

President's Surrogates to Step Up Campaign Tempo

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In the next few days, a carefully chosen team of veteran politicians will fan out across the country to celebrate and defend the Presidency of Richard M. Nixon.

From the rostrums of civic clubs to the couches of television talk shows, they will applaud his Administration, endorse its continuation, and deplore any efforts to the contrary.

They are the President's surrogates, a band of elected officials, bureaucrats and appointees whose combined roles are key components in the Republican campaign machinery. Some have already begun; others will start this week, and the entire group of Senators, Representatives, Governors, Cabinet members and agency heads is expected to be on the road within the next 10 days.

Although incumbent Presidents have traditionally called upon the leading lights in their party and Administration to campaign for them, the Republicans' plans this year are much more elaborately orchestrated and abundantly funded.

Variety of G.O.P. Leaders

Moreover, the effort has brought together party leaders from varying points on the ideological scale, as well as a few Republicans whose relationship with the President has, in the past, been less than warm.

"We think this is probably one of the most critical projects of the entire campaign," an official at the Committee to Re-elect President Nixon said today. "If we can do what we hope to do with the surrogates, the President may not have to campaign at all."

That is not likely, most campaign aides agree, because the final segment of the Republicans' four-phase effort is the emergence of the President from the White House and his appearance on the campaigning trail.

The initial portions, almost exclusively devoted to internal organization and the staging of the convention in Miami Beach, ended, for all practical purposes, last week; and the finale, Mr. Nixon's entrance, is not scheduled until sometime next month.

In the meantime, the surrogates and Vice President Agnew will bear the weight of the Republicans' attempt to re-elect the President, reshape the Congress and retain the power to which the party has become accustomed over the last four years.

Agnew Goes to Governors

Today, for instance, Mr. Agnew ended his post-convention vacation in Palm Springs, Calif., and flew to Hilton Head, S. C., for an appearance before the Southern Governors Conference.

Similarly, various members of the surrogate team were scattered across the country. Senator Marlow W. Cook of Kentucky appeared at a campaign headquarters opening in Rock Island, Ill., while Harry

S. Dent, Presidential assistant, was in Hilton Head with the Southern Governors.

Further, Herbert G. Klein, director of White House communications, was in Alhambra, Calif., for a speech and Rogers C. B. Morton, the Secretary of the Interior, was in San Francisco for a series of public appearances.

The activities of the surrogates are being coordinated by Herbert L. Parker of the Committee to re-elect President Nixon, and appointments and speeches are closely monitored both at the committee's headquarters and at the White House.

Although the committee concedes it is paying the bills for the surrogates' travels, except when local groups underwrite them, there has been no disclosure of how much money has been budgeted for their work.

The surrogates are expected to concentrate their appearances in the country's largest states.

"They're surrogates of the President, and that's what they'll be billed as," a White House aide said last week. "They're going to try to create at least a part of the interest and excitement that accompanies a President when he campaigns."

Although the list of those selected to act as agents or substitutes for the President in this phase of the campaign has been limited to approximately three dozen, officials at the committee said it could be expanded or reduced as the campaign continues. Only Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird and Secretary of State William P. Rogers have been excused from surrogate duty, the committee's spokesman said last week. Their duties are "nonpartisan," he explained.

Criticism of McGovern

Both men have, however, made public statements condemning campaign remarks made by Senator George McGovern, the Democratic Presidential candidate.

Included in the present list of surrogates are:

Earl L. Butz, Secretary of Agriculture;
James D. Hodgson, Secretary of Labor.
Richard G. Kleindienst, Attorney General.
Peter G. Peterson, Secretary of Commerce.
Elliot L. Richardson, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare.
George Romney, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

George P. Shultz, Secretary of the Treasury.

John A. Volpe, Secretary of Transportation.

Donald Rumsfeld, director of the Cost of Living Council.
William D. Ruckelshaus, director of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Mrs. Virginia Knauer, director of consumer affairs.

Mrs. Romana Banuelos, the United States treasurer.

Senators William B. Brock 3d of Tennessee.

Edward W. Brook of Massachusetts.

Barry Goldwater of Arizona.

Henry L. Bellmon of Oklahoma.

Edward J. Gurney of Florida.

Jacob Javits of New York.

William B. Saxbe of Ohio.

Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania.

Robert Taft Jr. of Ohio.

Governors Winfield Dunn of Tennessee.

Linwood Holton of Virginia.

William G. Milliken of Michigan.

Ronald Reagan of California.

Nelson A. Rockefeller of New York.

Mayor Richard Lugar of Indianapolis.

Representative Gerald R. Ford of Michigan.

Jack F. Kemp of upstate New York.

John J. Rhodes of Arizona.

Robert Finch, special counsel to the President.