

Competition In Midwest Very Tough

CHICAGO (UPI)—Old-fashioned whistle stop campaigning within the next few weeks could decide who gets the farm belt vote Nov. 8.

The race in key Midwest states is so close that one big push by Vice President Richard M. Nixon or Sen. John F. Kennedy could pay off with electoral college votes which might swing the election.

Nixon campaigned last week in the three vote-heavy states of Ohio, Michigan and Illinois. Kennedy supporters already are happy about their man's work in two of the states — Ohio and Michigan — and are bearing down on Illinois, the biggest prize of all in the Middle West.

Indian summer has hardened into autumn crispness across the corn and wheat fields of the farm country and the presidential campaign has turned harsh along with the weather.

The old political pattern of the historically Republican Midwest is beginning to emerge in some states — but not in the biggest ones.

Despite Democratic hopes for a farm revolt, the two Dakotas, Indiana, Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas appear safe for the GOP this year. Democrats are showing surprising strength in some areas, particularly Kansas, but it probably will not be enough.

But there are only 45 electoral votes amongst those states. Balance against them are 81 vitally important electoral votes in Michigan, Missouri, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin, where experts rate the Democratic chances even to good.

Leans To Nixon
Illinois, with the Midwest's biggest package of 27 electoral votes, was still counted as leaning to Nixon — but not by very much. Nixon or Kennedy could decide the final outcome.

Time tested stump speaking and hand pumping could count a lot more than television debates and single issues such as Quemoy-Matsu in these final battles for the Middle West.

Except in the big cities, politicians felt the TV debates between Nixon and Kennedy were sharpening interest but changing few votes.

The Midwest verdict on the candidate's defense quarrel over the offshore Chinese islands of Quemoy and Matsu probably will not be known until after election day. Nevertheless, there were a few straws in the wind indicating Kennedy's unwillingness to pledge certain support of the islands appealed to traditional Midwest isolationism.

At Kalamazoo, Mich., for instance, a taxi driver told a reporter travelling with Kennedy "he sure and tell Mr. Kennedy that he struck gold with that argument about those two islands not being worth the bones of one American boy. My wife and I have three boys."

In St. Paul, Minn., a voter said, "It's all right with me if Kennedy gives away everything except the United States to keep us out of war. If it comes right down to it, he can give away everything except Minnesota."

Di Salle Encouraged
Talk like that encouraged Ohio's Democratic governor, Michael Di Salle to predict that Kennedy would take the Buckeye State by a record 620,000 votes. Ohio polls showed Kennedy edging ahead, but politicians said in private that the issues of experience in foreign policy and fiscal conservatism kept the outcome uncertain.

Michigan had been rated a toss-up only two weeks ago, but this week veteran observers were weighing the odds in Kennedy's favor. Enthusiastic crowds and a highly successful voter registration drive in Democratic Wayne (Detroit) and Macomb counties gave Kennedy the edge.

Missouri Democrats were still confident they had their state wrapped up for Kennedy, experts saw the Democrat moving ahead in Minnesota, and a voting switch in the traditionally Republican, but heavily Catholic, Fox River Valley could deliver Wisconsin to the Kennedy camp.

Enigmatic Illinois stood out as a dueling ground not only between Nixon and Kennedy but between deep-rooted Republicanism and the most efficient Democratic machine in the country.

Downstate Illinois — all of the state outside of Chicago — has a tradition of Republicanism going back directly to native son Abraham Lincoln. The Democrats can't claim Lincoln, but they have Chicago Mayor Richard J. Daley, a past master at piling up top-heavy majorities in Cook County. What's more, the Republican state ticket is fighting for its life in Illinois.

CANDIDATES CLASH OVER VARIETY OF ISSUES AS TEMPO OF CAMPAIGN GAINS STEAM

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Candidates for three major offices clashed sharply in Oregon Thursday over a variety of issues as the tempo of campaigning picked up for the November general election. There were these developments in these races:

U. S. Senate—Republican Elmo Smith said his opponent, Democrat Maurine Neuberger, had jeopardized the possibility of a new factory locating on the Boardman Bombing Range. Mrs. Neuberger replied that Smith's contention made no sense.

Secretary of State—Democrat Monroe Sweetland said the office of Secretary of State Howell Appling Jr. issued an elections board manual that is faulty. Appling, a Republican, said his office merely administers the law that Sweetland, as a legislator, helped write.

Congress 4th District — Rep. Charles O. Porter said his opponent, Republican Dr. Edwin Durno, is against public housing, medical care for the aged under social security and federal aid to education. Durno said Porter failed to work for his district, missed vital House work and was incompetent.

Smith made his assertion about Mrs. Neuberger and the industrial plant in a speech to a dinner of the Portland Chamber of Commerce Presidents Council.

