

Nixon slated to receive the Joseph Alsop Medal?

NEW YORK — The Republicans are getting ready to hold their convention and I am getting ready to go on vacation, so as a parting shot here is the inside dope on the awards program Clark MacGregor is planning, which he hopes will give the big show at Miami Beach some suspense and pizzazz. Remember, you read it here first, last and only.

The biggest news may be the Orwell Award, which has been voted unanimously to Sen. Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania. The award is to be given for the best demonstration of the art of Newspeak, and the judges were Melvin Laird, Herb Klein and Gen. John P. Lavelle. They ruled that Scott had come about as close as anyone could to the ideal Newspeak formulation, "War is peace," when he nominated President Nixon for the Nobel Peace Prize.

One award already made will be proudly noted at Miami Beach. It did not get much space in the Eastern Establishment, but Vice President Agnew recently won the 1972 William C. Westmoreland Prize, which is given to the person who in the opinion of the judges has seen the light at the end of the tunnel from farthest away. There was no real competition for this year's Westy, as they call it in the Map Room, after Agnew returned in May from a Far Eastern trip and reported: "As I choppered over Saigon, I have never seen it look as relaxed as it did this time."

Lindsay award

Meanwhile, although it is not official as yet, insiders know that this year's John V. Lindsay Oratorical Badge will be pinned on Gov. Nelson Rockefeller of New York, just after he nominates Richard Nixon for President at Miami Beach. The coveted badge, which is made of a lot of brass and some gall, goes quadrennially to the Republican convention speaker who best exemplifies the American political tradition of putting party above self, or vice versa, whichever comes first.

Not all the honors are going to the Eastern Seaboard. Fittingly enough, the Goldwater-Miller Prize — his-and-her tickets to the \$100-a-plate dinner of your choice—will go at the convention to the West's Ronald Reagan, who is governor of California when in this country, annually presented to the man considered to have adhered most rigidly to the conservative principles of those for whom the prize is named. The G-M was earned by Reagan for his statement that he would have opposed Nixon's visit to China if Nixon had been a Democrat.

The Dita Beard Cup for the Greatest Single Contribution to the Republican party will go to—of—, whose "Noble commitment" of—was received by Maurice Stans before

April 17, and therefore does not have to be disclosed, and certainly won't be.

Unhappily, the Charles Colson Communications Award will not be offered as originally planned, since the prospective recipients are all in jail or on the lam.

Naturally, Nixon, the old pro himself, is in for a bagful of honors after they bang down the gavel at Miami Beach. In addition

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to the prospective Nobel Peace Prize, which Scott hopes to be able to announce right after the Murray Chotiner Clean-Campaign Award and the David Eisenhower Jocks-for-Peace Citation, a highly regarded Joseph Alsop Medal may go to the President. The Alsop medal, of course, is offered only for the imagination and foresight needed to identify and make public a major new threat to American security.

First Alsop medal

The first Alsop medal went to John Foster Dulles for the domino theory. The second went to Joseph Alsop for the missile gap of 1959-60. The third was shared by Dean Rusk and Hubert H. Humphrey for their joint discovery of "a billion Chinese" representing "Asian communism with its headquarters in Peking, China." And although it has never been announced until now, another Alsop medal, stamped "Confidential," was presented in a secret ceremony at the Pentagon to the anonymous authors of the two-and-a-half war theory on which the defense budget is based.

If Nixon does take down an Alsop this year, it will reportedly be for his nearly single-handed discovery of the coming bloodbath in South Vietnam, if a Communist government should ever be installed there. The President has been skillfully constructing his bloodbath theory for several years, but climaxed his labors just this week with the announcement that if "the United States followed the course of action recommended by some of those who have voted for the so-called end-the-war resolution in the Senate of the United States, it would mean that there would be visited upon South Vietnam the same atrocities that were visited upon North Vietnam, with perhaps at least one million marked for assassination. . ."

The presidential research that went into this conclusion must have been breathtaking. Nixon said, for example, that "a minimum of 500,000 were murdered, assassinated" in North Vietnam in 1954-56. No other scholar had ever put the figure higher than 50,000 and many have thought it to have been more like 10- or 15,000. This alone probably is enough to earn Nixon an Alsop medal, and welcome to it.