

**The original documents are located in Box 39, folder “Illinois Political Briefing” of the Betty Ford White House Papers, 1973-1977 at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

### **Copyright Notice**

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Betty Ford donated to the United States of America her copyrights in all of her unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

*file*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

September 20, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: MRS. FORD  
FROM: ANNE L. ARMSTRONG *Anne*  
SUBJECT: Illinois Political Briefing

I attach your briefing on the highlights of the most significant elections in Illinois this fall as well as a general overview of the state's political scene.

Sources have indicated that there are no major issues (such as busing is in Boston) in the forefront of voter interest. The Equal Rights Amendment has not yet passed the state legislature.

Barbara Burditt is the wife of GOP Senate candidate George Burditt. While major state constitutional officers are not up for election this year, the State Treasurer is up. The Republican candidate is Harry Page and his wife's name is Lorraine.

Finally, Republican Congressional Campaign Committee Chairman Bob Michel represents Illinois' 18th District and is not anticipated to have any major difficulty in gaining re-election.

Attachment



## ILLINOIS POLITICAL BRIEFING

September 20, 1974

### Richard Daley

This April Mayor Daley was unanimously elected Chairman of the Democratic Central Committee of Cook County for the 12th successive time, thereby continuing a custom that began in August, 1953 when he successfully challenged former Democratic National Committeeman Jacob Arvey.

Daley underwent extensive medical tests in early May, the results of which showed that he was afflicted with high blood pressure and a mild case of diabetes. Subsequent to the original press announcement over the Mayor's condition, it was learned that Daley had also suffered a stroke. After several months of absence from City Hall, the Mayor returned to a full schedule approximately two weeks ago.

The Mayor's problem with corruption in Chicago continues. Last May, the Chicago Tribune had a long article on the City Council and reported that it is the first Council in modern history to have an incumbent alderman indicted or convicted. Approximately 12% of its members (Republicans included) have been indicted by Federal or county grand juries, 6% of them have been convicted and 4% acquitted with two indictments still pending. The Tribune also claimed that it is the first Council to have a court order requiring a special election because of Federal findings of racial gerrymandering. It was just little more than three years ago that the new 50 member City Council was seated in what was to begin a new era of democratic and responsible legislative government.

### Charles Percy

Earlier this year, Senator Percy announced the formation of an "exploratory committee" to pursue the feasibility of his obtaining the GOP presidential nomination in 1976. Chicago attorney Tom Houser, CRP State Chairman in 1972, was chosen to chair this committee. In a somewhat surprising announcement on May 11, former GOP Governor Richard Ogilvie announced he was joining Percy's presidential campaign effort by chairing



a businessmen's and lawyer's division of the Senator's "exploratory committee". Previously, Ogilvie is reported to have told friends he favored Nelson Rockefeller for the '76 nomination, but felt that for practical reasons he would publicly line up behind Percy.

Illinois' senior Senator has stated that he will have to "seriously re-evaluate" his national ambitions for '76 as a result of Richard Nixon's resignation.

### 1974 Congressional Elections

Illinois became the first state to hold its party primaries this election year (March 19) however, there was no earthshaking news in the election outcomes. All Republican incumbents were retained and LaGrange attorney George Burditt received the GOP nomination to oppose Adlai Stevenson III in November. A victory in this Senate race this fall is generally considered a longshot due largely to the candidate's fundraising deficiencies.

In the House, the Congressional split is currently 14 Republicans to 10 Democrats. Three Democrats will not face GOP opposition in November: Morgan Murphy in the 2nd, Cardiss Collins in the 7th and Melvin Price in the 23rd. Moreover, two Republican incumbents (Les Arends and Harold Collier) will be retiring as compared to one Democrat (Ken Gray).

Arends' 15th District seat will be fought over by former GOP Congressman and wealthy manufacturer Clifford Carlson and Arends' 1972 Democrat opponent Tim Hall. Redistricting reduced Arends' margin of victory two years ago as the District received a generous infusion of Democrat precincts. The Carlson-Hall race is considered a toss-up with several sources giving Democrat Hall the edge.

In Collier's 6th District, conservative GOP State Representative Henry Hyde will face former Cook County State's Attorney Edward Hanrahan. The latter was indicted and then acquitted on charges of obstruction of justice stemming from a 1969 police raid in which two Black Panthers were killed. Hyde is a former majority leader (and a blunt one) in the state house. This contest could be one of the most fiercely fought Congressional races this year.



Gray's 24th District is expected to remain in the Democrat column. Republican Val Oshel, a former Harrisburg Mayor, will be opposing former Lt. Governor Paul Simon. Simon was defeated in 1972 for the gubernatorial nomination by Dan Walker, however the Governor has publicly endorsed Simon's House candidacy this year.

GOP "first-termer" Sam Young is faced with a stiff challenge to his hold on the 10th District seat by former liberal Congressman (and ADA Vice Chairman) Abner Mikva. In 1972, Young was successful in tying Mikva to McGovern and the Democrats left wing, but barely won the race with a 52% margin (only 7,000 votes out of more than 230,000 ballots cast). Liberal groups are expected to rally to Mikva's cause in even greater numbers this year and GOP officials are fearful of Republican voters staying home because of Watergate disillusionment.

#### 1974 State Elections

The Governor and similar constitutional offices will not be up until 1976. Republican Attorney General Bill Scott was considering a challenge against Adlai Stevenson, but then decided to sit this year out. Scott remains the state GOP's brightest star for the future according to informed sources.

This November one-third of the state senate (30 R and 29 D) will be seeking re-election. Of those seats up, 12 are currently Republican and 8 Democrat. In the lower house, all seats (89 R, 87 D and 1 Ind) are up.

Control of the state legislature will be a major political goal of Illinois Republicans this fall.

#### 1972 Presidential Election

Former President Nixon received 59.0% of all votes in 1972 (up from 47.1% in '68 and 49.8% in '60) and Illinois ranked 7th of all states in terms of RMN plurality (+874,700).

Long considered a Democrat bastion, Cook County carried for RMN in '72 with 53.5% of the votes. In fact, 44.3% of RMN's total statewide vote came from Mayor Daley's powerbase.



Major State Officials

<u>Office</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Year Elected</u>
U.S. Senator	Charles H. Percy (R)	1972
U.S. Senator	Adlai E. Stevenson III (D)	1970
Governor	Daniel Walker (D)	1972
Lt. Governor	Neil Hartigan (D)	1972
Secretary of State	Michael Howlett (D)	1972
Attorney General	William J. Scott (R)	1972

Major Republican Party Officials

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>
State Chairman	Don Adams
National Committeeman	Clifford Carlson
National Committeewoman	Hope McCormick
Treasurer	Ray Neumann
Womens Federation President	Virginia Macdonald

