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Kentucky 'Frontiersman' Looms as GOP Prospect for '68

WASHINGTON.

GOP strategists who are hopefully scanning the horizon for a potential Presidential winner in 1968 may be overlooking a gold mine in the U. S. Senate. No other current Republican officeholder can match Sen. John Sherman Cooper's combined experience in both foreign and domestic affairs.

As a matter of fact, no U. S. President of modern times has, at his first inauguration, been able to boast such diversified governmental credentials as this former Ambassador and circuit judge, who has ably served in all three branches of Government and the armed services. Handsome, sophisticated and intellectual, Cooper non-

theless retains a frontiersman's practicality which earns him huge electoral majorities in Kentucky, where Democratic registration exceeds Republican 240-1.

Widely respected for his integrity, Cooper proposed the resolution which created the Senate Ethics Committee to investigate possible conflict-of-interest cases and other Senatorial improprieties, and he now sits on that committee, which is currently investigating charges against Sen. Thomas Dodd (D., Conn.).

COOPER, a product of Yale University and Harvard Law School, belongs to the moderate wing of the GOP. Neither a dove nor a

hawk on Vietnam, he opposes further escalation and bombing of North Vietnam, but is also against withdrawal or abject surrender. He favors a strong international push to bring both parties to a negotiation table.

The Kentucky Republican has visited Vietnam twice within the past six months, once with Secretary of State Dean Rusk, and the other time after a Manila meeting of the Asian Development Bank, to which President Johnson had appointed him as a delegate.

Highly regarded by Presidents of both parties, Cooper served three times as a delegate to the United Nations General Assembly and twice as an adviser at NATO con-

ferences, by appointment of President Truman. He was President Eisenhower's highly effective Ambassador to India and Nepal in 1955-56.

BECAUSE of his judicial temperament, President Johnson named him to the Warren Commission which investigated the assassination of President Kennedy, and he was LBJ's representative in the funeral of Indian Prime Minister Shastri last January.

Cooper's war record is also impeccable. Although beyond the draft age, he enlisted as a private in the Second World War, won the Bronze Star in action in the European Theater, and stayed on in Germany to reorganize the Bavarian court system,

being discharged as a captain.

He and his wife, Lorraine, a popular member of top-drawer Washington society, occupy a charming 18th-century townhouse in the heart of Georgetown.

ALTHOUGH born and reared in the Southern-oriented border State of Kentucky, Cooper has cosponsored every civil rights bill since going to the Senate in 1946, and although he generally votes with the liberal wing of the GOP, he is a party regular who supported Barry Goldwater after he became the Republican nominee in '64.

Most of the talk nowadays is of a Romney-Javits ticket, but both the Michigan Gov-

ernor and the New York Senator lack experience in foreign affairs, which is becoming a "must" for U. S. Presidents in the space age. Further, Sen. Javits will be up for re-election in 1968 and would have to relinquish his Senate seat to run for Vice President, whereas Cooper is expected to win big in Kentucky this November. The only two times that he lost a Senatorial election were when Kentucky's favorite son, "Veep" Alben W. Barkley, was on the opposing ticket.

In 1960 Cooper won by the largest margin ever accorded a Senate candidate in traditionally Democratic Kentucky — a real tribute to this "mainstream" Republican.