

Grievances Aired

CRA Critical, Loyal to Nixon

By Sydney Kossen
Political Editor

President Nixon's deficit spending and his coming trip to Communist China are deplored by the 12,500 member California Republican Assembly.

But no "dump Nixon" resolution reached the floor at yesterday's closing session of a CRA directors' convention in Oakland.

Key officers are critical but loyal to the President.

Ashbrook Backers

Yet an impact was made by dissident directors leaning toward the presidential challenge of Rep. John M. Ashbrook of Ohio.

Led by Steve Downard of San Francisco, they won approval of a resolution condemning the President's plan to spend \$2.5 billion in aid to North Vietnam when the war ends.

This, Downard suggested, is an example of why he has "serious doubts that President Nixon can get conservatives to work for him again."

An industrial leasing executive, Downard said in an interview, "I have great respect for what Congressman Ashbrook is doing. He is trying to get the President to turn around on several important issues."

April Battle

"Ashbrook is just coming into the state," said Al Solomon, an Orange County GOP activist. "This weekend wasn't the time to put up a fight for him."

The Ashbrook boosters said they are girding for battle at the CRA endorsing convention April 7-9 in Palo Alto.

CRA President Hugh S. Koford of Castro Valley predicted that the anti-Nixon Republicans will fail to block an endorsement of the President's second term candidacy.

Koford and other conservatives aired their grievances in a private 2½ hour meeting

Saturday night in a Leamington Hotel room with Harry Dent, special counsel to the President.

McCloskey

"Dent assured us our apprehensions will be communicated to the White House," Koford said. "A top representative of the President will be present at our convention in Palo Alto, if not the President himself."

Ashbrook already has accepted a CRA convention bid, but Koford said no response has come from Nixon's liberal challenger, Rep. Paul N. McCloskey Jr. of San Mateo County.

Los Angeles County Assemblyman Floyd Wakefield's anti-busing initiative won CRA support.