

ROMNEY *for President Committee*

NEWSLETTER

There's A Better Way Than L. B. J. . . .

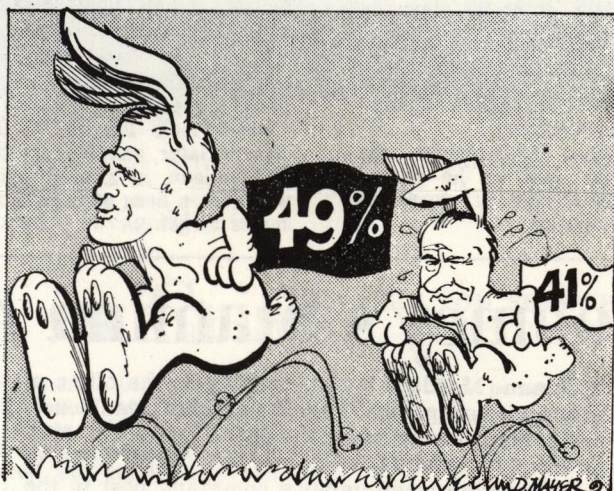
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Winning Is The Name Of The Game . . .

VOL. 1 NO. 4 AUGUST-SEPTEMBER, 1967



Romney Takes Lead from LBJ

PRINCETON, N.J. — Gov. Romney has overtaken President Johnson in the latest trial heat, conducted in the aftermath of the recent riots that hit Detroit and other cities of the nation.

Romney, a top GOP contender for 1968, trailed Johnson by five points in a mid-June survey, but now leads the President by eight points, 49 percent to 41 percent, with 10 percent undecided.

Survey evidence indicates that the sharp shift in the trial heat standings is due more to the President's sagging popularity than to any surge in popular support for Romney.

The proportion of the public which approves of the way

DETROIT FREE PRESS
Sunday, August 20, '67

... TRANQUILITY... JUSTICE... PROGRESS...

"Because I share with a growing number of Americans a deep concern for the unfinished search for social justice and human progress, I am delaying my intended September trip to Europe in order to look at the heart of this nation's cities.

Before I look at other parts of the world again, I want to take a fresh look across the nation at the domestic problems in housing, jobs, education, law enforcement, health, and human relations. This will be helpful in shaping programs for Michigan and in reappraising national, state, and local priorities in the use of our resources.

I know that within America herself there can be found imaginative ideas for the solving of these problems and reconstructing our national policy. There are some communities in which significant steps are being taken to meet the problems head-on and to provide new opportunities for our people.

I want to see these projects first-hand both in the private and governmental sectors. I want to talk with those who have constructive ideas not yet implemented.

I think it is important for public officials—and through their eyes all citizens—to see as well the horrible conditions which breed frustration, hatred and revolt.

The Gallup Poll

the President is handling his job has declined a total of 13 percentage points since the mid-June survey—from 52 percent to 39 percent, Mr. Johnson's lowest rating to date.

The factors primarily responsible for this drop are:

- Discouragement over the course of the Vietnam war.

- The President's recent proposal to increase the number of our troops in Vietnam. His proposal to increase taxes to help pay for the war in Vietnam.

General discouragement over domestic events in this country and specifically riots and race relations.

Romney does better against Mr. Johnson than does Richard Nixon, currently the top choice of the GOP rank-and-file for the nomination. The basic reason for this is Romney's greater appeal to Democrats and independents.

The former vice-president, however, has also improved his position since the mid-June survey.

President Johnson held a clear 51 to 43 percent lead over Nixon at that time, but the race today is much tighter: 47 percent for Johnson, 45 percent for Nixon, with 8 percent undecided.

The following questions

were asked of 1,626 adults of voting age in more than 300 localities in a nationwide survey conducted Aug. 4-7. The results are based on those identified as likely voters:

"Suppose the Presidential election were being held TODAY. If George Romney (Richard Nixon) were the Republican candidate and Lyndon Johnson were the Democratic candidate, which one would you like to see win?"

Romney49%
Johnson41
Undecided10

Johnson47%
Nixon45
Undecided 8

* * *

ROMNEY HOLDS the lead over Mr. Johnson in three of the four major regions of the country; in the East, the race is neck-and-neck.

