

State GOP Chiefs and Watergate

Washington

Despite the Watergate scandals which have engulfed President Nixon's administration, Republican state chairmen are far from conceding that the fall elections will spell disaster for the GOP.

Publicly, at least, they predict that Watergate will not play a key role in the off-year election and that the voters will judge the congressional and gubernatorial candidates on their own merits.

Speaking for many of them, Ohio state GOP Chairman Kent McGough said "There is nothing on the horizon that I could see to bring gloom to the Republican party."

That puts them at odds with Senator Barry M. Goldwater (Rep-Ariz.) who said he has seen figures which show a 10 per cent drop in the GOP vote and Senator Charles H. Percy (Rep-Ill.) who said registration figures are "disastrous" and predicted the first post-Watergate congress will be overwhelmingly Democratic.

In fact, some of the state chairmen wish that people like Goldwater and Percy would shut up.

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