

GOP in a Fighting Mood On the Eve of Convention

AUG 21 1972

It's Hard Attacks on McGovern

SFChronicle
N.Y. Times Service

Miami Beach

With virtually all formal business completed on the eve of their 30th national nominating convention, Republican leaders here took the offensive yesterday, concentrating on a charge that Senator George McGovern had sabotaged President Nixon's efforts to negotiate an end of the war in Vietnam before election day.

They accused the Democratic candidate of having adopted Hanoi's terms for a settlement and thus, in effect, inviting the North Vietnamese to hold out for a Democratic victory.

They also said it would be McGovern's fault if some of his supporters here disrupted their convention by protesting war.

SCHEDULE

Starting at 1 p.m. EDT today, the Republicans plan to move briskly through two afternoon and three evening sessions of speeches, songs and films devoted to the "sage of exhilirating progress" under the Nixon administration that is proclaimed in their platform.

They have arranged matters to avoid even a symbol-

ic protest against the renomination of President Nixon and Vice President Spiro Agnew. And if a proposed compromise on party rules for 1976 works out, they will probably be spared all floor controversy and move through the week without a single roll-call whose outcome is in doubt.

This happy air of harmony was symbolized yesterday by the joint television appearance of Mr. Nixon's principal rivals of 1968—Governors Ronald Reagan of California and Nelson Rockefeller of New York—emphasizing the unity of conservatives and liberal

See Back Page

factions behind Mr. Nixon's leadership.

WAR

It was Rockefeller who offered the strongest of several indictments of McGovern's handling of the war issue.

McGovern's prediction that President Nguyen Van Thieu of South Vietnam would flee his capital in the event of a Democratic victory was tantamount to ac-

**More political news
on Pages 11, 14 and 15.**

ceptance of Hanoi's demand for the overthrow of the Saigon regime, Rockefeller asserted on ABC's "Issues and Answers."

That means McGovern "adopts their total program for peace," he added, expressing doubt that this had ever before happened in American history and saying it was bound to affect the negotiations.

Senator Robert Dole of Kansas, chairman of the Republican National Committee, offered a similar sentiment on CBS's "Face the Nation." He said it appeared that McGovern had "thrown in with the North Vietnamese and the Viet Cong" and that his comment about Thieu's likely flight "almost destroys any chance for peace this year."

CLARK

Dole also played further upon the recent contacts with the North Vietnamese by former Attorney General Ramsey Clark and, on McGovern's behalf, by former Senator Pierre Salinger

of California. Both approaches should be investigated, he said, for possible violations of the Logan Act, a 1799 law that makes it a crime for any citizen to make unauthorized contacts with another government with the intent "to influence the measures or conduct of any foreign government . . . in relation to any disputes or controversies with the United States."

The attacks conform to the emerging Nixon campaign theme that the President is building peace by negotiation but without "begging" or "surrender."

The Republican spokesmen here, as well as the party's new platform, contend that the national Democratic party has taken a "convulsive leftward lurch," leaving "discerning" Democrats no choice but to switch allegiance this year.

AGNEW

Vice President Agnew arrived here for the convention.