The results by region:

EAST

Romney46%
Johnson46
Undecided 8

MIDWEST

Romney52%
Johnson39
Undecided 9

SOUTH

Romney44%
Johnson38
Undecided18

WEST

Romney53%
Johnson38
Undecided 9

© American Institute of Public Opinion

I do not think the revolt I sense is brewing is limited to the hot summer months. Respect for law and order is at an all-time low in some quarters.

Unless citizens of this nation comprehend the nature and magnitude of the problems, they will not respond adequately to a call for action, no matter how well conceived.

To the extent we deteriorate within we aid the Communist cause.

To the extent we permit law and order to disintegrate we invite anarchy.

To the extent we dissipate governmental funds ineffectively we raise hope beyond reality and waste our precious human and fiscal resources.

It is my hope to visit Europe sometime in November following the special session of the Michigan Legislature and to spend the Christmas holidays with our men in uniform in Asia.

Domestic tranquility, true social justice and greater human progress are indispensable in fulfilling our world role.

Statement Issued by GOVERNOR GEORGE ROMNEY AUG. 28, '67

Romney Sees City's Suffering on Riot Tour

By WILL MULLER
Detroit News July 26, 1967

Gov. Romney stepped out of Detroit police headquarters just before sunset last night, followed by three State Police officers, one of them carrying a brown paper sack.

They climbed into a black, state-owned sedan. Lt. Chris Swartzendruber took the wheel. Romney, immaculate in a white shirt fresh from home, took the sack.

As the car nosed through side streets to West Grand River, Romney took a tray out of the bag and uncovered it, displaying two cold pork chops, some sliced tomatoes and potato salad.

Romney, a former American Motors Corp. president, has never gotten out of the corporate habit of transacting business while he eats.

LAST NIGHT, he was out again to get the feel of the suffering city and to try to make sense for himself out of the madness in which he has become engulfed.

"See that store?" said the governor, pointing with half of a cold pork chop to a ruined building. "I talked to one of the owners, a woman of 60, this morning.

"She kept saying 'Why couldn't the troops have got here earlier? Has the world gone crazy? Who hates me enough to destroy everything I own?'"

"What can you say to a woman like that? It's all so senseless, and now what is going to happen to the people?"

A SQUAD CAR filled with troopers armed with rifles fell in behind. The police radio snipers along the route.

Romney, unperturbed, spooned potato salad. The car turned onto Linwood. There were gaping buildings, piles of rubble, pits that once were basements.

"Where do the people go now?" the governor asked. "Where can they take up their lives again? Where will they work? How do we feed them?"

"It's senseless. The people who did this are preying on their own kind. The whole thing boomerangs."

The governor conceded that the rioting had knocked into a shambles the "austerity" budget just completed by the Legislature. There are estimates that it costs a quarter of a million dollars a day to keep the National Guard activated.

ROMNEY WASN'T thinking of money. Perhaps he was thinking of the social programs he had initiated in Michigan, the appropriations for which he had fought to supply the needy, the Civil Rights Commission he had created to assure racial opportunity—and feeling his betrayal.

He finished one cold pork chop, wrapped the other carefully in foil and replaced it in the bag for a midnight snack. Police cars raced by, troopers carrying rifles at the ready. Romney split his cookies with the state policemen.

On nearly every corner police stood about, their eyes on rooftops. In the Hazelwood-12th Street area a fire raged. Romney ordered his car to the scene. It bumped over hoses and nosed through guards ringing firemen at work.

Romney spotted a friend from the Legislature. It was J. R. Smith, of 1502 Hazelwood, a sergeant-at-arms in the House.

HE STOPPED to shake hands. What made all this happen? he asked Smith.

"I don't know, governor, I don't know," Smith replied. "We had all this block of good people organized. There wasn't going to be anything happening here."

"Then people came down the street from outside. The fires began. I want to get out of here now, but it's my home."

As the car passed through the blockade a fresh worry beset Romney. There was a report that rioters from Pontiac might march on Bloomfield Hills, where Romney lives.

Would one of the state policemen be sure the governor's wife, Lenore, had some kind of protection? Would it be possible for a trooper to check the Romney home occasionally?

"Sure governor, one of us will stay there, if you want it that way," was the reply.

THE CAR STOPPED at Livernois police station. Romney walked in to cheer the men. He met Inspector Edward Mischnick.

"I'm the commander of the Livernois precinct," Mischnick told Romney. "Or rather what's left of it."

Fires bloomed anew as Romney's car turned back downtown. It pulled up at the fire station on Larned and the governor got out to shake hands

with weary fire fighters.

