

counties. The Republicans did add the rural, self-sufficient counties of Carroll, Charles and Somerset to their column while holding onto their 1932 margin in Garrett and Calvert. This weakening of rural support for the new Democratic philosophy of Federal activism foreshadowed political realignment within Maryland. The administration efforts, especially with labor and farm efforts, quieted third party activity in Maryland whose candidates drew a mere 3,849 votes, 69 percent less than in 1932. (See Appendix A, 1936 Vote Map.)

## 1940

Flush with an overwhelming victory, Roosevelt succumbed somewhat to the excesses of power at the beginning of his second term. Frustrated by Supreme Court vetoes of what he considered critical pieces of legislation, Roosevelt sought to strike back through a plan to add six members to the nine-man court. This "court packing" plan was ill conceived and drew bipartisan opposition as it failed in Congress.<sup>17</sup> Even more boldly, the President sought to eliminate dissent within the Democratic party by campaigning in the off year 1938 elections against Democratic incumbents who had opposed his programs and policies. Maryland's Senator Millard E. Tydings was one of the targets of this attempted intraparty purge.<sup>18</sup> In this effort Roosevelt also failed as Maryland voters returned Tydings to office with substantial victories in the primary against Roosevelt endorsed Congressman Lewis and in the general election against the Republican candidate, Baltimore Judge Oscar Leser. Nationally, the Roosevelt efforts backfired as Republicans increased their Senate membership from 17 to 23 and House representation from 89 to 170. However, by the time for the 1940 elections, Europe was embroiled in the Second World War and Roosevelt's charm with the electorate, if not the politicians, was largely regained.

The President's political strength was evident as a "draft Roosevelt" movement was initiated to break the two term precedent of the Presidency.<sup>19</sup> No one seriously challenged the President in the primaries where the vote totals were 3,240,054 for Roosevelt, 734,571 for unpledged delegates, 426,641 for Vice President Garner and 102,729 for H.C. Allen who ran unopposed in his native West Virginia. Roosevelt did send a message to the Democratic National Convention that he did not desire re-election but the reaction of the delegates was to chant, "We want Roosevelt," and the President was easily renominated on the first ballot.<sup>20</sup> Vice President Garner, who had opposed the President in the primaries and at the convention, lost his office to Agriculture Secretary Henry A. Wallace of Iowa. The Maryland delegation only gave Roosevelt seven and one-half of its 16 votes with Senator Tydings receiving eight and one-half votes allegedly in protest against a third term but just as likely in a pointed rebuttal to the President's ill-conceived intrusion into the 1938 state elections.

The Republican Convention was a political observer's paradise with 10 candidates nominated for President. The 38 year old District Attorney for New York City, Thomas E. Dewey, had far outdistanced everyone in the presidential primaries but his close loss of a race for Governor of New York in 1938 and his youth hindered the collection of