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# Romney, After Uphill Climb, Is Found Back In Contention

The New Hannyshire Primary. Gears, Moves UP

Romney 6.

With Giving Campaign Early Momentum

BY THOMAS J. FOLEY Times Staff Writer

CONCORD, N.H.—Those betting that Richard M. Nixon will swamp Gov. George Romney in the New Hampshire primary had better shorten their odds.

idential primary campaign going Saturday by running a mile, shooting some baskets and meeting the people.

Smiling and appearing confident, Romney pictured himself as an underdog in the Wisconsin race.

Romney said Richard M. Nixon is the leader in Wisconsin as he is in New Hampshire.

The governor started the day by running a mile with a physical fitness group at the Milwaukee Central YM-CA. Romney then grabbed a basketball and spent the next 10 minutes shooting baskets in the gym.

By MAXWELL WESENTHAL Of The Telegram Staff CONCORD WH. H. Lets. He

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## ROMNEY IS GAINING IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

Response Found Stronger Than on His First Trip

### By ANTHONY RIPLEY Special to The New York Times

LISBON, N. H., Jan. 27-As Gov. George Romney's campaign moved north to the small towns on the frozen shores of the Connecticut River, there seemed little doubt that his cause was gaining momentum.

Mr. Romney, who came to New Hampshire as an underdog in the state's Republican Presidential preference primary, was speaking with confidence and drawing a response that was much stronger than the one he found in his first fiveday campaign trip here.

Today, the eighth of his present campaign trip, listeners nodded in agreement and applauded warmly as he spoke from the porch of the general store in Lyme in zero-degree weather or stood on the steps of the Warren Inn here.

A telephone poll taken by Romney workers after his first campaign visit two weks ago showed a marked shift in the undecided vote from 22 per cent to 52 per cent. In a poll taken last December, Mr. Romney had been a 5-to-2 underdog to former Vice President Richard M Nixon.

### **Totals Not Given**

Campaign sources would not say what Mr. Romney's totals were in the latest poll but indicated that the gain in un-decided voters came at the expense of Mr. Nixon while Mr. Romney still held about the same total as he had in December.

"Nixon dropped more than half," one aide said.

William R. Johnson, New Hampshire campaign manager, would only say there has been "a sharp upturn in our for-tunes here—we can feel momentum.'

There were also reports that Mr. Nixon was stepping up his campaign efforts in New Hampshire. He had originally scheduled five or six speeches in New Hampshire. He is now reported to have scheduled 12 days of campaigning.

Mr. Romney displayed his best campaign form as he spoke from the steps of the Warren Inn to George Marshall, a Lisbon pharmacist whose youngest son, Dennis, 21 years old, a marine was killed in Vietnam last Sept. 7.

Mr. Marshall challenged the Michigan Governor to explain himself on Vietnam and accused him of having changed his mind.

#### Blunt word' Recalled

Mr. Romney replied that he had changed his mind on one aspect of the war and had used a "blunt word" to describe that change. The reference was to his "brainwashing" statement of last Sept. 4.

At that time Mr. Romney said that he had been brain-washed by generals and diplo-mats in Saigon into believing that the war would not be Americanized.

"What I want you to say is nobody will run over us," Mr. Marshall said.

"Nobody's going to run over us," the Governor replied, fixus," the Governor replied, fixing Mr. Marshall with a determined look. "But if we run around this world with a chip on our shoulder, we're going to be in trouble. We can't police the whole world."

"Mr. Romney said that the United States had tried to move

United States had tried to move into situations like Vietnam unilaterally, that it had lost prestige and that the United States Government had failed Government had Government had failed Government had failed

to produce a "positive plan" for ending the war.

He said that his idea of neutralization, guaranteed by international agreements, of the two Vietnams, Laos and Cambodia was a solid proposal, and "I haven't heard anything better."

"If someone has a better plan, I'd be willing to listen, he said.

## **Crowd Applauds Romney**

The crowd of about 20 persons applauded four times as Mr. Romney spoek.

When the discussion was over, Mr. Marshall said that he

felt the Governor had answered his questions frankly, but that he had not decided whom he would support. Four years ago, he said, he voted for Governor Rockefeller.

A reporter asked, "Do you think Romney is catching up to Mr. Nixon?"
"I hope the hell he is," Mr.

Marshall replied.

Today is the final day of Mr. Romney's second swing through New Hampshire. He will return to his home in Bloomfield Hills, Mich., tomorrow, spend three days in Michigan, then leave Feb. 1 for three days of campaigning in Wisconsin.

He will return to New Hampshire Feb. 5 for three more days.