

Reagan's Bold Gamble

Choice of Liberal for No. 2 Spot Likely
To Make or Break His Nomination Bid

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WASHINGTON, July 26 — Ronald Reagan's bold running-mate gamble stunned the Republican Party today and seemed bound to alter the precarious balance of

News Analysis a fiercely competitive contest for the party's Presidential nomination. But only the events of the next several days will determine if the California's designation of Senator Richard S. Schweiker of Pennsylvania to be his running mate was a stroke of tactical brilliance or a devastatingly bad mistake.

It was apt to be one or the other. Mr. Schweiker represents the antithesis of the strongly conservative ideology embraced by the bulk of the delegates to the Republican National Convention, an ideology Ford and Mr. Reagan have both tried to project in their rivalry for the Presidential nomination.

The designation of Mr. Schweiker to balance a Reagan ticket was described by Mr. Reagan's strategists as an integral part of an attempt to

lure 50 to 100 of the moderate Republican delegates who are now allied with Mr. Ford or are uncommitted.

There was no immediate indication that it would do so, and Mr. Ford's camp professed delight that it would drive conservative uncommitteds and even some Reagan delegates into the President's camp.

What made Mr. Reagan's announcement so striking was not that he had named a ticket mate three weeks before the Republicans convene in Kansas City, Mo., although the early designation was in fact a political rarity, but that Mr. Reagan's choice was someone so pronouncedly identified with the minority, liberal wing of the party.

Mr. Schweiker's voting record last year in the Senate was more liberal than that of any other Republican. He was the only Senator, Democrat or Republican, to be accorded a "perfect" 100 percent rating by organized labor.

Mr. Reagan knew all that,

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and it was precisely because Mr. Schweiker was so progressive in image that the Californian settled on him, the Reagan strategists said, as the bait to fish for needed delegate support in Mr. Ford's strongest region. Most of the 341 delegates in Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey and Delaware are committed, but not legally bound, to Mr. Ford.

Earlier Drive Faltered

Earlier efforts by Mr. Reagan's agents to convert Ford delegates in the region produced no visible effect. But now, as Lyn Nofziger, the director of Mr. Reagan's convention operations, stated it, Mr. Reagan has demonstrated that "he is not far right he's falling over the edge."

The Reagan camp clearly was counting on Mr. Schweiker to bring with him Pennsylvania delegates and others, whether they are now allied with Mr. Ford or are neutral.

"Here's a man who has accepted a challenge," Mr. Nofziger said of Mr. Schweiker, "I would think he would want to succeed."

The peril in Mr. Reagan's Northeastern gambit, however, is that it will alienate the rigidly conservative delegates for whom he had seemed to represent the best hope of a conservative White House.

One senior campaign aide to Mr. Ford professed delight at Mr. Reagan's move, saying there already were indications that conservatives were outraged and could shift to Mr. Ford as a consequence.

"They stepped on themselves," the Ford aide said of Mr. Reagan and his senior strat-

Armstrong, the only uncommitted member of a strongly pro-Reagan delegation from Colorado, called Mr. Reagan's announcement "a serious blunder" and said it was likely "to have an effect" on his decision whether to support Mr. Ford.

In Mississippi, where either Mr. Reagan or Mr. Ford can still get the votes of all or nearly all 30 delegates, a leading Republican who had considered himself "leaning to Reagan" said this afternoon that he now expected the delegation to support the President. Mr. Ford will probably appear before the Mississippians Friday in Jackson, the state capital.

Checks today by The New York Times with delegates in Pennsylvania and Maryland did not show any changes in commitments as a result of Mr. Reagan's action. One uncommitted Pennsylvanian, William S. Brewer, said the Schweiker designation "shocked me, hurt me, confused me"—a possible clue to which way he will move.

"I'm totally dumbfounded," Mr. Bauman said. "I thought I knew Governor Reagan. This is going to make it very unpalatable for conservatives to support him."

Trouble Foreseen

The Mississippi conservative, who asked not to be identified, said he could "not see where it gets Reagan anything but trouble."

But Mr. Reagan's aides cautioned today against hasty judgments. Mr. Sears said it was to Mr. Reagan's advantage to specify for delegates that his ticket would be strengthened in the Northeast and Middle West by Mr. Schweiker.

"These things always come