

Democrats Have Hopes Of Davis Victory In Indiana

Coolidge Has Lead at Present but Complications Over State Ticket Lead to Possibility That He May Lose It by Election Day

By DAVID LAWRENCE
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Indianapolis, Oct. 18.—President Coolidge had the lead in Indiana but the complications over the state ticket are giving the Democrats hope that on election day the resentment of the voters on local issues will be so strong that many of them will take no chances of a scratched ballot and will vote the straight Democratic ticket.

Even the Republicans admit that is a danger and just now the friction between the national Republican leaders working for Coolidge and the state Republican managers campaigning for Ed Jackson, the Klan-endorsed candidate for governor, is so manifest that it will take considerable ironing out before Indiana's political behavior can be finally assessed.

The Democrats have made a strong anti-Klan fight. They have gone further than ever before to get the negro vote and there are some signs that they will get it in large quantities. They have enrolled others who are the victims of attack by the Klan. One cannot overestimate the bitterness of feeling which the Klan controversy has provoked.

Ed Jackson was secretary of state when the Klan charter was issued. He is said to argue he was not in the capital on the day when the charter was given but he has made no public statement about it. The general impression which he has not refused is that he is identified with the charter.

The friends of President Coolidge like Joseph Keating, Republican National Committeeman, have for some time been disturbed about the possible damage that might be done the national ticket through the local fight. Their tactics have been to keep hands off. The Republican state chairman, Clyde Walb, for instance, in a public statement criticizes "certain Republicans" for failing to give the state ticket their support.

The one regrettable feature up to this time, is the fact that certain Republicans who in the past have enjoyed favor at the hands of the party and who probably will expect to do so again, are not taking an active part in the campaign.

Some of them are doing nothing for the national or state tickets. Others are strong for Coolidge but are perfectly quiescent when it comes to the state and local tickets, thinking in some way that their failure to do anything for the state and local tickets will help the national ticket. How they reach this conclusion is more than I know. So while I feel certain of success on election day on all our tickets, I regret that this success unless conditions change will be attained without the aid of certain men who might have given assistance. An extensive speaking campaign will be started immediately, and every city, town and hamlet will be covered.

It is generally supposed he meant the Harry New faction. They have been speakers in the state for the national ticket but they usually avoid anything more than a passing reference to the state ticket. The state managers now have reached a point in which they seriously believe the chances of Coolidge will be affected unless they get the wholehearted co-operation of the national Republican organization. Some of the latter, however, think it is safer to keep hands off so as to get both pro-Klan and anti-Klan support. For President Coolidge himself has thus far been kept aloof from the Klan controversy.

Virtually the same situation exists here as in Colorado where the sentiment for Coolidge is not in any way related to the local controversy over the Klan. The effect of the scratching of ballots especially on voting machines is already being discussed for the voter with a grievance will wish to make sure that he has voted correctly on that irrespective of anything else.

Were it not for the state controversy, President Coolidge would carry Indiana by 100,000. If he wins the state it will be by perhaps half that figure—which may be called close since the days of woman suffrage and larger registrations.

The LaFollette strength in Indiana is not inconsiderable. Railroad labor and radicals and some farmers are going over to the third party ticket. Opinions vary as to whether this vote is coming in larger numbers from the Democratic than the Republican party but in the cities, to be sure, the Democrats will contribute more to LaFollette than in the country

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The controversy over the state ticket has driven some districts. The friends of President Coolidge like Joseph Keating, Republican National Committeeman, have for some time been disturbed about the possible damage that might be done the national ticket through the local fight.

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of the independent voters to the LaFollette standard and although Indiana is much more difficult to analyze this year than it was four or eight years ago.

To summarize, the most that can be said of Indiana at this time is that if the election were held tomorrow President Coolidge would carry it. The Democrats, stimulated by the recent visit of John W. Davis, are by no means inclined to concede Indiana. Mr. Davis got heart in to the organization and made a good impression with his speeches. The Republicans thought enough of Indiana to send Secretary of State Hughes here, and they are sparing no effort. They act as if they think they ought to win the state for Coolidge but they are by no means cocksure. The President has the advantage at present and barring unforeseen developments in the controversy over the state ticket, whereby the national ticket becomes involved in the Klan fight, Indiana may be counted ultimately for Coolidge.

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