

Demos 'Would Be Pleased' To Run Against Ford

Washington

Democratic National Chairman Robert S. Strauss sharply criticized Vice President Gerald R. Ford yesterday and said his party would be "very pleased" to run against Ford in the 1976 presidential election.

Strauss said that instead of touring the country attacking the Democratic Congress, "I think he'd be better disposed if he added to the public confidence in the institutions of this government."

"He could . . . be occupying that Oval Office himself, you know," added Strauss in an interview with the National Public Affairs Center for Television. Public Broadcasting Service stations will air the program tonight.

The reason Democrats would like to run against Ford, Strauss said, is "he's been on the wrong side of enough issues."

"I think he'd give us a choice," the Democratic chairman added. "He's a decent man . . . I think he understands the issues from a Republican point of view rather well. I don't think he understands the issues, as I would articulate them, very well at all."

Strauss said also that Ford "makes a major mis-

Agnew's In Greece on 'Business'

Athens

Former Vice President Spiro T. Agnew arrived in Greece alone yesterday on what he called "private business" without further explanation.

Agnew's quiet, almost unnoticed arrival was in marked contrast to the hero's welcome he received on his arrival here three years ago.

"I am on business," Agnew told reporters who met him in the bar of his hotel. When asked to elaborate, he said, "private," and abruptly ended the conversation.

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take when he tries to blame everything on CREEP" — the Committee to Re-elect the President.

"Well, he waited several years to be critical of CREEP," Strauss went on. "He didn't say a word about them when he was being considered for vice president. He didn't say a word about them when he was testifying. He didn't say a word about them when they were

operating.

"As a matter of fact," he added, "he was involved with it, and best I recall, spoke for them and did other things."

Strauss noted that Ford said three weeks ago "he was terribly concerned about the do-nothing Democratic Congress."

"Three weeks later he comes out and he says now he's concerned about a legislative dictatorship," Strauss said, asking, "How do you move from a do-nothing Congress to a legislative dictatorship?"

On other subjects, Strauss said:

• President Nixon "is in deeper trouble today than he was last week and the week before" because of the edited Watergate transcripts. He refused to call for Nixon's resignation saying he favors use of the Constitutional impeachment process, but added "things change and I might change in that."

• He and his old friend John Connally, the Texas Democrat governor turned Republican presidential aspirant, "don't see each other any more." Asked about the milk fund controversy involving Connally, Strauss declined to discuss details but said "I've never known

John Connally to do anything dishonorable in his life."

• Alabama Governor George C. Wallace "could be nominated" by the Democrats in 1976. However, he declined for the most part to discuss the 1976 presidential Democratic race, saying he plans to preside over the party "in such a way that any man who wants to seek the nomination for the presidency in our party will have a chance to do so, and each one having an equal chance."

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