

Nixon Emphasis

Put on Own Race

Klein Says He Will Not Risk Losing Independent Vote by Pressing for Others

by Warren Weaver Jr.
Special to [NYTimes]

Washington, Oct. 10—President Nixon will not risk losing the Democratic and independent support that has given him a commanding lead by pressing for the election of Republican majorities in Congress during the remaining month of the campaign, according to one of his key aides.

Despite polls that show the President with strength to spare in his own race for re-election, the aide said, he does not intend to shift emphasis from assuring his own success to assuring control of the Senate and possibly the House by working for Republican candidates.

quotes
"The No. 1 consideration is the Presidential race," the aide, Herbert G. Klein, White House Director of Communications, told an informal meeting of reporters. "The Congressional elections are a secondary consideration but not a forgotten one."

Thus, he explained, Mr. Nixon will concentrate the relatively limited amount of campaigning he plans for the next four weeks to the battleground states of his own re-election drive rather than those where close Senate and House races are hanging in the balance.

New Poll Cited

This strategy apparently remains unaffected by the President's continued commanding lead in the polls. In a new Harris survey, published in The Washington Post and other newspapers today, Mr. Nixon led Senator George McGovern 60 to 33 per cent, only one point down from two weeks earlier.

The only cold comfort for the Democratic nominee in the new Harris findings was that the sample of voters agreed, 46 to 41 per cent, that "President Nixon does not deserve to win by a landslide." Mr. Harris suggested that this might mean an "underdog reaction" was setting in.

The President will almost certainly make campaign stops in such states as Michigan, Massachusetts and West Virginia that normally go Democratic in national elections but may be within his reach in 1972.

He will spend time in California and Illinois, where the margin between himself and Senator McGovern could be very narrow by early November. He will even make a pass at South Dakota, in an effort to humble the Democratic nominee by depriving him of his own home state.

May Skip Small States

But the prospect of Mr. Nixon's appearing in small states like Rhode Island and New Mexico, where Republican Senate candidates might win with a Presidential push, remains small. So does the likelihood that he will campaign in Mississippi or Arkansas, where friendly Democrats like Senators James O. Eastland and John H. McClellan are up for re-election.

"We are not trying to plan a Presidential strategy around Senate races," Mr. Klein said. pu 2d add Repubs

Responding to the questions of reporters, who interviewed him in his office, Mr. Klein indicated that the President would attempt to convert a personal triumph in November, if it occurs, into a broader base for the Republican party after the election.

He suggested that some Democratic members of Congress might decide to shift parties after November if the Nixon-Agnew ticket won an impressive majority.

Most political observers regard such switches as likely only if the Republicans come within a few votes of a majority in either house and are thus able to promise defecting Democrats that they will not lose their seniority or status as members of the majority if they convert and shift party control.

'As Easy As Possible'

Mr. Klein argued that there was nothing unusual about the fact that the Nixon political advertising never mentions the Republican party. Republicans always campaign with such anonymity in states like California, he said.

"We want to make it as easy as possible for independents and Democrats to vote for the President," he explained. "But we recognize the historical trend toward ticket-splitting. The President is not going to go around saying that people who are for him have to vote for some other candidates."

Mr. Klein said that the President would campaign one day this week and probably two next, with some acceleration of pace in the closing weeks. Mr. Nixon has no intention, Mr. Klein said, of campaigning as hard this year as he did for himself in 1968 or for Congressional candidates in 1970.

The November Group, the Republican campaign's advertising agency, announced in New York this afternoon that a half-hour of network television time had been purchased for Saturday night but would not say what it was to be used for beyond denying that the President planned a speech of rebuttal to Mr. McGovern's speech tonight.