

FORD WARNS G.O.P. ON RIVALS' SWEEP

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Says in Midwest He Fears
'Legislative Dictatorship'
if Democrats Triumph
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INDIANAPOLIS, Oct. 16 —

President Ford, campaigning for Republican candidates in the Middle West, said today that massive Democratic victories in November's Congressional election could create a "legislative dictatorship."

In a speech this morning at a meeting of Missouri Republicans in Kansas City, Mr. Ford noted that recent public opinion polls indicated sweeping gains by the Democrats this fall. He added that the polls could be wrong.

"But if the polls are right," he said, "you could have a veto-proof Congress, a concentration of power in one of the three branches of the Federal Government. In effect, you have a legislative dictatorship."

In pep talks to gatherings of Republicans in Missouri, South Dakota, Nebraska and Indiana today, the President's message was that although the odds against their party were high those odds could be overcome.

But the urgency of his statements about preventing an overwhelming Democratic triumph suggested a great concern that Republican candidates are in serious difficulty in the wake of the Watergate scandal, Mr. Ford's pardon of former President Richard M.

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Nixon and the bleak economic outlook.

Speaking at Lincoln, Neb., Mr. Ford, in effect, conceded November's Congressional elections to the Democratic party when he said that he expected to be working with a Democratic Congress.

Talking to reporters today, Dean Burch, political counselor to Mr. Ford, said that the President was campaigning only in those places where he believed the Republican candidates had a chance to win. Mr. Burch was asked about the chances of former Republican Representative Thomas B. Curtis, who is running against Missouri's Democratic junior Senator, Thomas F. Eagleton.

He replied: "You've got to remember we were here [in Kansas City] anyway." Then he added that the President wished Mr. Curtis well.

In South Dakota, another Republican candidate for the Senate, a former Vietnam prisoner of war, Leo K. Thorsness, is believed to be trailing Senator George McGovern.

A South Dakota newspaper quoted Mr. Thorsness yesterday as saying that he did not know whether the President's visit would help or hurt his chances

of being elected. The Republican candidate said today that his remarks had been taken out of context and that he thought the President would help him.

But neither Mr. Thorsness nor many of the other Republican candidates who appeared with Mr. Ford today seemed overly gratified at the President's efforts on their behalf. For example, Mr. Thorsness remarked at the same rally at which Mr. Ford spoke that the chances of a Republican victory this fall would have been better had Mr. Ford not taken the positions he did on such matters as the pardon of Mr. Nixon, the conditional amnesty for Vietnam war deserters and draft evaders, the proposed 5 per cent surtax on middle- and high-income persons and the halting of grain shipments to the Soviet Union.

Mr. Thorsness cited these actions as examples of Mr. Ford's courage. But his political message was clear.

Earlier, Senator Robert Dole, the Kansas Republican who is in a very difficult re-election fight, intimated that he also had mixed feelings about President Ford's campaign appearance.

President Ford's style on the stump today was as flat as the yellow and green prairie that he crisscrossed all day long aboard Air Force 1. He spoke

from prepared texts but frequently improvised and often stumbled into a somewhat tortured syntax.

When making strong statements that could be trumpeted calls of oratory, such as warning against a "legislative dictatorship," Mr. Ford seemed to project only mild, routine partisanship.

Although this is an openly political trip, completely paid for by the Republican National Committee (at a cost of \$20,000, according to Mr. Burch), the President sprinkled his talk today with appeals for bipartisan support for his economic program and in foreign policy matters such as aid to Turkey.

When speaking in Sioux Falls, S.D., for example, he called for the election of Mr. Thorsness to help assure a bipartisan foreign policy. He did not explain why electing a Republican Senator would help a Republican President create a bipartisan policy.

Mr. Ford addressed some specific topical issues in his talks today. In Sioux Falls, for example, he criticized farmers who were killing livestock to drive up prices. "I am particularly disturbed," he said, "by the wasteful protest slaughtering of calves in Wisconsin at a time when we are trying to increase the food supply."