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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

10-2-74

WASHINGTON, D.C.

From the President:

To:

Dear Bush

Date:

Time

a.m.

p.m.

Interesting article.
Might make as follows
Martyros

THE NEW YORK TIMES, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1974

Labor Again Talks of Democrat's Gaining More Than 40 Seats in House Election

By CHRISTOPHER LYDON
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Sept. 29—Organized labor has muted its trumpets on the theme of a "veto-proof Congress" — a springtime slogan that Republicans, led by then-Vice President Ford, turned into a threat of "legislative dictatorship." But the union politicians who set out to win a two-thirds Democratic majority in the House this year, then revised their goal downward during President Ford's "honeymoon," have broadened their target list again since the pardoning of former President Richard M. Nixon.

Thomas Dodd, has all-out labor support in the Democratic campaign for the seat of Representative Robert H. Steele, a Republican running for the Governor's office this fall.

The heart of the list of 83 is a group of 47 districts—nearly half of them concentrated in eight states of the Midwest—in which labor is backing a direct challenge against Republicans in office.

Republicans stand a good chance of being targeted as "marginal" if they won their

last race with less than 55 per cent of the vote. But their voting records on labor issues and their identification with former President Nixon are more important considerations when labor makes up its list.

In New Jersey, for example, Representative Charles W. Sandman Jr., a conservative Republican and one of Mr. Nixon's last defenders in the House Judiciary Committee's impeachment hearings, has been marked for labor's maximum challenge even though he won

a 66 per cent re-election victory in 1972. Yet Helen Meyner, who won a respectable 43 per cent in 1972 against Republican Representative Joseph J. Maraziti, did not make labor's favored list for her rematch this year—apparently because Mr. Maraziti's voting record was satisfactory to the unions.

Some Republican conservatives are targeted for special effort as a form of harassment. Representative Philip M. Crane of Illinois, for example, is marked for all-out opposition

even though he won 74 per cent of the vote in 1972 and his opponent, Betty Spence, "has little chance," according to the COPE list.

Yet many other Republicans who were easy winners before have been targeted this year on labor's conviction that anyone ever closely associated with Mr. Nixon is vulnerable in 1974.

It is on that theory that Representative Roger H. Zion of Indiana, Charles Thone of Nebraska and Robert B. Mathias of California—all elected by

better than 60 per cent of the vote two years ago—are serious labor challenge year.

Making labor's target list whatever reason, is one of the most important things that happen to a Congressman. Typically it will be worth \$15,000 to \$20,000 in labor contributions to a Democratic challenger, union fund-raisers. In 1972, total labor contributions to individual House candidates ran up to a maximum of \$38,657.

Entering the homestretch of the Congressional campaign, they are talking once more of a 40-plus gain in the House that would put Democrats in range of two-thirds control. The 435-member House is currently made up of 248 Democrats and 187 Republicans.

With roughly \$5-million to spend on House and Senate candidates, and with more sophisticated machinery than the Democratic party has for screening candidates and monitoring key races, labor is the closest thing there is to a nerve center of the Democratic campaign for Congress.

"Labor's money is more important this year than it's ever been," Robert J. Keefe, the political director of the Democratic National Committee, said last week, "because all the other Democratic money sources are hurting."

Unlike most political funds, furthermore, labor is devoting much more attention this year to electing challengers than to defending friendly incumbents.

Accordingly, labor is already being described as the most important single engine of change, in the 1974 campaigns, and its influence in the new Congress will be substantially augmented if it wins even half of its current goal.

The goal of gaining 40 or more House seats is derived from an over-all COPE list of 83 key races, drawn up and continually revised by officers of the Committee on Political Education in unions of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations. Some unaffiliated unions, notably the United Auto Workers, also collaborated on the COPE list and contribute accordingly.

Of the 83 key races on the current list, 23 represent defensive priorities: democratic seats that labor is eager to retain. Some involve beleaguered incumbents, like Representative Patricia Schroeder of Colorado; others involve new Democratic candidates for party seats, like former Representative Richard L. Ottinger running to succeed Ogden R. Reid in New York.

Thirteen other races represent the virtually automatic effort in "open" districts where the Republican incumbents are not running—as in Connecticut, for example, where Christopher J. Dodd, son of the late Senator

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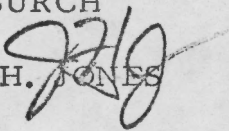


THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 2, 1974

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR: DEAN BURCH

FROM: JERRY H. JONES 

The attached article was returned in the President's outbox with the following comment:

-- Interesting article. Might make our fellows martyrs.

cc: Don Rumsfeld