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PRESS EDITOR LISTENS TO NEWSMEN

before November.
Most of the newsmen I listened

to think Nixon does have a good chance, as of now, to carry this state. Their opinions ranged from a bare possibility to a better than even chance. While we took nothing even resembling a poll, my impression is that the majority of the some 150 newsmen at the meeting give Nixon an even or better than even break.

How much will the religious issue influence the voting? Nobody seemed sure. But there was a gen-

eral feeling that it certainly is not the only factor.

Civil rights was cited as one. While both platforms may seem to Southerners extreme on this issue, several reporters suggested that many North Carolinians resent the Democratic civil rights plank especially—possibly because they feel, subconsciously, perhaps, that the South had a right to expect more consideration from the Democratic than from the Republican party.

The thing mentioned most often, though, was the industrialization of this state. Over the years, it has brought an ever-growing number of people from the North and West into North Carolina. Most of them are Republicans. For years, they've voted the Republican ticket nationally, the Democratic locally. And as industry has become more and more dominant in the economics of North Carolina, the Republican thinking of industrialists has seeped down to more and more people employed in industry, or indirectly dependent on industry. The "big spending" attributed to the Democrats is a factor in this industrial attitude toward politics.

Illustrating this were the conclusions of reporters from industrial centers. More than one Charlotte newsmen said flatly that Mecklenburg county will go Republican,—maybe from President to constable. And an outstanding news figure from Greensboro predicted that Guilford, too, is almost certain to support Nixon, and maybe Gavin.

I was impressed by three interesting things about the gubernatorial race:

While a number of reporters think Gavin has a chance to win

over Terry Sanford, neither J. P. Brady nor I heard a single man express admiration for the Republican nominee. Not that they were particularly critical; it was just that nobody in the group seemed to feel he is outstanding in either ability or personality.

Second, some reporters suggested this factor as possibly favoring Gavin: In the South generally, and especially in states like Florida and North Carolina, it has become increasingly "respectable" to vote Republican. Thus many comparative newcomers, who in the past were "good Democrats" locally, but secretly voted Republican in national elections, now are ready to vote the straight Republican ticket—and make no bones about it.

The third thing was the explanation, advanced by one discerning newsman, of the fact that Gavin appears to have a better chance than Republican gubernatorial nominees usually have in this state.

His size-up of the situation ran something like this:

"It isn't that people want Gavin, but that they don't want Terry Sanford. And even that may not be chiefly personal.

"In the second Democratic primary, you remember, the voters had to choose between Sanford and Dr. Beverly Lake. They couldn't take Lake's racial views, so they had to vote for Sanford. Yet to thousands of North Carolinians, Lake's conservative economic program made sense, while Sanford's was anathema.

"Lake's racial views, that is, forced them to vote for the economic program Sanford advanced—a program they detest.

"Result: They are resentful, and, as of now, they propose to take out their resentment by voting for the Republican nominee for governor."

While the conference program, proper, that centered around politics, that subject inevitably came up in the question-and-answer period, following a panel on which two nationally outstanding newsmen appeared, Ed Lahey, chief of the Washington bureau of the Knight newspapers, and John Popham, managing editor of the Chattanooga Times.

In general, they were agreed, and they made these points, among others:

The Presidential election is likely to be very close: "We still may not know who the winner is, the morning after the balloting".

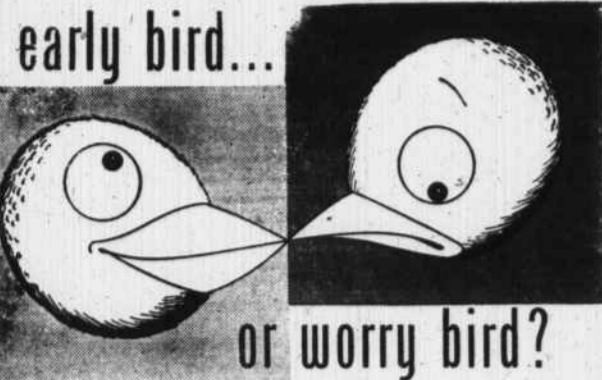
It will be decided in a few big industrial states.

The way those states go is likely to be determined by the votes of some minority—the labor unions, the Irish Catholics, the Jews, or the Negroes".

And the minority that decides the final, national result will vote for the man who promises it the most.

—W. J.

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Scaly Doctor Is Speaker In Asheville

Dr. F. C. Harris, of Scaly, led a discussion on veterinarian client relationships at a meeting of the W. N. C. Veterinary Medical Association in Asheville on September 15.

Dr. Harris recently moved to Scaly from Tampa, Fla. He is a graduate of Alabama Polytechnic Institute in Auburn.

Also attending the meeting was Dr. J. H. Fisher, of Franklin.



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