A nattily dressed man stepped out of the crowd which had collected, walked up to Romney, and commented:

"I'm from Boston. I want to apologize for my President because of what he said about you on the radio last night."

"Oh, he just couldn't help it," Romney replied.

Romney started away, turned back, and told the weary firemen:

"Don't let anyone tell you this terrible thing is the result of a lack of social planning. This was done by the criminal element."

The governor's car slid up behind police headquarters. Romney bounded out.

"It looks better tonight," the governor said as he passed through a knot of patrolmen with riot guns.

"Thank God. Amen!" echoed after him. Romney took the three flights of stairs, two steps at a time, to the third-floor office, where he was to spend another sleepless night.

SINCE SUNDAY morning, he had had six hours of sleep and had eaten only cold sandwiches.

Shortly after Romney had passed through the riot area, a fresh battle was on. Tanks appeared in the streets. Snipers resumed the duel with police, and the killing game was on again.

The three state policemen who had taken Romney on his patrol looked at each other and crossed their fingers. A few minutes later, and the governor of Michigan, in a white shirt, would have been a conspicuous sniper target.

Romney's Stamina A Boon in Crisis

At 2:30 a.m. Monday, the phone rang in the office of Police Commissioner Ray Girardin at 1300 Beaubien.

Mrs. George Romney wanted to speak to her husband, the governor. Girardin's office on the third floor of police headquarters was Romney's command post in the early hours of Detroit's riot.

"George," said Mrs. Romney, "you've been up since 6 o'clock Sunday morning. Can't you arrange to get some sleep?"

Romney said he could not. Looters were running wild on the city's West Side. Fires set by arsonists were breaking out everywhere.

National Guardsmen were pouring into the city to help state and local police, who were badly outmanned in their attempts to put down the disorders.

MINUTES earlier, Romney had been on the phone with Ramsey Clark, the U.S. attorney general, required to bring federal troops into the city.

Romney did not sleep that night. It was not until 3 a.m. Tuesday that he was driven home to Bloomfield Hills by a State Police bodyguard for a four-hour rest, his first in 43 hours. His sleep in the first four days of the riots totaled nine hours.

The reporter who dogs Romney's footsteps soon learns the meaning of stamina. In campaign times, a newsman must move at a near trot to keep up with the governor's hand-shaking tour of a factory or the main street of some small town.

The reporter wolfs down sandwiches on the run and

writes his stories in a motorcade roaring down the highway to the next stop.

Occasionally, he expects to greet the sunrise — when the Legislature goes all night and Romney keeps vigil in his office, or when the governor takes a personal hand in settling a long and troublesome strike.

Stamina is a Romney hallmark, the evidence of what a man of 60 can do physically if he keeps himself in good condition.

NEVER has it stood him in better stead than during the tense and harrowing hours of Detroit's riot.

"This has been harder on George than anything in the past — there is so much emotional stress," said Mrs. Romney, who has seen him through labor negotiations at American Motors Corp., grueling campaign travels and legislative battles in Lansing.

"Yet," she said, "he's been calm throughout all this much more than I've been. I really think he performs best under stress and strain."

Most of the time, Romney has operated from suite 315 at Police Headquarters, down

Romney Called Top Electable GOP Candidate

BY MARQUIS CHILDS

A short handbook on how to be a presidential candidate would include the do's and don'ts of Gov. George W. Romney's experience in the

past 18 months. But it would be instructive above all in showing how the tide of events in a troubled time can sweep up an individual and



GOVERNOR, MAYOR CONFER—Gov. George Romney, center, confers with Mayor Jerome Cavanaugh of Detroit as National Guardsmen stand by in a section of Detroit that was ravaged by rioters Sunday.

BY TOM SHAWVER
Free Press Politics Writer

the hall from Girardin's office and another suite turned over to Cyrus Vance, President Johnson's special emissary to Detroit, and other federal officials.

There, as chief executive of the state and commander in chief of its armed forces, Romney has been able to stay on top of what is happening in Detroit and other troubled cities across the state.

On an average of once a day, he has gone into the riot areas to survey the damage, and talk with residents, mostly Negroes, whose homes have been burned or whose businesses have been destroyed.

His presence, in the damaged buildings and the littered streets, visibly gave a lift even to the most stricken.

