

Johnson Holds Eastern Lead

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NEW YORK, N.Y.—Nowhere in the United States does President Johnson hold a more commanding lead over Republican nominee Barry Goldwater than in the East; nowhere do the Goldwater forces have less control over the GOP than in the area Goldwater once suggested should be “sawed off and let float out to sea.” And thereby hangs a political tale.

Center of Liberal Republicans

The East is the center of liberal “internationalist” Republicanism. The center of America’s corporate giants, traditional bastions of Republicanism, are clustered along the Eastern seaboard. The bulk of the intellectual and financial strength has historically rested through the industrial and financial giants in Boston and New York, and the political careerists in Washington.

It was the cry of the Bryan Democrats, the Populists, and to a certain extent midwest progressives that the country was in the grip of a reactionary Eastern financial conspiracy to fight social justice and to keep economic control of the United States.

Easterners Repudiated

Now, generations later, the GOP nominee has turned the political dialogue topsy-turvy by running a campaign which is in effect a repudiation of the Republican candidates and policies since Wendell Wilkie’s day—a repudiation in large measure at the policies of Eastern Republicanism.

Goldwater’s policies are in direct contradiction to those enunciated by GOP “brain-trusters” such as James Wadsworth, Arthur Larson, Douglas Dillon, Emmett John Hughes, and dozens of established leaders who energetically joined the Eisenhower administration to help run the diplomatic and political functions. They sought no repeal of welfare state measures; they sought no “offensive” against Eastern European Communism. They, in effect, turned the Roosevelt revolution into a bi-partisan consensus.

Now this spirit is gone. In its place has come a new breed, from the Western spaces, who reject completely the basis of a generation of Republican thinking: thinking fashioned in large measure by “Eastern” Republicans. The GOP is feeling the impact of this shift.

Republicans for Johnson

The Gallup Poll shows that 41 per cent of Republicans in the East are voting for President Johnson. New York’s GOP organization is urging candidates for local office to follow Sen. Keating’s lead and run independently of the Goldwater-Miller ticket. Privately, Republican strategists are expressing fears of losing the Empire State by more than 1.5 million votes — the largest plurality of any Presidential candidate for any state in the history of the United States.

In Connecticut, where President Kennedy won by 85,000 votes and thus indicated he would take most of the East, predictions are ranging from a Johnson plurality of 250,000 to 400,000 votes. This staggering figure could deal a near-fatal blow to the beleaguered Republican state organization.

No Eastern States

The disaffection with Goldwater ranges through Rhode Island, into New Jersey, and up in New England to embrace even the rock-ribbed Republican states of Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont. One GOP official admitted: "I don't think Barry will take a single Eastern state—and he could lose every county in New York and Connecticut."

This is not a pretty picture for the Goldwater organization, although their election strategy has been to write off the East and fuse victory out of a Southern-Western alliance. With Johnson favored in every area but the South, the Republican candidates must pick up some electoral strength in the East to add to his Dixie total. And right now, they simply haven't got it.

GOP Hopes?

The Goldwater convention victory was fashioned over the opposition of most moderate Eastern Republicans. It appears, however, that at election time the huge population of the American Northeast may put the damper on GOP Presidential hopes.