

CRA Backs Nixon -- Heavy Lobbying

By Sydney Kossen
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A great deal of hotel corridor pleading and hospitality room lobbying went into the California Republican Assembly's endorsement of President Nixon.

In addition, the conservative delegates and guests at the weekend convention in Palo Alto were urged to help re-elect Nixon by Vice President Agnew, Governor Reagan, Sen. Barry Goldwater and former Deputy Defense Secretary David Packard.

Among those working behind the scenes was Lyn Nofziger, the President's

California campaign manager and former communications director for both Governor Reagan and, more recently, the Republican National Committee.

14 Votes Short

California's oldest grassroots Republican organization voted 211 to 86 yesterday to support Nixon after a two-hour debate in the Cabana Hyatt House.

Hard-core backers of Rep. John M. Ashbrook of Ohio fell 14 votes short of blocking the endorsement, which required a two-thirds vote.

"I am not in total agreement with the President but . . . it is easier to work with a Republican President than it is with a Democrat, and when I think of the alternatives on the other side, it really gives me a chill," said Goldwater in a wire read to the convention by CRA past president Robert Barkell of Berkeley.

Ashbrook, the President's only opponent in the June 6 California GOP primary, made a personal plea for CRA support.

CRA Race

"The time for fun and games, the time for pressuring the President is past. It is tremendously important that we endorse the President," said Dick Darling of Riverside, who earlier had leaned toward Ashbrook.

Darling was a candidate for CRA president. Some saw his declaration of allegiance to Nixon as an attempt to siphon votes away from his leading opponent, Don Pretzer of Thousand Oaks, who had shunned the Ashbrook camp.

Pretzer won. The 40 year

Nixon's Own District Voted Against Him

Delegates from President Nixon's own congressional district voted 19 to 5 against his endorsement at the CRA convention yesterday in Palo Alto.

No one seemed surprised. San Clemente is in the 35th Congressional District, represented by John G. Schmitz, a John Birch Society member and the only state or federal lawmaker on the Ashbrook-pledged presidential slate on the primary ballot.

old aerospace physicist also defeated John Kosha, an Orange County Ashbrook backer.

Another Group

Ashbrook is expected to be endorsed next month in San Jose at the convention of another volunteer group, United Republicans of California, whose state chairman, Walter Hintzen of Santa Barbara calls Nixon a socialist.

The CRA's endorsement statement praises Nixon for "courageous efforts in dealing with the broad spectrum of international and domestic issues" but pleads for a change of direction of welfare, revenue sharing and deficit spending.