

State GOP's Reaction To Choice of Schweiker

By Jerry Burns

California Republicans reacted along predictable partisan lines yesterday to former Governor Ronald Reagan's selection of Senator Richard Schweiker of Pennsylvania as his running mate for the Republican presidential nomination.

Loyal supporters defended Reagan's choice of a liberal northeastern senator, while President Ford's California supporters dismissed it a desperate act that won't wrest the nomination from Mr. Ford.

"It's a good move on Governor Reagan's part," said Robert Nelson, Reagan's San Francisco campaign chairman and a delegate to next month's convention in Kansas City.

"The selection of Senator Schweiker establishes Reagan as an across-the-board candidate, rather than as a regional or strictly conservative candidate," he added.

But Paul Haerle, state Republican chairman and a Ford supporter, said Reagan's unexpected move was "an obvious act of desperation that will probably boomerang against him."

Haerle also said he was "amazed and amused" that conservative Republicans are accepting Reagan's selection of an Eastern liberal.

"I can't believe that the same people who fulminated when President Ford selected Nelson Rockefeller as his vice president can now swallow this," he said. "Richard Schweiker makes Nelson Rockefeller look like Attila the Hun by comparison."

Most other Reagan supporters in the state insisted, like Robert Nelson, that the former governor's supporters will continue to be faithful, but there were a few who

weren't sure.

"I've heard some very unpleasant things in the past day," reported one Orange county Republican who asked not to be named. "The folks here are really shocked. They'll still vote for Reagan, of course, but they won't work as hard or enthusiastically as they might have."

Officials in various corners of California reported Reagan supporters in a state of mild shock, but insisted they were getting over it.

"People are puzzled, but they still love Ronald Reagan down here," reported Bill Voit, one of Reagan's cochairmen in Orange county. "Some of our people were shocked a little initially, but they're getting over it," added Nelson in San Francisco.

Nelson said he wasn't particularly bothered by Senator Schweiker's high ratings from such liberal groups as the Americans for Democratic Action and AFL-CIO's COPE because "my main interest is in getting Ronald Reagan elected President."

In addition, said Nelson, Schweiker agrees with Reagan on such "gut issues" as gun control, busing, abortion and the Panama Canal.

"So much for ideological purity," commented Haerle, a San Francisco attorney. "This is a classic case of political rationalization. It shows that Reagan is perfectly capable of using his usual political rhetoric with one audience and then being expedient when he needs to be. The romantics who adore him will gulp, blink back the tears, rationalize his choice of a running mate and then go on as if

Schweiker's Support of Goldwater in '64

Philadelphia

The Associated Press erroneously reported Monday that Senator Richard Schweiker (Rep-Pa.) refused to support Barry Goldwater's presidential campaign in 1964.

Schweiker, whom Ronald Reagan named Monday as his running mate should Reagan win the Republican nomination, originally opposed Goldwater's nomination and had backed Pennsylvania Governor William Scranton for the nomination. But Schweiker later honored Scranton's call to unite behind Goldwater.

Associated Press

nothing happened."

San Francisco Supervisor John Molinari, who hasn't backed either Republican candidate, had a more even-handed view of the Schweiker selection.

"It was a bold political stroke, but it certainly tarnishes Reagan's image as a conservative," said Molinari, one of the few Republicans in public office in the city.

"As a liberal, I'm pleased that Reagan seems to agree we have a place in the Republican party," he said.

As for endorsing a Republican for president, Molinari added that "Reagan is too conservative for me and frankly I still have problems with Ford's pardon of Nixon."