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win good chance

PM-POLITICS 1STLD-PICKUP2NDGRAE A020 4-21

BY LEWIS LORD

underdog.

UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL

RONALD REAGAN WILL PROBABLY DEFEAT PRESIDENT FORD IN NEXT MONTH'S GEORGIA AND ALABAMA PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARIES, FORD'S CHIEF POLITICAL ADVISER SAID TODAY. HE SAID FORD WILL WIN HANDILY IN INDIANA BUT TEXAS IS STILL TOO CLOSE TO CALL.

*very encouraged
do well.*

DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES JIMMY CARTER, HENRY JACKSON, MORRIS UDALL AND GEORGE WALLACE, MEANWHILE, ALL STUMPED PENNSYLVANIA TODAY IN SEARCH OF VOTES IN THAT STATE'S CRUCIAL PARTY PRESIDENTIAL DOWNDOWN NEXT TUESDAY.

TODAY'S REPUBLICAN FORECAST FROM ROGERS MORTON FOLLOWED TUESDAY'S REPORT BY THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION THAT ONLY FORD AMONG ALL THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES HAD A HEALTHY SURPLUS OF CAMPAIGN FUNDS AS OF APRIL 1.

"I THINK WE'LL WIN INDIANA FAIRLY COMFORTABLY," SAID MORTON WHEN ASKED ON THE NBC TODAY PROGRAM HOW FORD WILL DO AGAINST REAGAN IN TEXAS, INDIANA, GEORGIA AND ALABAMA. THE TEXAS PRIMARY IS MAY 1 AND THE OTHER THREE FALL ON MAY 4.

"I THINK WE'LL GET SOME DELEGATES IN GEORGIA AND ALABAMA," SAID MORTON. "BUT I THINK OUR OPPONENT WILL PROBABLY GET THE MAJORITY OF DELEGATES IN THOSE TWO STATES.

"I THINK TEXAS IS TOO CLOSE TO CALL -- I THINK WE'LL SHARE THE DELEGATES FAIRLY EQUALLY," HE SAID.

PICKUP 2NDGRAE: FIGURES RELEASED

UPI 04-21 10:21 AES

April 16, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

TIM AUSTIN

FROM:

FRED SLIGHT

SUBJECT:

Georgia Issues

Attached for your disposition is a copy of the Georgia issues overview for the President's upcoming trip to the state.

For your additional information, I have been advised that the Civil Aeronautics Board is currently deciding which trunk carrier will get the Atlanta to London bid.

Secondly, it is my understanding that the President will be landing in a location near a major Lockheed facility and questions regarding that firm's financial difficulties and previous government subsidies may arise.

The remainder of the material for the President's briefing book will be sent to your attention on Monday.

Attachment



GEORGIA ISSUES OVERVIEW

AGRICULTURE

The southern regions of Georgia are particularly concerned about government's reductions in subsidies for peanut and tobacco crops (i.e., price supports for peanut farmers are expected to substantially decline in 1977 because production is exceeding consumption). The elimination by the Administration of crop allotments for peanuts and tobacco is of particular concern to state farmers.

Soybeans are another subsidized crop, and is third in importance after peanuts and tobacco. Sorghum, grains, corn, etc. are not crops to be concerned with regarding allotments or reduction of government aid.

While government interference is opposed by Georgians in general, many of the Republican voters in the southwest portion of the state are farmers who fear that the sudden elimination of government aid will radically change their market. Emphasis on the Administration's action probably should be placed on the timing of the President's gradual elimination of government controls.

The whole U.S.- U.S.S.R. grain subject is relatively moot in Georgia -- it simply is not an issue as the comprehension of what transpired is low. Only in a general sense that if this is another area wherein the U.S. is "not getting a fair shake" due to detente could the grain sales be of concern.

The President's recommendations to improve the estate-inheritance tax for farmers is popular in the state and should be re-emphasized, especially in the southwestern areas.

BUSING

Busing remains a very sensitive issue in the state, albeit one which has been reduced in terms of its visibility in the news. While the President is not held responsible for the busing mandates of the courts, his opposition to a Constitutional Amendment is not necessarily a plus as the general perception of what the amendment would entail is confused. Georgians need to know what the alternatives are to busing, what the amendment would mean if passed, why the President is opposed to the amendment, and what he proposes as a constructive alternative.



HOWARD "BO" CALLAWAY

While the Atlanta newspapers are reporting Bo Callaway's investigation fairly, the nuances projected are that Mr. Callaway was fired by the White House because he was a political embarrassment. Questions regarding his replacement should be anticipated.

JIMMY CARTER

Jimmy Carter is perceived very favorably by Georgians as a whole. While there was some anti-Carter sentiment before the primaries, there is very little now. It is recommended by the PFC state officials that Carter be politely handled, as there are indications that some Republicans are swinging for Carter.

