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Goldwater Thinks Agnew Might Resign If Indicted

Senator Barry Goldwater said yesterday that he believed Vice President Agnew would consider resigning if he were indicted, rather than put the country and himself through a long impeachment proceeding.

"I think the Vice President would seriously consider resignation if he were indicted," the Arizona Republican and 1964 Presidential nominee said at a news conference before he addressed the Wings Club here.

In Washington yesterday, the White House denied that it was trying to pressure Vice President Agnew into resigning and said it was standing on a statement made by President Nixon on Sept. 5 that he had confidence in the Vice President's integrity.

Mr. Goldwater, tanned and relaxed in the face of a barrage of questions, predicted that an impeachment proceeding would follow any indictment and would "take a full year."

Two hours later, another top Republican, John B. Connally, refused repeatedly to answer any questions about Mr. Agnew, his legal problems or his future. Mr. Connolly was questioned at a news conference after his appearance before 180 businessmen audience at a Jamaica Industrial Development Corporation luncheon.

Mr. Connally, facing a standing-room-only news conference at the Hotel Pierre, after his speech, said that it would be

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Goldwater Gives View on Agnew Issue

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unfair for him to be "popping off" about Mr. Agnew.

"He's entitled to justice," said the former Navy and Treasury Secretary who is widely mentioned as a leading prospect to succeed Mr. Agnew if he steps down. Mr. Connally, a former Democrat, recently switched parties.

Senator Goldwater, at his Hotel Biltmore news conference, said that his preference for an Agnew replacement would be Gov. Regan of California. But, he added that Mr. Reagan was not interested.

"He's told me a number of times he does not want any more elective office," said Mr. Goldwater, who has been replaced by Mr. Reagan in the eyes of many as the champion of the Republican right.

The 64-year-old Arizonan said that either Governor Rockefeller or John B. Connally, would be acceptable to him as a Vice-Presidential appointee.

Denial by White House

WASHINGTON, Sept. 19 — The White House denied today that it was trying to pressure Vice President Agnew into resigning and said it was stand-

ing on a statement of confidence Sept. 5 by President Nixon.

Gerald L. Warren, the President's spokesman, said it was not true that there was "a disposition by the White House or the people in the White House to force the resignation of the Vice President, or that the White House is exerting pressure on the Vice President to resign."

The White House press aide also denied that the White House had been the source of news stories that Mr. Agnew was thinking of resigning.

Yesterday, Mr. Warren had declined to comment on any aspect of the relations between President Nixon and Vice President Agnew, who is under Federal investigation of charges that he accepted kickbacks from Maryland businessmen. Mr. Warren would not even say, as he had in the past, that the Vice President enjoyed the confidence of the President.

Today, he directed reporters to the President's statement in his Sept. 5 press conference that he had "confidence in the Vice President's integrity during the period during the period that he has served as Vice President."

But he continued to have

"no comment" to all other aspects of the apparent strained relations between Mr. Nixon and Mr. Agnew. High White House officials are reported on good authority to have said in private conversations that Mr. Agnew should be replaced should the charges against him result in indictment or impeachment proceedings.

Mr. Warren's denial that the White House was bringing pressure for an Agnew resignation came after Victor Gold, Mr. Agnew's former press secretary charged publicly that Melvin R. Laird and Alexander M. Haig Jr., top White House advisers, were responsible for many of the rumors and reports about Mr. Agnew's legal troubles.

"This is all calculated by the White House to keep the Agnew story alive," Mr. Gold said. "I'm blaming the White House staff at the highest level. Mr. Haig and Mr. Laird."

"Isn't it odd that three weeks ago the country was talking about the President resigning and now they're talking about the Vice President resigning?" he asked. "Some people may think that's a coincidence. Some people might think storks bring babies. I'm not that naive."