

# Watergate Uncertainty in Fish-Angell Race

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POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y.—The Watergate scandal has added flavor and an element of uncertainty to the campaign for a Representative in the 25th Congressional District.

The focus of the race is Hamilton Fish Jr., the only Republican Representative who now seeks re-election from New York to vote on the House Judiciary Committee to impeach Richard M. Nixon. He has both the Republican and Conservative nominations.

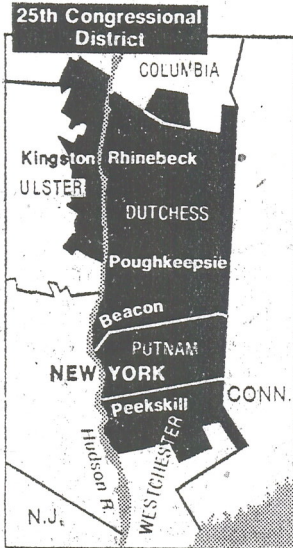
The Democratic candidate, Nicholas B. Angell, is making his first attempt at public office in the district, which generally has been regarded as safe Republican territory in recent years.

Except for the Watergate scandal, the race would be the same clear-cut choice between a liberal Democrat and a conservative Republican as in 1970 and 1972. In each of those two elections, more than 70 per cent of the voters in the district chose the conservative, Mr. Fish.

"I think there's going to be an upset this year," Mr. Angell said, a view that is not shared by many, including Democratic politicians in the district. Even Mr. Angell adds a big "if" to his confident statement—"if there is a heavy turnout of Democrats and independents for me." Neither candidate is very much concerned about the possible

vote of a third-party candidate in the race, Sanford Cohen, a Beacon, N. Y., school teacher, who is running as the candidate of the Free Libertarian party.

In a year when candidates of both parties freely use the word



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apathy to characterize the mood of voters nationwide, the turnout in the 25th District is expected to be less than the more than 200,000 votes cast in 1972, a Presidential year. Mr. Fish won a third term in that year with 144,386 votes to 54,271 for his Democratic opponent, running about 4,000 votes ahead of the Nixon landslide. That kind of margin would normally indicate a seemingly invulnerable position for Mr. Fish this year.

### Confidence Expressed

Although he expressed confidence in the outcome, Mr. Fish said that the expected low turnout could hurt him and other Republican candidates more than the Democrats, mainly because more Republican voters might stay home as the result of the Watergate scandal and

of the subsequent pardon of Mr. Nixon by Presd President Ford.

He added two more reasons why Republican candidates in the state might be hurt this year — Mr. Carey's apparent lead over the top of the Republican ticket, Governor Wilson, and the lack of a major Republican get-out-the-vote campaign.

"This is the first time in 16 years that we Republicans haven't run with a big get-out-the-vote campaign, either financed by Rockefeller in the gubernatorial years or sparked by the nationwide interest in Presidential years," he said.

### Similar Backgrounds

The concern with voter turnout is shared by both candidates, who are similar in many other respects. Each is in his 440's, a lawyer with an Ivy League background and a home in an affluent area of the district.

Mr. Angell, a graduate of Princeton and the Harvard Law School who served with the Army's 82d Airborne Division, lives in Garrison. An intense, fast-speaking and issue-oriented candidate, he is making his first attempt at public office at the age of 42.

Mr. Fish, now 46 years old, is a graduate of Harvard, the Harvard School for Public Administration and the New York University Law School. He served in the Navy in World War II and now lives near Millbrook.

Both campaigned in the same way, with few if any speeches, but with much hand-shaking and appearances at public functions, shopping centers and social events. But they do present divergent philosophical approaches to the problem of the

day and to the functions of a Representative in Congress.

Mr. Angell, a backer of Senator George A. McGovern in 1972, is concerned about too much power in the White House and the "laziness of Congress." Mr. Fish, a strong supporter of President Nixon in 1972 and his policies, is more concerned about service to his constituents.

Both agree that the economic situation is the overriding issue in the 25th District as it is in the nation. Mr. Angell lays the blame on "a decision-making paralysis" flowing from an imbalance of power in Washington and Mr. Fish sees the problem in terms of answering specific requests for help from the voters.

Mr. Fish speaks slowly and softly, examining issues and alternatives carefully before making up his mind. He seems at home dealing with the individual problems of his constituents and his primary interest is in acting as an ambassador for them.

The district, which was largely rural when Mr. Fish first ran for office in 1966 and was defeated, now, after the 1971 redistricting, sprawls over all or part of five counties in the mid-Hudson River Valley, ranging from Peekskill and its urban problems to Highland and its farm problems.

It includes the northern town of Westchester County, all of Putnam and Dutchess Counties, the town of Gallatin in Columbia County, and the western strip of Ulster County, including the city of Kingston. The registration is 3 to 2 Republican, with independent voters making up 30 per cent of the registration.