DEFENSE

Defense is an issue of critical importance in Georgia, not only as evidenced by the numerous military installations and defense contractors throughout the state, but also because of the strong patriotic attitude of Georgians which is demonstrated by their continuing ability to exceed military recruitment goals each year. Reagan's recent attacks on the President's defense posture has raised questions and created doubts among state Republicans.

Georgia is not troubled by any of DoD's proposed base closings. Fort Benning, the headquarters of the U.S. Army Infantry, is based in Columbus, and remains a source of great pride among the state's residents.

ECONOMY

Georgia is reportedly behind the national average in their employment gains, and Atlanta has higher unemployment than the rest of the state. Because cost of living decreases are noticeable, particularly in Atlanta, inflation is no longer as major a concern as unemployment. The President's accomplishments in cutting inflation in half will be appreciatively received, however emphasis should be placed on getting people back to work.

ENERGY

Georgia, being on the major eastern pipeline, was not especially hard-hit during the fuel crisis, and energy in general is not a major concern at this time.

Augusta voters are registering some concern over atomic energy, the reasons for which need to be explored further.



ENVIRONMENT

The Chattahoochee River that runs through Atlanta has been under consideration by the National Park Service for turning the river's banks into park lands. If the decision has been made to make the banks a national park, public reception will be extremely positive. The status of the decision should be looked into prior to the President's trip.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

Concern over the Panama Canal negotiations is growing (especially during the last several days of Reagan's attacks), but it is not as much an issue as is Secretary Kissinger. Sentiment appears not to focus on the Secretary's specific actions (except for a general mistrust over detente), but instead is more of a personal bias in which the Secretary is perceived as too powerful in his conduct of U.S. foreign policy.

There has been no reaction to the Helsinki agreement nor Reagan's criticism of it. Again, interest and comprehension of what transpired is low. No concern currently exists that we supposedly "gave away" the chance of freedom for the Eastern European countries."

GOVERNMENT SPENDING

Georgians distrust bureaucracy and dislike government interference. The President's vetoes in the context of lessening Federal government controls over the lives of private citizens as well as in the context of cutting Federal spending and reducing individual tax burdens will be favorably received and should be stressed.

HOUSING/CONSTRUCTION

Atlanta was in a building boom from 1965 to 1973. The overbuilding of offices, hotels, and private housing has led to a slump and financial hardships for private contractors as well as the owners of the several new office buildings that are vacant. The hardest-hit are the office builders. The hotels are pulling themselves out of their problems, but individual builders are still suffering from uncompleted sub-divisions and houses.

The President's veto of the common situs picketing bill, very favorably received in Georgia, does stress the veto's prevention of establishing new and uncertain conditions which could further construction difficulties. Additional emphasis should be given to positive Administration initiatives that have been taken to provide recovery in the industry.



HEALTH

Georgia has internal problems of distributing Medicaid funds throughout the state. The problem is not one of Federal funding, but the disbursement of the funds after they have been granted.

The physician maldistribution problem is still unsolved.

RACIAL CONDITIONS

Maynard Jackson, the first Black mayor of a major Southern city, was elected in 1973 with the backing of the 55% registered Black voters of Atlanta as well as all the big business support (banks, restaurants, etc.). However, the last several years have increased tensions between the business community and Mayor Jackson. One of the major reasons is Jackson's insistence that all city contracts be "joint ventures" whereby at least one Black company must be included with the white contractors. The Black companies have not always been the most highly qualified, and the business community has raised complaints.

The white population of Atlanta has an attitude which is becoming more and more pervasive -- that the Blacks have taken over the city, are moving into the counties surrounding Atlanta, and city-county consolidation is an increasing possibility. It is also felt that such an attitude is a self-fulfilling prophecy -- as Atlantans predict this outcome, so will that outcome probably happen. Resignation, not uprising, is the general attitude.

REVENUE SHARING

As elsewhere, state and local officials are supportive of the Administration's position to extend general revenue sharing. The program is not only financially beneficial, but has strong appeal to Georgians' "no strings attached" feelings towards Federal assistance.

HERMAN TALMADGE

In recent months, Senator Talmadge has been quiet with no major charges against the Administration or blasts on any specific issues.

TEXTILES

The Administration's relationship vis-a-vis the textile industry is of continuing concern to Georgians, and should be explored further as to current actions by the Administration as well as possible import problems being experienced by the industry.



TRANSPORTATION

The Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA) is currently applying for three grants with UMTA for the purchase of buses and the construction of a rapid rail system.

1. Amendment to grant GA03-0008, the long-range rapid rail construction which involves \$50 million (UMTA has already committed \$800 million to MARTA -- this amendment is requesting \$50 million of those funds).
2. Application for \$935,000 to modify the transit buses with wheelchair lifts and other modifications for the benefit of the elderly and the handicapped.
3. 1976 apportionment of Section 5 of the 1974 National Mass Transit Assistance Act monies of \$3,345 million for the urbanized area.

The Atlanta public is extremely supportive of MARTA. In fact in 1971, they voted to tax themselves an additional 33% in order to share costs for the operation and development of MARTA.

