Ronald Reagan announces his choice as running mate to press in Los Angeles.


REAGAN PICKS SENATOR SCHWEIKER, A LIBERAL, FOR HIS RUNNING MATE; PENNSYLVANIAN WAS IN FORD CAMP

A TOTAL SURPRISE

Californiaan Moves to Broaden Appeal to Lure Delegates

Text of the Reagan statement is printed on page 16.

Ronald Reagan broke with tradition today and named Senator Richard S. Schweiker of Pennsylvania as the man who will be his running mate if the Californian wins the Republican nomination for President.

The Schweiker announcement came as a complete surprise. As recently as late last week, Mr. Reagan was saying that if nominated he would probably let convention delegates select his running mate from a list of candidates he would submit to them.

Presidential strategists, and even incumbent Presidents seeking renomination had traditionally kept the party and the country guessing on the question of a running mate.

Risk of a Backlash

There would appear to be an apparent risk, however, in a conservative backlash since Mr. Schweiker's votes in the Senate have been about as liberal as those of Walter F. Mondale, the Vice-Presidential choice of the Democrats.

The liberal Americans for Democratic Action gave Mr. Schweiker an 89 percent rating in 1975—compared with 95 for Senator Mondale—while the conservative Americans for Constitutional Action gave him a low rating of 8.

The Senator is also a stalwart supporter of big labor and continued on Page 16, Column 3.
Reagan, in a Surprise, Chooses Schweiker as His Running Mate

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Last year was accorded a 100 percent rating on his voting record by the Committee on Political Education of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations, the only Senator to achieve a 100 percent rating from that group.

Moreover, Mr. Schweiker supported the common situs picking bill, favors the regulation of the oil and national gas industries, and opposed most antibusance measures that came before the Senate—positions that Mr. Reagan has strongly opposed throughout the campaign.

And throughout the campaign, the former California Governor had repeatedly insisted that he would choose a running mate from someone philosophically compatible and would not make a selection on a "cynical" effort to balance the ticket.

The candidate, however, in a terse announcement at the news conference this morning in which he would not take any questions, glossed over any of the differences that placed the two men on opposite philosophical ends of the Republican Party.

"I have selected a man of independent thought and action, with a background in business and 16 years in public service," he asserted. "He is respected by his colleagues, but he has not become a captive of what I call the Washington buddy system."

"I have met with him and we have spent a considerable amount of time personally discussing the critical issues that face us today and the principles by which we would lead this nation," Mr. Reagan continued.

He said he was convinced that a Reagan-Schweiker ticket was one "behind which all Republicans can unite and one which will lead our party to victory in November."

With the exception of a casual introduction at the Palm Springs, Calif., residence of Walter Annenberg, the former ambassador to England and Philadelphia publisher, the two men had never met before Mr. Reagan summoned the Senator to his Pacific Palisades home for a six-hour discussion on Saturday.

James Lake, Mr. Reagan's press secretary, said that the Senator was the only person the candidate had made contact with over the Vice Presidency. An informal list of several names had existed for several months. It included Senator Howard H. Baker Jr. of Tennessee, former Treasury Secretary John B. Connally of Texas, and William E. Simon, the present holder of the Treasury post. Mr. Schweiker's name was not on it until it was proposed last week by Mr. Sears and Senator Paul Laxalt, chairman of the national Citizens for Reagan campaign.

Whatever the arguments made for the selection of the Pennsylvania, they must have been most persuasive because to a great degree his presence on the ticket will neutralize the liberal target provided by Mr. Mondale on the Democratic side.

Mr. Reagan had acknowledged that Jimmy Carter would be a more difficult opponent than some of the more liberal Democrats running for President, and when the Georgian made known his choice of Mr. Mondale, a protégé of Senator Hubert H. Humphrey, Mr. Reagan greeted the news with great enthusiasm.

When asked for examples of agreement between Mr. Reagan and Senator Schweiker, Mr. Lake said they both were opposed to abortion, forced busing, and gun control.

Mr. Schweiker, he said, would bring a very strong support and identification in the northeast part of the country that would bring a tremendous balance and strength to the ticket [and would] provide an indication to Republicans and voters [of that region] that the interests of that part of the country will be considered an important part of the Reagan administration."