

Anti-Nixon Grumbling at Oakland Meeting of CRA

By Sydney Kossen
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Republican leaders failed to squelch anti-Nixon rumblings at a statewide meeting of party volunteers in Oakland yesterday.

But the disenchanted ultra-conservatives are likely to be gaveled into silence today at the closing session of a California Republican Assembly directors' conference.

There were unity pleas from the platform, in lunch and dinner speeches and even a written message yesterday from Governor Reagan.

Ashbrook

This failed to dissuade supporters of Rep. John M. Ashbrook, the Ohio right winger challenging President Nixon for the GOP nomination.

The vocal coalition from the Bay Area and Orange County caucused in a Lemington Hotel hospitality room.

Mrs. Ann Olson, a middle aged matron of 2615 Madeline St., Oakland, told The Examiner she voted for Nixon in 1968 but now is for Ash-

brook "because President Nixon turned out to be a Socialist. He is selling us down the river to the Communists by going to China, by his revenue sharing program, by his big spending and wasting the taxpayers' money.

"Why does he need four White Houses? Such extravagance! And those yachts."

China Trip Hit

"I don't agree with the President's trip to China either," said State Senator Clark Bradley of San Jose. "And I don't agree with his deficit financing. But I don't think this country can afford anybody but Richard Nixon for President."

Bradley, a conservative veteran of more than two decades in the Legislature, said later in a keynote speech:

"There may be further Democratic candidates lying in the bullrushes. But you can take those who have surfaced, and if there's one we can afford for President, I haven't seen him."

CRA President Hugh S. Koford of Castro Valley re-

ferred to the Ashbrook boosters as a "small but loud and efficient group." Koford, an Oakland attorney, would rule out of order any "dump Nixon" resolution brought to the floor today.

Any move by the 12,500-member CRA to declare a presidential choice must wait for its endorsing convention April 7 to 9 in Palo Alto.

Koford said he is "absolutely horrified" by the President's wage and price control program and "very disappointed" in his deficit spending but he added:

"If we come up with an endorsement of Ashbrook or a rejection of the President it would be a serious blow to President Nixon in this key state."

Strong support of Nixon was voiced in speeches by Rep. John H. Rousselot of San Marino, a life member of the radical right John Birch Society, and by Harry Dent, special counsel to the President on Southern strategy and former South Carolina GOP chairman.