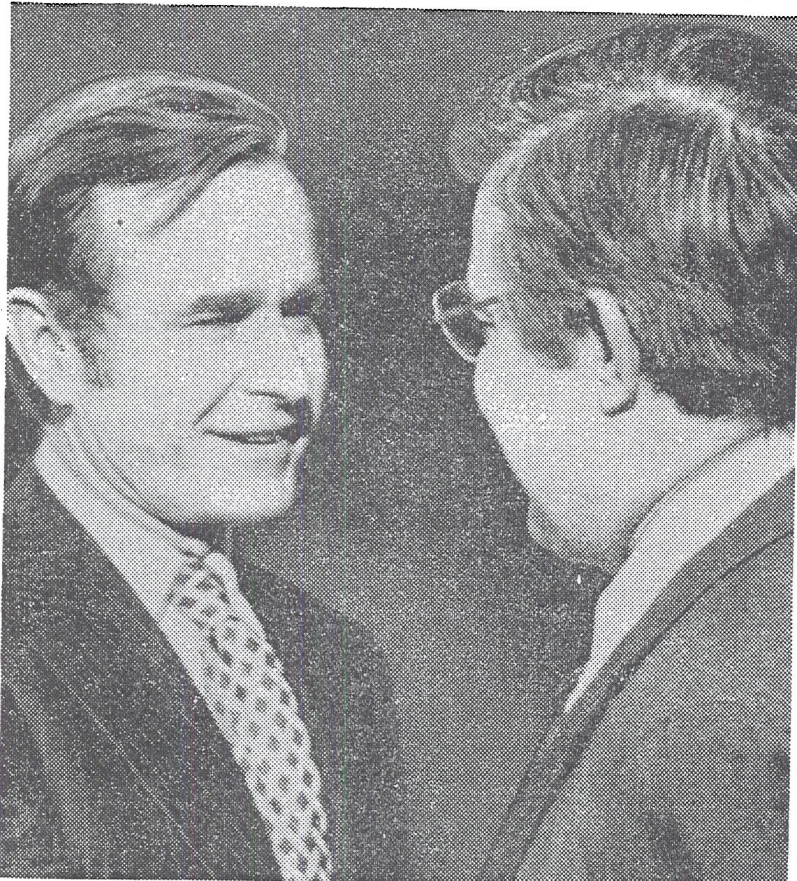


CIA Nomination Criticized



George Bush (left) and Senator Church shared a friendly moment before the committee hearing

AP Wirephoto

Bush Called Too Political

Washington

Senator Frank Church (Dem-Ida) said yesterday the confirmation of George Bush as director of the Central Intelligence Agency would turn that "sensitive and delicate" post into a Republican party plum.

Bush, former GOP national chairman and ambassador to the United Nations and China, replied he had the ability to leave politics behind if he won confirmation as CIA director.

"The CIA must be insulated from the ebb and flow of political consideration," Church told the Senate Armed Services Committee, which is considering Bush's nomination. "The CIA will be no more independent and no more non-political than its director."

Bush, following Church to the stand, agreed "the agency must be devoid of partisan politics."

He added: "I tried to make clear to the committee yesterday, and apparently I did not satisfy Senator Church, that I do have the ability to do so . . ."

Church, chairman of the Senate intelligence committee investigating the CIA, said confirming Bush as CIA director would be to make the job a political plum, in the same way that the party chairman used to receive the job of postmaster general.

"It is one thing to choose a man who has political experience," Church added, "and quite another to choose another whose major political role has been chairman of the Republican party."

Bush said Monday he had no aspirations to be vice president but would run for the post next year if President Ford asked him.

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