

# Freewheeling Political Battle Predicted In Ohio In Next Election Campaign For Control Of Congress

**By JACK BELL**  
**COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)** — The ingredients are being assembled in Ohio today for a free-wheeling political battle that may determine control of the Senate in the next Congress.

The average voter here is inclined to accept forecasts that president Eisenhower will sweep Ohio again next fall as he did in 1952. Candidates for governor have not yet been chosen in the primaries.

But all Ohio knows that Democratic Gov. Frank J. Lausche and Republican Sen. George H. Bender are set to throw the political book at each other in the senatorial race. And there is no unanimity of opinion about the outcome.

**BENDER VICTORY**  
 Bender beat Democratic Sen. Thomas A. Burke, a Lausche appointee, by only 2,900 votes in 1954 to round out the last two years of Taft's term. Taft died in mid-1953.

Cold statistics fail to take into account the cross-currents of Ohio politics which are likely to find Democratic Representatives Michael J. Kirwan, chairman of the party's congressional campaign committee, and Wayne Hays, 18th District congressman, rolling all possible stumbling blocks in Lausche's path.

Lausche has Democratic enemies in Cleveland. He can expect little aid — if any — from union leaders. He has lost to Bender some of the financial support he always had from Republican industrialists in his campaigns for governor.

On the other hand, the irrepressible Bender faces a psychological disadvantage born of Lausche's frequent state victories. Not all Ohio Republicans are enthusiastic about Bender and, as he says himself, one of his main jobs is to "keep the regular Republicans in the party" and away from Lausche's camp.

**BIGGEST ASSET**  
 The biggest asset going for Bender appears to be Eisenhower's decision to run again. Bender's voice is raised constantly these days in praise of Eisenhower and in pledges of loyalty to the GOP administration.

But the unorthodox Lausche too praises Eisenhower. This prompted the exasperated Bender to exclaim: "Lausche is trying to grab Ike's coattails. Those coattails are already occupied by me and there isn't room for anybody else there."

A finance committee made up of some of Ohio's leading industrialists is out to raise \$500,000 for Bender's campaign. Secretary of the Treasury Humphrey has written letters soliciting donations. Lausche says he won't spend more than \$30,000 and may make an issue of the contrast.

Bender is pitching his campaign on the contention that Eisenhower needs a Republican Senate if he wins a second term. Democrats now outnumber Senate Republicans 49-47 and a net gain of one vote, combined with the vice president's tie-breaker, could give the GOP control in 1957.

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 Bender contends Ohio farmers are going to vote for "peace" even if their economic condition isn't quite up to what they would like to have it. He said the farmers don't blame Eisenhower for their woes.

Eugene H. Hanhart, Democratic state chairman, agreed with Lausche that it's too early to gauge

the unrest among the farmers that Eisenhower won't carry the state," Hanhart said. But he added he doesn't think even Eisenhower can save Bender from defeat.

John Rooney, secretary treasurer of the Ohio CIO Council, conceded that "the President is more popular generally with labor people than many other Republicans

would be." But he said he doesn't believe the president retains as wide appeal as he had in 1952. Rooney thought the Democrats might pick up "a seat or two"

in the House, Ohio Republicans now hold 17 and Democrats 6 seats.

Ray Bliss, Republican State chairman, said he is confident the GOP can hold all the House posts it now has and perhaps pick up some.

Republicans apparently are going to put up their strongest fights against Democratic Representatives James G. Poik in the 6th District in southern Ohio and against Thomas L. Ashley in the 9th, the Toledo area.

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