Thio Loss Shakes Conference Nervous GOP Governors

Washington Chronicle Correspondent By George Murphy

phrase W.C. Fields, the Re-Santa Barbara. publicans would rather be in On the whole, to para-

that Cincinnati did not exist. And they'd also prefer

day at the opening of the National Governors' Confer-GOP sentiment here yester-That appeared to be the

in the 13th (Santa Barbaracial Congressional election marsino in Tuesday's spe-State Senator Robert Lago-Ventura) District. Ford found much solace in the victory of Republican Vice President Gerald

> conference. (In 1972, the cent of the vote and defeated seven Democrats," Ford GOP won the district with told a hotel corridor press 70.3 per cent of the vote.) "I was greatly encouraged by the news that the Republican candidate got 54 per

party stronghold. gressional District, long a had lost in Ohio's First Conpointed" the Republicans Ford said he was "disap-

ernors earlier in the day, Ford said ruefully: In his address to the gov-

nati but not in California." paigned recently in Cincinnote of the fact that I cam-"I hope you will not take

ber will not be a disaster for general elections in Novemlicans," but he felt that the ous problem to us as Repubresults present "a very seri-He told reporters the Ohio

that should help the Republican candidates," Ford said. economy is going to be moving forward in the Fall and "In my judgment, the

rate" them selves from President Nixon, the Vice candidates should "sepa-President replied: Asked if he felt that GOP

such a good job in so many areas." "I see no need for any Republican to abandon the President . . . who has done

sess the election results gressional assistants to asbriefly before attending a luncheon of Republican connia's Ronald Reagan paused chus: On Capitol Hill, Califor-

of course, but we had a great triumph in California. "I'm sorry we lost in Ohio,

they've got something (in Watergate) to run with as a "The Democrats think

single issue, but Bob Lagomarsino made them run on Washington' and won." want to represent you in the question of 'who do you

results in a manner that would please Dr. Norman conference, viewed the Ohio Washington, chairman of the Vincent Peale. Republican Dan Evans, of

he said. regenerate party strength," "These reverses may well

party in '76." could build strength for the "The trial by fire in 74

chances or Mr. Nixon's fueither the Republican not all that sanguine about Governor John Gilligan was ture. But Ohio's Democratic

over the Cincinnati win, which both parties chose as tergate issue, Gilligan said: a testing ground on the Wa-"Nobody can say they (the Understandably elated

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sent in all their big guns.

20 to 25 Republican Coning their hole cards. Senators who won last time gressmen and a couple of with 55 to 58 per cent of the vote who are now check-"I'd guess there are about

sonally, I think it would be better for the country and also better for his party." ly go to the President and suggest he step aside. Per-"I think they might quiet-

this year. billion in fuel tax revenues the states will lose up to \$2 the states will los up to \$2 Earlier in the day, the governors were told that if

radically changed from opgovernmental Relations, for state governments has "the general fiscal situation mism visory Commission on Intersaid the report of the Ad-"In less than two months," to great uncer-

Republicans) were caught with their guard down. They