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Politics in Key States—

OHIO DOUBTFUL, 2 PARTIES ADMIT

However, Observers Believe
Republicans Hold
Slight Edge.

By HAL CONEFRY
Scripps-Howard Staff Writer

COLUMBUS, O., Sept. 6.—Despite all the polls and claims and counter-claims, Ohio is still very much of a doubtful state, so far as the presidential election is concerned.

Republican spokesmen are optimistic, but privately they're not discounting the vote-getting ability of Franklin D. Roosevelt.

They believe, however, that the chances of the state being won for the Republican national ticket this year are much brighter than they were four or eight years ago.

Governor John W. Bricker, proven vote-getter, is believed to add materially to the G. O. P. prospects by being on the ticket as vice presidential nominee.

Furthermore, the G. O. P. organization will work harder for the national ticket with Mr. Bricker, on it than would have been the case had some one else been selected to run with Governor Dewey.

State Tickets Weak

Four years ago, for instance, Wendell L. Willkie defeated Ohio's Senator Taft for the G. O. P. presidential nomination, and it was an open secret that the G. O. P. machine here did no more than it had to in the subsequent campaign.

That won't happen this year, with Bricker on the ticket.

Both parties have the weakest state tickets they have offered the Ohio voters in many years.

Senator Taft, candidate for reelection, is the strongest G. O. P. nominee. Indications are now that he will be re-elected, possibly by considerable margin.

James Garfield Stewart, mayor of Cincinnati, Republican nominee for governor, was a minority choice in the primary, and faces strong opposition from Frank J. Lausche, mayor of Cleveland, Democratic nominee and strongest candidate on his party's state ticket.

If Mr. Stewart wins, he probably will carry with him all the rest of the G. O. P. ticket. Should Lausche win, probabilities are he'll carry into office all the Democratic state candidates. Only Senator Taft would have much chance of surviving a Lausche sweep.

G. O. P. Has Advantage

The Republicans now have 29 of the state's 23 congressmen. Indications are now that the Democrats will win back several of the districts, probably five or more, but that the Republicans will still elect a majority of the members of the house.

Republicans have an important advantage in Ohio by reason of a far more effective and better organized state machine. Unless the Democratic national committee comes across handsomely, the Republicans will also be far better financed.

The outcome of the contest between Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Dewey for Ohio's 25 electoral votes probably will be decided in 16 of the state's 88 counties.

These are the big industrial counties, all but one of which have been pro-Roosevelt in previous elections.

Cite Last Election

Four years ago President Roosevelt carried only 28 Ohio counties, and Mr. Willkie carried 60. But Mr. Roosevelt's 28 included 15 of the industrial counties, where a majority of the state's votes are, with the result that he carried Ohio by 146,366 votes.

The President apparently is much weaker in the rural counties of Ohio than he was in 1940, and there are indications he has lost strength in the industrial counties.

A switch of 75,000 votes in 1940 would have put Ohio into the Willkie column. This year the Ohio presidential vote is expected to be considerably less and it's likely, therefore, that a switch of 50,000 votes, perhaps less, will be enough this year to swing Ohio into the Republican column. Whether there has been such a shift is a question none of the political experts can answer authoritatively as yet.

GRID TEAM FORMED TO AID PALS CLUB

Details of a semi-professional football team sponsored by the Fraternal Order of Police was announced yesterday by Chief Beeker at the safety board meeting.

Proceeds from games played by the ex-high school and college athletes, said the chief, "will be used to carry on Pals club activities . . . there are no paid promoters and no ticket selling by the police to the public in any way."

"Tickets will be dispensed only through the boxoffice at the gate." He added that the 2100 members of Pals clubs located in various city parks will be admitted free.

The squad, to be coached by Frank (Pop) Hedden, Butler university grid mentor, will play three or four out-of-town games.

In an accounting of \$4100 in proceeds from an F. O. P. sponsored police ball staged at the Coliseum this spring, Chief Beeker credited the police organization with buying all baseball equipment used in the Pals club program this summer.

The purchase of additional basketball, football and boxing apparatus is yet to come, he added.

