

Richard Nixon Presidential Library  
 Contested Materials Collection  
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## GEORGIA

### Re-Election Campaign

Georgia could prove to be troublesome in both the pre-convention and general election phase due to the continual bickering among the leadership in this state. In talks with the Georgia political people in Denver, I come to the strong conclusion that we need an effective Citizens organization outside the normal party channels.

### Other State-Wide Races

David Gambrell who was appointed to fill the Russell Senate seat is gaining strength. He could have a rough Democratic primary battle but the Republicans do not appear to be in a position to offer a major challenge. It is my understanding that a redistricting plan may be drawn up which would leave a place for Fletcher Thompson and therefore would obviate his necessity to run for the Senate seat. Callaway appears to be all but out of the race.

### Congressional

There appears to be a slight chance to pick up one additional Congressional seat in Georgia.

### Party Condition

The Republican Party leadership in Georgia continues to be split. State Chairman Shaw, a former Fulton County Chairman, spends about half of his time at the job. In addition, they have two other professionals in the state headquarters. The party has a debt of approximately \$30,000 which is manageable. The State Chairman seems to be more concerned about patronage and building his own personal power than in organizing the Republican Party in the state and winning elections. The Fulton and DeKalb County organizations which represent the larger more urban areas appear to be reasonably well organized, but from that point it goes downhill.

## ILLINOIS

### Re-Election Campaign

There was general agreement from the Illinois politicians that the President remains popular in the state. The major problem will be the economy and unemployment. All hands agree that Tom Houser is uniquely qualified to head up the Nixon re-election effort. Governor Ogilvie and the State Chairman urge that the President visit down-state Illinois sometime in the near future as they feel that this part of the state has been neglected. There is a negative feeling on the part of the Governor towards Clem Stone's involvement in Republican Party affairs in the state.

### Other State-Wide Races

Senator Percy looks strong for re-election in 1972. Governor Ogilvie's efforts for re-election are uphill all the way and one gets very mixed reactions to his progress in climbing that hill.

### Congressional

Republicans should maintain the current 13-13 split with the outside possibility that they can pick up one additional seat.

### Party Condition

The party organizational efforts in Illinois are at the lowest point in many years. Both Ogilvie and Percy are running individual campaigns with separate organizations. Little is being done on the state level toward building the party. The Republican Party debt is close to a million dollars. All of this underscores the importance of getting the Presidential campaign organized and functioning at the earliest possible time.

## INDIANA

### Re-Election Campaign

I did not have an opportunity to discuss the Indiana situation with anyone in Denver. From reports I can confirm that the internal battle within the Republican Party rages on, and it will be necessary to have a unity meeting some time this fall to get the various factions to agree upon the desirability of re-electing the President. It is my recommendation that we do not hold this meeting until after the local elections are completed this fall.

### Other State-Wide Races

Governor Whitcomb's term expires in 1972 and he cannot succeed himself. Unless the internal situation within the Republican Party is resolved, the likelihood is that former Governor Mathew Welch may be re-elected in '72.

### Congressional

If a reapportionment plan can finally be worked out in the legislature, the Republicans have an opportunity to pick up at least one seat. Right now in-party fighting is jeopardizing this possibility.

### Party Condition

At the risk of sounding redundant, a major division still exists within the GOP organization. Temporarily there is an alliance between State Chairman John Snyder and National Committeeman Keith Bulen. Their common foe, Governor Whitcomb, has caused this. Most of the party effort is directed against other Republicans and not toward building a strong GOP. Mayor Richard Lugar appears to be on his way toward a second term and this should keep the patronage-fed Marion County organization strong.

## NEBRASKA

### Re-Election Campaign

Nebraska gave the President his highest percentage in 1968. There is no reason to believe that our position has changed much since then. Farm problems are the biggest issue with Secretary Hardin being a negative mark in his own home state. George Cook, who has agreed to again chair our campaign, is well thought of by the party leadership in Nebraska and should be able to work well with them. There is no sentiment for McCloskey in Nebraska, and that primary can be a big plus for us.

### Other State-Wide Races

Senator Curtis is up for re-election in 1972. He is the favorite of all the party people and they are looking forward to working closely with us in his campaign. No substantial opposition has materialized.

### Congressional

Two of the three Nebraska Congressmen are freshmen, however, they seem to be doing a good job and are staying in touch back home. Therefore, all three should be repeaters.

### Party Condition

The new State Chairman in Nebraska is perhaps the most naive chairman that I have ever run across. He is weak and has caused some internal dissent within the GOP. The National Committeeman, however, Dick Herman, is effectively keeping this negative influence to a minimum. The party is in solid financial shape and has a new, paid state executive director who will be working principally on the RNC "Mission '70s" program in an effort to continue to build the party.

## NEVADA

### Re-Election Campaign

The President remains very popular in Nevada. There would appear to be no major problems either in putting the delegation together for the convention or in structuring our campaign for the general election.

### Other State-Wide Races

There are no state wide races.

### Congressional

There appears to be very little chance of changing Nevada's lone Congressional seat.

### Party Condition

There is considerable dissention within Nevada's GOP as a result of George Abbott's mismanaging the state's political and financial affairs. The state party is \$30,000 in debt as a result of the above problem.

Former Governor Laxalt remains very popular and should be very helpful to us in '72.

## NORTH CAROLINA

### Re-Election Campaign

Political people are optimistic about the President's chances in North Carolina in 1972. For the first time there is a primary on May 2nd in North Carolina. The President does not have to put his name on the ballot. Any candidate who receives 15% of the vote gets a proportionate share of the delegation, therefore, we would want to make certain that we run a stronger primary campaign in this state.

### Other State-Wide Races

Jimmy Holshouser, the current GOP State Chairman and Minority Leader of the State House, will seek the Republican nomination for Governor and probably will not have any primary opposition. However, his fight will be uphill all the way to succeed in the fall. Senator Jordan is also up for re-election, and according to sources, will run but will probably have serious primary opposition.

Republicans are trying to encourage Congressman Broyhill to get in the race although he is very reluctant to do so. Again, this would be an uphill battle.

### Congressional

Republicans feel that they can hold their present slate and possibly add one seat.

### Party Condition

Bill Graham who will likely succeed Holshouser as State Chairman, is not in Holshouser's class and we will probably lose a little bit on the trade. The Party has a full time executive director and they are working on organization in the metropolitan areas in the western part of the state.

## UTAH

### Re-Election Campaign

The President's prospects in Utah in 1972 are good but a great deal of work will have to be done between now and then. The economy is the principal issue in the state and the recent copper strike tended to aggravate this situation.

### Other State-Wide Races

Governor Rampton's term is up in '72. He is undecided at this time whether or not he will seek re-election although the betting is that he will. At the present time the Republicans have not settled on a candidate.

### Congressional

The Republicans have a chance to pick up a seat that was lost in '68 if they can agree on a strong candidate.

### Party Condition

The party was badly split as a result of the 1970 campaign. The party has a new State Chairman, Kent Shearer, who at the present time has not done much to rebuild the fences. It is my understanding that there is a possibility that there will be yet another new chairman in the near future.