

Nixon Sees Huge Dixie GOP Gains

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COLUMBIA — Former Vice President Richard M. Nixon said here Wednesday night that President Johnson can have the 1968 Democratic nomination for another term "if he wants it," even if his popularity "is as low or lower than it is now."

At the same press conference, he said that after the 1966 elections, and after what he calls his now "non-political" appearances around the country, he would be "glad to answer" a question on his own recommendation for a Republican team to oppose Johnson.

MAY NAME KENNEDY

He told newsmen in advance of a \$100-a-plate GOP fund-raising dinner at the Wade Hampton Hotel that a rift in the ranks of the Democrats and the president's own slipping popularity might force President Johnson

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to seek as his vice presidential running mate, "the strongest man available."

That man, he said, is Robert F. Kennedy.

At the dinner, with an estimated 1,000 persons overflowing into other parts of the hotel with loudspeaker equipment, Nixon predicted a Republican resurgence nationally and called the GOP "the party of the future in the South."

"I predict that 1967 will find at least four states of the Confederacy with Republican governors," Nixon said.

He extended that prediction during the press conference, naming Alabama as "the state to watch," and said the gubernatorial race there could be a "toss-up" by election time.

STATES' RIGHTS CONCEPT

A prepared excerpt from Nixon's banquet address said: "In building the GOP party of the future in the South, one of

the foundation stones will be a new concept of States' Rights."

The old concept, he said, belongs to the past and is an instrument of reaction, whereas Republicans view these rights as instruments of progress.

"Why do we seek to strengthen States' Rights? Because we seek to exercise state responsibilities in the fields of health, education and welfare. We want the job to be done right here in Columbia, S.C., not in the District of Columbia."

The answer to bigger government in Washington, Nixon said, "is better government in the states; that's what we propose to give the old Confederacy right after the elections."

"In every presidential year since 1952, the people of the South have shown they will vote for Republicans at the White House level. This year, Southerners will elect hundreds of Republicans from the courthouse to the state house level.

CALLED "MR. REPUBLICAN"

GOP national committeeman J. Drake Edens Jr., who previously called Nixon "the most able man in the country for the presidency," introduced him at the press conference simply as "Mr. Republican."

And at the press conference, Nixon fielded questions as the presidential candidate he officially is not.

His remarks dealt with Viet Nam, the Great Society, civil rights, right-to-work legislation and the President's mid-October trip to the Philippines.

His Viet Nam position—"This

is a turning point in history"—was critical of the present administration, but "not because we are there."

He said the Johnson administration has failed to clearly state objectives in Viet Nam and the Democrats are divided with "a third of them calling for peace at any price."

He said that following a ground war policy, Vietnamese fighting can continue for five more years.

He called for a policy dedicated to the use of all resources to conclude the war successfully without appeasement, which "can lead to Communist Chinese domination of all Asia."

The enemy, he declared, "must be convicted of the consequences of continued aggression."

But he said there should be no "idle threats." He said he did not advocate massive bombings of the civilian population, did not advocate the use of nuclear weapons, nor an attack on China.

He advocated making clear to North Viet Nam that air power would be used to attack all military targets if aggression did not stop.

He advocated an economic quarantine "or use of any force necessary to cut off the flow of (Communist) supplies."

On civil rights, Nixon said he was aware his views differed in degree from those of Southern Republicans, but he said

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Welcomed To South Carolina