At his riot headquarters, Romney is seldom still. A "hot line" from Lansing keeps him in touch with his office.

There is a constant stream of visitors.

State Insurance Commissioner David J. Kykhous came in to talk about the handling of millions of dollars in insurance claims that will be filed by victims of the riot.

Vincent Thomas, account manager for Michigan Bell Telephone Co., checked on telephone facilities that would be required.

Gus Harrison, state corrections director, conferred with Romney on state detention facilities available for temporary confinement of some

of the 3,000 persons arrested.

Television crews from England and Germany were admitted for interviews.

ROMNEY'S public face and public statements have been models of calm and deliberation. He is a man impatient with delay and indecision, however, and there have been some tense and angry moments behind the scenes.

Romney slammed down the phone in frustration after Ramsey Clark told him that he would have to strengthen the plea for federal troops. The governor strongly disagreed with Vance's decision against sending troops from Selfridge Air Force Base to Detroit Monday night, but let his displeasure show through other sources.

His terse "no comment" reflected his reaction to President Johnson's frequent references on television to Romney's "inability" to deal with the situation.

When a question arises, Romney wants the answers and wants it fast. Often, he pops out of his office and strides down the hall to get it from Vance, or a federal attorney or an Army officer.

Police Sgt. Joe Loesche, assigned to Girardin's office during the emergency, watched Romney's hurry-up movements for an hour or two and shook his head.

"Boy," he said, "no one in particular, 'there's just got to be two of these guys.'"

carry him into depths beyond his own choice or desire.

The governor has been enjoying a brief rest in his big, comfortable home at the edge of the golf course where each morning at 6 o'clock he plays at least nine holes of golf. For Romney, it is a pause between two phases of an extraordinary career in politics that began with his election as governor in 1962, the first Republican in 14 years to become the state's chief executive.

THE FASHION in a considerable part of the press—the Eastern seaboard press notably—is to downgrade his chances for his party's presidential nomination almost to zero. He is called everything from self-righteous and stuffy to plain dumb.

These harsh judgments are colored, it is just possible, by the image that many of us who write about politics cherish more or less unconsciously of the young, vigorous, brilliant president who was assassinated, idealized in the light of that tragedy.

Romney himself says, his square jaw thrust out, that it's been like this in everything he's done. It's what they said when he took over American Motors in deep trouble—he couldn't make it. Yet he pioneered the compacts and gave the fourth and fractional company in the motor industry a lease on life.

During the past 18 months Romney has been projected into the foreground of the presidential picture to a degree he had not calculated on. He has been a captive balloon conspicuous in the empty sky and the target, therefore, for the slings and arrows of every critic. He has been called on not only for instant answers but instant solutions to every problem under the sun.

Vietnam? Why doesn't he tell us what we ought to do? As a matter of fact, his conviction that the American military commitment must be limited and pacification left to the Vietnamese has been reflected with considerable consistency in his statements on the war.

On slums and riots, it isn't enough to say that the federal government can't work a transformation and that resources, responsibility and ideas must be sought at the state and local level. His view is increasingly that of many in Washington who see the inadequacies of the federal approach.

WHY DOESN'T he get a good speech writer? Why does he lapse into spongy rhetoric about God and the Declaration of Independence? These

are the complaints of a host of carping critics, and in the end, as the polls have begun to reflect, Romney may be cut into small pieces by the ceaselessly grinding machine of national publicity.

But a sober look at Romney's career shows a record of success in politics and government that puts him in the forefront. He was reelected to a third term last year by the largest plurality in the history of his state, thereby helping to pull in a Republican senator and five congressmen.

Fulfilling a pledge he made in his first campaign, he got the evenly divided Legislature to pass a statewide income tax for the first time. This meant hard bargaining that kept Romney in his office in Lansing for 36 continuous hours as he threatened to veto all appropriation measures exceeding the state's revenues without the adoption of the tax.

While the separateness of his Mormonism is raised by Romney critics as a handicap, it can be an asset, contributing to the image of a clean-living, intensely disciplined public figure. It is the moral man posed against the smooth operator, the Nixon type, or the Johnson wheeler-dealer.

With the legislative session behind him, Romney is putting together a professional staff with national experience. It includes men with outstanding expertise, such as Travis Cross, who won a reputation as a skilled political specialist in Oregon, and William Pendergast, who until recently was director of research for the Republican Congressional Campaign Committee in Washington.

