

HHH And Nixon: Scrambling Pros

CHICAGO -- Two political professionals whose seeds were nurtured in the American system are seeking to draw from the soil the majesty which will make one of them president of the United States. They will know in a magic moment about midnight, Nov. 5, which the nation has chosen to savor its prize while solving its ills.

The first steps have been taken and the skirmishes have been fought on political and philosophical battlefields. Now the conflict

for the minds and the votes of the nation rages.

THE GENERALS in the battle are Vice-President Hubert H. Humphrey for the Democrats and former Vice-President Richard Milhous Nixon for the Republicans.

Nixon served under former President Dwight D. Eisenhower, whose support he enjoys. Humphrey, vice-president under President Lyndon B. Johnson, is trying to untie the bonds that link him to present policy.

Before the American people, the two candidates for the presidency pair off evenly in experience and training. Both have been on state and local and national political scenes for two decades.

Both have been at the summit and the valley of political life. Nixon's last, almost disastrous defeat was against former California Gov. Edmund G. Brown in a post-mortem race for the governor's chair. Humphrey was roughly shunted out of a presidential race by former President John F. Kennedy in 1960.

NOW THEY ARE back on top. They bring with them the massed cumulative philosophy and experience of their years. Both have adjusted with the caprice of political popularity and both have been bruised by fate.

Now they stand poised again for triumph or disaster. They can win the support of their parties and one can defeat the other on paper, but both can lose a clearcut victory by the candidacy of former Alabama Gov. George Wallace and his Independent American party.

Wallace is claiming anywhere between seven and 15 states, either of which could toss the decision on a president into the House of Representatives for the first time since the Adams-over-Jackson decision in 1824.

The fear has been growing of such a standoff since last spring when Wallace, then the governmental string-puller for his late wife Gov. Lurleen Wallace, flew about the nation seeking support.

Wallace, a darling of the south, has picked up support in the race-troubled white sectors of the north.

"Just driving up to Grand Rapids, I saw 12 bumper stickers

for Wallace," said Livonia's Frank Blackford.

BUT A REVIEW of who the Republican and Democratic candidates are and what they believe will be an insight into what they

will say on the campaigns and what it will mean.

Nixon is the son of a gasoline station operator and grocer. He was born in Yorba Linda, Calif., Jan. 9, 1913, and was reared in

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A third term for FDR had been highly speculative. A fourth wasn't. The Vice-Presidential spot was different, however.

In 1944, possibilities included Alben Barkley, then Senate majority leader; Vice President Henry Wallace; and James Byrnes, Senator from South Carolina. (Senator Harry S. Truman, who eventually won, wasn't being mentioned for the job publicly at the time.) The wheeling and dealing was going on before the convention even began.

Just how active it was can be seen from a question asked of Senator Carl Hatch of New Mexico by a convention delegate. Riding in a hotel elevator with Hatch, the delegate said, "Senator, wouldn't you call this the nicest Vice-Presidential convention you ever attended?"



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