

G.O.P. Right Fights Nixon Coast Slate

By WALLACE TURNER

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The Republican right has moved to attempt to drain away President Nixon's strength in his home state in retaliation for political moves that it opposes.

A slate of 96 delegates pledged to support Representative John M. Ashbrook's candidacy was filed last week with the California Secretary of State. The delegates would attend the Republican National Convention to vote for the Ohio Representative if he should win the Republican Presidential primary in California on June 6.

Trevor C. Roberts, who helped organize the slate of pledged delegates, said his effort had the backing of leading members of United Republicans of California and the California Republican Assembly. These groups are rightist dominated, in the view of observers here, and are not so strong as they once were.

"I feel that the Republican party ought to be alerted to the fact that Nixon is no great vote getter here in his home state," Mr. Roberts said in a telephone interview.

"No one really realizes the

number of people who want to work on the Ashbrook campaign," Mr. Roberts said. "There is a deep disenchantment in the Republican party."

He said also: "A lot of people on the Nixon delegation have told me they're really for Ashbrook. They're in agony at being on the Nixon slate." Mr. Roberts would not name these persons, however.

Members of slates for the Presidential primary in this state must sign statements promising they will vote for the candidate for whom the slate is drawn. Gov. Ronald Reagan is chairman of the Nixon delegation.

Others on Slate

Leland M. Kaiser, a heavy contributor to Republican causes for many years, is a big financial backer of the Ashbrook slate. Mr. Kaiser, who was a member of the Nixon campaign finance committee in 1968, is Mr. Roberts's father-in-law and is honorary chairman of the Ashbrook slate.

Representative John G. Schmitz, who represents President Nixon's district at San Clemente, is a member of the Ashbrook slate.

Others include Willis Stone, author of the Liberty Amendment that would abolish the

income tax; Mrs. Ruth W. Brennan, wife of Walter Brennan, the conservative actor, and Mrs. Ruth Wakefield, wife of Assemblyman Floyd L. Wakefield, a leading Republican conservative in the Legislature.

Mr. Roberts said he was not dismayed by the results of an opinion sampling announced last week by the California Poll. This showed that Mr. Nixon would get 74 per cent of the vote in the primary, that Representative Paul N. McCloskey Jr., the liberal Republican who is also campaigning against Mr. Nixon, would get 11 per cent, and Mr. Ashbrook 7 per cent. Eight per cent were undecided.

According to Mr. Roberts, the Ashbrook attack in California will be based on criticism of the Nixon foreign policy, support of Mr. Ashbrook's demand for a constitutional amendment to forbid busing to achieve racial balance in schools, support of the Taiwan Government, a demand for a stronger defense posture and "criticism of the Nixon fiscal irresponsibility."

"We don't see why we should cotton up to our avowed enemies overseas and sell our friends in Taiwan down the river," Mr. Roberts said.