They will direct their efforts toward the March presidential primary in New Hampshire, where Romney is today 2 to 1 behind Nixon in the polls but where, they are convinced, his special brand of campaigning—warm, earthy, person-to-person—will carry the day.

ROMNEY IS CONFIDENT that Gov. Nelson Rockefeller in New York is giving him the full support he pledged nearly 12 months ago. But there are jealousies in the scramble for the prize, and with the prima donna syndrome of the Republican governors, the moderate wing of the party can once again be on the outside looking in.

In the impoverished Republican lexicon, "moderate" and "conservative" are the most familiar terms; electable and nonelectable might be more appropriate. In the electable category, Romney must be ranked at the top.

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GOULD LINCOLN

Romney a Winner on His Record

On his record — and it's quite a record — Gov. George Romney of Michigan is the strongest candidate the GOP can nominate for President in 1968. He has turned a great industrial — and agricultural — state of the Midwest from a Democratic stronghold to a Republican fortress. Elected governor in 1962, he was re-elected in 1964 and for a third time in 1966. In each succeeding election he increased his hold. He won a smashing victory last year, with a 570,000 plurality, and carried U.S. Senator Robert Griffin along with him in a race that tumbled Michigan's most redoubtable Democrat, former Gov. G. Mennen Williams, to defeat.

After the 1964 elections, the Democrats not only had two U.S. Senators but also defeated five Republican House members, making the Michigan delegation in Congress 12 Democrats and five Republicans. Today, along with Romney, the Republicans have regained a Senate seat and returned the House representation to 12 Republicans and 7 Democrats. Also, the Republicans captured control of the State Senate and won a tie in the previously Democratic House.

★

Romney's victories in public life in Michigan include, also a successful drive for a new state constitution, and only

recently he won his fight for a reform of the state tax laws. His emphasis has, up to the present, been entirely on the improvement of conditions in his own state. Now he is free to tackle national issues with more freedom. A first class businessman before he entered public life, under his leadership Michigan went from an \$85 million indebtedness to a \$57 million surplus without new taxes, despite record appropriations.

In his fight to improve conditions in Michigan and in his elections he has been supported by many members of organized labor, by many independents, by some Democrats and many Negro voters. In fact, in Detroit where much of the Negro vote is concentrated, he has more than doubled the Republican Negro vote, notwithstanding the fact the Mormon Church, of which Romney is a member, bars Negroes from upper echelons in that church. Negroes have seen the governor fight long and hard to give them jobs and for their civil rights and for state aid where necessary.

★

In 1964, Romney did not endorse Barry Goldwater, the Republican presidential nominee, but he went along with him. The conservative Goldwater does not want to see Romney nominated for President, but it is unlikely he

would fight Romney if he wins the nomination.

Romney has not announced himself a candidate and probably will say nothing until the first of the new year. However, his supporters are confident he will make the race and will enter the presidential primaries in many states, including New Hampshire, Wisconsin and Nebraska.

As a campaigner, Romney is a honey and has proved himself so. He is a moderate, but he described himself as a Republican without any prefix. He was born in Mexico of American parents and has always been recognized as an American citizen.

When the late President John F. Kennedy, a Catholic, was a candidate for President, the old charge was made that if he won the Pope would run the government, a charge which Kennedy successfully beat down. If Romney, a Mormon, should become President, there is no more chance that the Mormon Church would run the country.

★

In recent weeks it has been widely publicized that Romney has lost popular favor, that the polls show him in a decline. He has had a poor press. As a front runner for the nomination it was to be expected that supporters of other presidential possibilities would

turn on the Michigan governor and belittle him. However, it is not what happens this year that counts. If Romney is successful in the primary elections in 1968, the picture will change materially.

When Romney's record is compared with those of other Republicans who either are or may be candidates, Romney shines.

Former Vice President Richard M. Nixon has so far been regarded as his principal opponent. Mr. Nixon would enter a race for the presidency as an underdog, a loser in a race for President and a race for governor of California. Further, he would be attacked on other grounds.

Gov. Ronald Reagan of California is now having his run in the press as the possible strongman in the GOP who will come up with the presidential nomination. Reagan's record as a public official has yet to be made. He won the governorship last November largely because he had a weak opponent, Pat Brown seeking a third term, and because the Democratic party was split wide open, rather than because of any great personal strength.

THE EVENING STAR

Washington, D. C., Saturday, July 15, 1967