

NYTimes WALLACE  
Wallace's Race for Governor Has

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"The Democratic party doesn't know what to do with me," George C. Wallace says with a smug chuckle.

He leans back in his stainless steel wheelchair and takes a satisfying drag off the ever-present cigar, flipping the ashes into a brass spittoon.

Then he is bolt upright again, warning:

"But the Democratic party had better heed my message this time."

The 55-year-old Governor, seemingly in good health except for the paralysis of his legs and periodic small infections, is engaging in his only known avocation—talking politics.

Since the last Gallup Poll found him to be the leading Democratic Presidential prospect, much of the old Wallace cockiness has returned—the laser-like stare, the flaunting use of "ain't" and "dem," the combative rhetorical question that glosses over his past opposition to integration by asking whether standing in the school-house doorway wasn't the same as fighting big government.

'Might Go Either Way'

He disdains speculation, then takes the lead in exploring his prospects as a Democratic Presidential nominee, a Democratic Vice Presidential nominee, a third-party candidate. He wonders aloud whether he would drive off the Democratic left or pull votes away from the Republicans. Finally, he concludes:

"Well, it might go either way."

An aide shows him some more visitors. Pleasantries are exchanged, some state business is discussed. Then the question comes agin, for the umpteenth time:

"Governor, what about 1976?"

"Well," he says with that wide-mouthed smile, "I've got this election coming up in November so I just don't know at this point. I'll think about 1976 after that."

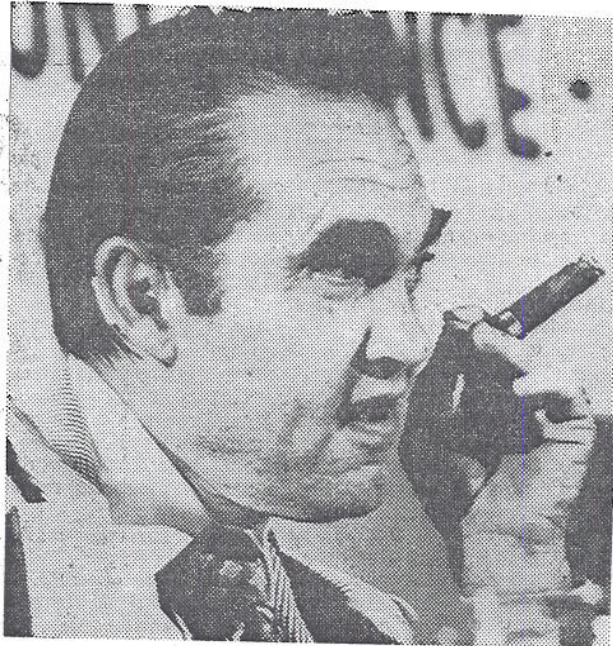
Corley Wallace is running for a third term as Governor next month, but his campaigning has all the earmarks of another quest for the Presidency.

Most of his travel in these last pre-election days is to place such as Popular Bluff, Mo., and Oklahoma City, not to Birmingham or Mobile.

Most of his speeches are about what he considers waste in foreign aid and the need to kick the Democratic left, not state problems and the need to kick the Republicans.

He can well afford such travel and talk.

In last summer's Democratic primary, he captured 64 per cent of the vote. In the coming general election, his Republican opponent, former State Repre-



United Press International

Gov. George C. Wallace of Alabama

sentative Elvin McCary of Aniston, has yet to win his own party's endorsement.

Mr. Wallace says:

"I'm campaigning a little in Alabama to get out the vote for the Democratic ticket, but I'm not personally worried."

What worrying there is in the Wallace camp seems entirely concerned with 1976.

In a downtown Montgomery office building, behind a sign that reads "Wallace Campaign Headquarters," several dozen men and women are raising money for a Wallace drive for the Presidency in two

Less Than \$10

Since the beginning of the year, they have collected almost one million dollars, most of it from the "little people" in amounts less than \$10, but there was nothing little about the computerized mailing operation that reached to those grassroots givers.

In fact, the Wallace fundraising effort is being directed by one of the best money men in politics, Richard Viguerie of Falls Church, Va. The Wallace headquarters says he has di-

rected sending out more than six million pieces of mail in the last year or so.

The most recent batch, almost two million pieces, contained such questions as the following:

Do you think the Democratic party can provide the solutions to the problems facing middle America? Can the Republican party provide the solution? Is there a need for a third party? Would you support George Wallace?

The answers are not yet in. No matter. Mr. Wallace insists he already knows what the voters are thinking.

A Helpful Law

"They're thinking what I've been preaching for years now," he said. "The average man is swelling up, bursting out because he's been flouted. He knows you're not being racist when you talk about welfare and busing and law and order and the like. The Republicans won with that, and I was saying the same thing before I got shot."

The Wallace money raisers have been encouraged to try

Tone of a Presidential Quest

even harder by the campaign financing law just passed by Congress and signed by President Ford. The law provides for the use of public funds to finance Federal election campaigns, and Mr. Wallace's supporters say he qualifies easily for such funds because of the broad-based effort already mounted on his behalf.

Not that he would necessarily need as much money as the other candidates to make a

good run. He already is the best-known of the lot and could spend his money more selectively, perhaps on media blitzes to compensate for his inability to move about as easily as other candidates.

Mr. Wallace, campaigning in a Maryland shopping center in May, 1972, was shot and seriously wounded. Arthur H. Bremer was sentenced to 63 years in prison for the shooting.