

Both Parties Jolted; Nixon Polls Leaders

GOP Saddened

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Politicians of both parties were visibly jolted by Vice President Agnew's resignation yesterday.

"We lost one of our stars," said Rep. John M. Ashbrook (R-Ohio), the congressman who ran for the Republican presidential nomination as a conservative last year.

"Everything is so unreal," said Sen. Daniel K. Inouye (D-Hawaii), a member of the Senate's select committee investigating Watergate. "I've got to go straighten myself out."

In general, Democrats were terse in their remarks. Republicans said they were saddened by the resignation and for the man, but many also said they thought he had done the right thing.

Former Missouri Gov. Warren E. Hearnes, a Democrat but a trustee of a defense fund that had been set up for Agnew, said that Agnew called him yesterday morning with the news.

"He said he didn't think the country could stand this type of turmoil," Hearnes said of their conversation. "It was like someone in the family had died."

Republican National Chairman George Bush said that, "for myself and the entire Republican Party, I deeply regret but thor-

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oughly understand why Mr. Agnew found it necessary to take this action. My heart goes out to him and his family."

But while "the action took great personal courage," Bush went on, "in the circumstances it clearly was in the best interest of the country."

Some Republicans felt the event would hurt their party. The GOP "has been temporarily hurt by Watergate and this would be another blow," said Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.). Others seemed to think it might help clear the air. New York's Republican Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller called it "a personal tragedy, not a party tragedy."

Rep. John J. Rhodes (R-Ariz.), chairman of the House Republican Policy Committee, was one of many who said he hoped President Nixon would promptly "choose a replacement . . . of unquestionable credentials so that his confirmation will be carried out swiftly."

Rhodes was also one of many who said the affair might further erode trust in public figures. "We must do everything necessary to restore the confidence of the American people in their government," he said.

More conservative Republicans took harder lines. "Ted Agnew was and is a friend of mine," said California Gov. Ronald Reagan. "I am shocked and saddened as I am sure all Americans are."

Sen. Barry M. Goldwater (R-Ariz.) went beyond that, attacking the administration for its handling of the charges against Agnew. Goldwater, the Republican presidential nominee in 1964, said Agnew was "threatened shamefully by persons in responsible government positions."

"In effect," the senator charged, Agnew "was tried and judged in a manner completely foreign to the proper pursuit of justice in the United States, a manner which convicted him by headlines and newscasts based on leaks of official information but before a single legal charge had been filed."

"I hope that never again in my lifetime will I witness this kind of abuse of an American citizen by people in responsible positions," Goldwater said. He did not name which people he meant.

Some liberal Democrats, by contrast, said they thought the Justice Department had been too soft on Agnew. "I am not pleased in any degree with the manipulations and plea-bargaining which allowed the Vice President to receive a suspended sentence in this case," said Rep. Jerome R. Waldi (D-Calif.). "I find it hard to believe that a man who has been touting the theme of softness on crime for so many years," a reference to Agnew, "agrees quite easily to the settlement of a court procedure which would not be accorded to anyone in a lesser station of life."

Rep. John Brademas (D-Ind.) was another who found "a special irony in that Mr. Agnew was the chief spokesman for the Nixon administration's 'law-and-order' line."

Most Democrats, however, avoided such attacks. House Speaker Carl Albert (D-Okla.), who became first in line of presidential succession with Agnew's resignation, said in a statement, "I learned of the Vice President's resignation today with surprise and shock. The Vice President advised me of his action by letter. Under the Constitution, the matter is now in the hands of the President and I have no further comment."

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) called Agnew's resignation a "personal tragedy" for the Vice President and a "deep national tragedy for America." He said Agnew had been subjected to "an unfair ordeal of leaks and innuendo" in recent weeks.

Gov. Kenneth M. Curtis of Maine, another Democrat, said Agnew "deserves a certain amount of credit for placing the country ahead of his future. I don't believe that basically Agnew is a dishonest man. I hate to see him go this way. I would have much more preferred to have seen him defeated at the polls."

Another Democratic governor, Patrick Lucey of Wisconsin, said Agnew had "rendered a service to the country by resigning rather than forcing this nation through a long drawn-out

is and prolonged constitutional crisis."

Democratic Gov. Bruce King of New Mexico said that if the President nominates "a very competent administrator" to succeed Agnew "there could be a reconstruction and there probably wouldn't be a great deal of long-range effect. I feel confident we can rebuild confidence very rapidly if there is appointment of a competent man to fill the position."

Patt Derian, Democratic national committeewoman from Mississippi, said the fact that a Vice President could be brought down in the courts "ought to make

us all really grateful for that great instrument, the Constitution."

"The system we have is a little like a self-cleaning oven," she said.

Some others, however, took less hopeful views. "It's just incredible," said Gov. Cecil Andrus of Idaho, a Democrat. "It's a dark day for politics on both sides of the aisle when these things take place."

The news reached the stock market only in the last hour of trading, when the Dow Jones industrial average was already down about 6 points for the day. The average plunged another 7 points by the close.