in the campaign next year.

As Mr. Reagan quoted the conservatives, they have said, "If Hubert Humphrey had been elected and had made this [China] announcement, we would be rising up in a storm of opposition."

"Of course we would," Mr. Reagan said, adding that he believed this would have been justified because Mr. Humphrey is a Democrat.

In the Governor's opinion, Democratic Presidents have brought back "the bitter fruit of appeasement from Yalta and Potsdam," "snatched defeat from the jaws of victory," "lacked the will and intelligence" to win in the Cuban missile crisis, "disgraced us at the Bay of Pigs" and "lacked the will and wisdom to exact a victory as the price for the young Americans who died in Vietnam."

But of Mr. Nixon, the Governor said, "This is a Republi-

can President." The President "has said only, 'I will go and talk; I have no intention of abandoning old friends or allies,'" Mr. Reagan added.

Recalls 'Kitchen Debate'

The Governor also said that, in the 1959 "kitchen debate" between Mr. Nixon, who was then Vice President, and the late Nikita Khrushchev, Mr. Nixon answered the Soviet Premier's "blustering threats" with these words: "Try it and we'll kick hell out of you." The audience at the Ambassador Hotel cheered.

"Until he [Mr. Nixon] gives some hint that he has undergone a massive change of personality, which I doubt, I think he deserves our confidence, our prayers and our best wishes," Mr. Reagan said.

A well-informed Republican source said Governor Reagan was convinced that, unless wholehearted support was given to Mr. Nixon, he would lose next year's election. This source also said that the President and his national security adviser, Henry M. Kissinger, have briefed Mr. Reagan extensively about the forthcoming trip to China.