The state Planning and Development Commission, he said, had been for months "working quietly to obtain a tremendous space-age installation for the Boardman site. Successful negotiations were advancing quietly but effectively. The chances of Oregon getting such an industry were excellent."

However, Smith said, Mrs. Neuberger "released a trumped-up news story involving some poorly phrased communication between herself" and a representative of a space-age industry.

"That," he said, "exposed the project to the general public. As a result, 17 Washington communities made presentations to the company involved. At best, this maneuver has delayed further consideration of the Boardman site. It could easily result in the loss of this industry for Oregon."

Dorris Woman Given Probation

Mrs. Lydia Mae Harder, 47, Dorris, was placed on probation for three years Friday by Circuit Judge David E. Vandenberg for unlawfully obtaining public assistance.

An information presented by Deputy District Attorney Mac McMillin charged that Mrs. Harder obtained \$52.98 from the Klamath County Welfare Commission although she was a resident of Dorris, California.

After Mrs. Harder pleaded guilty, defense attorney Arthur Beddoe asked the court that she be placed on probation because she was needed at home with her five children. McMillin agreed. Mrs. Harder was restricted to Siskiyou County and the state of Oregon and was ordered by the court to pay back the money.

These frantic charges by my opponent just don't make sense. In the first place, it was Gov. Mark Hatfield who asked my husband's assistance in obtaining legislation needed to clear the way for negotiations to bring space age industry to Oregon. That has been done.

"I believe Oregon members of Congress, regardless of partisanship, should work with the governor and other state officials to bring industry to Oregon. I would plan to carry out such cooperation in the Senate."

Mrs. Neuberger is the widow of the late Sen. Richard L. Neuberger, D-Ore. He and other members of Oregon's congressional delegation sponsored a bill authorizing the Navy to exchange the Boardman site in Eastern Oregon for state land in Lake County.

State officials, including Hatfield, a Republican, have expressed the hope that Boardman Range could be turned into a vast industrial park.

In the race for secretary of state, Democrat Sweetland said again Thursday that he has found another error made by the office of the Republican incumbent, Appling.

Sweetland said instructions in the elections board manual "are contrary to the Legislature's intent and to both the letter and the spirit of the law." Sweetland said this is the law: "Any ballot from which it is possible to determine the elector's choice for a part of the offices or measures or questions shall be counted for that part."

And Sweetland said the manual says this: "A vote should not be counted when the X is entirely outside the square."

Sweetland said the instructions in the manual, if followed, would mean "thousands of votes will not be counted on election day even though the voters' intent is clear."

County officials in Marion and Lane counties said they will abide by the statute, not by the manual.

Appling said Sweetland's contention was "an example of my opponent's politically inspired double talk. As a member of the Legislature in 1957, he himself helped pass the law which

requires ballots to be marked with an X to be valid.

The Porter-Durno debate was held at Eugene Thursday night and was televised over stations at Eugene, Roseburg and Coos Bay.

Porter said he is for public housing and contended Durno is against it because in the state Senate he voted against a veterans home loan measure. Porter said he is for medical care for the aged under Social Security, adding that Durno apparently opposes it and would rather have a charity system. Porter said he is for federal aid to education and for creation of a dunes national park on the Oregon coast.

Porter said Durno had contended that the dunes park would be a waste.

In turn, Durno said "the unparalleled follies of my opponent in world affairs is rivaled only by his incompetence and inability on the domestic front." Durno said Porter introduced 110 bills, and only one passed. He said Porter had failed to work for his home district, particularly neglecting coastal ports. Durno said there should be federal aid to education in some fields. He said: "I have spent 30 years as a doctor and it looks to me like the Forand Bill (for medical care under social security) is a deathbed dole." He said he favors a medical care plan that would embrace all retired persons.

Porter contended that Durno had \$36,000 to spend in the campaign — three times more than he has. "Where does all this big money come from? The American Medical Association, the China Lobby, the National Association of Manufacturers?" Porter asked.

In his years in the state Senate, Durno got only one bill passed, Porter said, and added: "He mentions my follies in world affairs but refuses to identify them."

Porter said he as a member of Congress has been sharply critical of some aspects of American foreign policy, adding that this country has lost prestige and befriended dictators.

Durno said Porter's only committee appointment in the House was to the Post Office and Public Works Committee. He said Porter was traveling abroad when the Post Office Department decided

to switch its regional headquarters from Portland to Seattle.

Porter defended his interest in peace. I have yet to see any post-Sen. Frank Carlson of Kansas that the United States had dis-

do what he can for survival and

In Grants Pass Thursday night,

dates and said he was sorry

seen 60 pictures taken by the

planes — some showing Russian

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