

Philadelphia G.O.P. Bids Specter Oppose Tate for the Mayoralty

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PHILADELPHIA, March 3—District Attorney Arlen M. Specter, a former Democrat, was chosen today by the Philadelphia Republican organization as its candidate for Mayor.

Mr. Specter, who is 37 years old, said he would decide this weekend whether to accept the bid. Political observers predicted that he would.

He is regarded by leaders of both the Republican and Democratic parties as a dynamic personality who shows promise of going far in the field of politics.

Mr. Specter came to public attention in 1964 when he served as assistant counsel to the Warren Commission, which investigated the assassination of President Kennedy.

Late in 1964 and early in 1965 he served as a special Assistant State Attorney General in an investigation of the Philadelphia magisterial system. The inquiry resulted in the indictment of three magistrates, a former magistrate and 10 other persons.

Unanimous Choice

Mr. Specter was the unanimous choice of the Republican candidate selection committee, which acted on the basis of several polls conducted by the Republicans.

William J. Devlin, the Republican City Chairman, and William A. Meehan, the co-chairman, said the polls showed that Mr. Specter was "substantially ahead of the other Republican and Democratic hopefuls," including Mayor James H. J. Tate, a Democrat, who has announced his candidacy for re-election.

Among other contenders for the Republican mayoralty nomination have been Thatcher Longstreth, executive vice president of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce; Arlin M. Adams, former State Secretary of Welfare, and City Councilman Thomas M. Foglietta.

All three signified today that they would support Mr. Specter, thus eliminating a fight at the primary election May 16.

The Democrats have not yet made their choice. In fact, Francis R. Smith, Democratic city chairman, and the Democratic policy committee have been try-



Associated Press

Arlen M. Specter

ing to persuade Mr. Tate to withdraw from the race. Among other Democratic contenders is former City Controller Alexander M. Hemphill.

The Democratic leadership, however, apparently favors Judge J. Sydney Hoffman of the State Superior Court, who is Jewish. It believes the party needs a Jewish candidate to offset Mr. Specter who is also Jewish.

Mr. Specter is the son of Harry and Lillie Specter, who came to this country early in this century as immigrants from Russia. The family had a humble beginning in Wichita, Kan., and later moved to Philadelphia.

Mr. Specter studied at the University of Oklahoma and transferred in his freshman year to the University of Pennsylvania, where he won a B.A. degree in political science in 1951. He received a law degree from Yale University in 1956.

He was a Democrat when he was offered the Republican nomination for District Attorney in the spring of 1965. Mr. Specter switched parties, made the race and won by 37,000 votes over James C. Crumlich Jr., a Democrat who was running for re-election.