

THE CINCINNATI ENQUIRER

17 September 1978

Bush Eyeing Presidency

Former CIA Director George Bush says he is very interested in seeking the 1980 Republican presidential nomination but has yet to decide if he will try for it.

Bush was in Cincinnati Saturday to campaign for State Sen. Stanley Aronoff, R-Cincinnati, in his bid for Congress.

"I've got to make up my mind (to run) as one who lacks national name identification but has the qualifications," Bush said at Stouffer's Cincinnati Towers, Fifth and Elm Sts., downtown. Aronoff will oppose Rep. Thomas Luken, D-Ohio, in the Second Congressional District in Western Hamilton County.

Bush, who also served as United Nations ambassador for two years and was the first U.S. envoy to the People's Republic of China, said he viewed his stint as CIA director as a "plus" in any candidacy.

"I'd hope that that would be advantageous," he said. As CIA director, Bush said he operated the agency "consonant with the rights of American citizens" without sacrificing the intelligence needs of the nation.

Bush, who has been stumping nationwide for Republican candidates, said as many as 25 races could go to the GOP in the autumn elections.

"The first-hand feeling I get is something big could happen," he said. He attributed this to a loss of faith many voters might have in "Democratic big spenders and great talkers" who with the passage of the tax-cutting Proposition 13 in California now have a "born-again faith" in tax relief.