

Politicians Believe Illness Is Unlikely to Affect Vote

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By R. W. APPLE Jr. OCT 31 1974

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WASHINGTON, Oct. 30—Republican and Democratic politicians agreed today that former President Richard M. Nixon's grave illness was unlikely to change radically the outcome of Tuesday's elections.

But a number of party leaders said they thought there was a chance that Mr. Nixon's condition would benefit beleaguered Republican nominees in two ways: by muting the pardon issue and by increasing the turnout.

The effect would not be enough, they said, to help in any but the most closely contested campaigns.

"My guess," said Jerry Roe, the executive director of the Michigan Republican party, "is that this will lead more people to understand and approve of the President's decision to give Nixon a pardon. I don't know the magnitude, but to some degree, this has to dampen an issue that has been pretty tough for us, at least here."

Even Race in Michigan

Michigan is one state where even a slight change in public opinion could affect the outcome. The polls show Gov. William Milliken and his Democratic challenger, Sander Levin, almost even.

"The most Nixon's illness does is to justify the pardon," said Joseph F. Crangle, the Democratic chairman in New York State. "And I don't think that's enough to have much real impact on things."

One Republican candidate said that he feared that the re-emergence of Mr. Nixon's name in the headlines would only remind voters of Watergate and Nixon economic policies, which have already hurt most Republican nominees.

"I don't buy that," Mr. Crangle said. "Who needs to be reminded? All you see in the papers anyway is the Watergate trial and collapsing economic indicators and shut-downs in the auto plants."

Patrick Caddell, a pollster for Democratic candidates, said that he had been swamped with telephone calls from his clients this morning, asking what the news from California meant to their contests. "I've told them that I really don't know," Mr. Caddell said, "but that my hunch is that this might move some conservative Republicans who weren't going to vote to the polls. We may see some influence on the turnout Tuesday."

He argued, however, that most voters would not be influenced, "simply because the vast majority have already decided that they want to put Nixon out of mind."

Gov. Ronald Reagan of Cali-

fornia, perhaps reflecting a general conservative reaction, said in Newport Beach, Calif.: "Maybe that'll satisfy the lynch mob."

A number of those questioned said they were unable to assess the political impact of the former President's illness or they thought it would be slight or nonexistent.

For example, George P. Stadelman, a vice chairman of the Republican National Committee, who lives in Oregon, said that "a lot of Republican voters feel a little sense of guilt about Nixon being driven from office, and this could increase it, but I still see no great impact."

Joseph Califano, a former general counsel to the Democratic National Committee, said he thought the former President's sudden turn for the worse "will have a lot less effect on the election than it will on the press—I expect to see a new round of recriminations about how the media drove this man almost literally into his grave."

In Iowa, Ed Campbell, campaign manager for Representative John C. Culver, the Democratic senatorial nominee, said he thought Mr. Nixon's illness might prompt his sympathy vote for those House Republicans who defended him almost to the end, such as Representative Wiley Mayne of Iowa, who has been trailing in his bid for re-election.

However, two party officials in the South, both in states with close races, said they foresaw no change.

S. L. Kopald, the Tennessee Republican chairman, said: "It certainly isn't going to change a single vote down here."

And Jon Moyle, the Democratic chairman in Florida, said that he had heard only one mention of Mr. Nixon's condition on a day of telephoning around the state, and that had been fleeting.