

Victory Feeling Never Wanes With Maryland Republicans

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VICTORY SMILE—Governor McKeldin, circled by Republican fellow workers, flashes a happy smile as returns pouring into his Lord Baltimore Hotel headquarters show him the winner in yesterday's elections. Mrs. McKeldin, wearing the black hat, stands by the Governor.

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By BYNUM SHAW

There was a feeling of victory in the air at Republican campaign headquarters last night, and it never wavered despite some close reports in the State and bad news from across the nation.

The close reports were discarded as inconclusive.

The bad reports were accepted as reverses that must come in politics.

Maryland Republicans, as reflected at headquarters at the Lord Baltimore Hotel, seemed to have one objective that outweighed all others: To re-elect Theodore R. McKeldin Governor of Maryland.

Spirit Of Victory Moves In

As returns in the gubernatorial race started to take a pattern, the spirit of victory moved in and settled.

Even with victory assured, the Republicans remained amazingly calm. Perhaps the greatest demonstration of the evening came shortly after midnight when it was announced that Dr. H. C. Byrd had conceded. There was an outburst of applause and it was the signal for the toasts to start flowing.

Throughout much of the evening Governor McKeldin was absent from his headquarters. When he finally returned shortly before 2 A.M., a cheering crowd descended upon him in the lobby.

Ovation Greet Him

Wearing a broad victory smile, he pushed his way to the elevator. In campaign offices an ovation greeted him.

It pervaded two floors of the hotel, because watchers of the returns were divided into two groups.

On the fourth floor was the real do-or-die camp. There, in the small suite of offices from which Governor McKeldin's campaign has been directed, a detachment of detectives screened the visitors and permitted only authorized persons to pass.

But the list of authorized persons was tremendous.

All Bring Cigars Along

Authorized to pass the guards was practically every small Republican officeholder in the State, it appeared. Judges, magistrates, commissioners and councilmen all brought their cigars along to smoke up the corridors.

The smoke hung so thick before a television screen that only the closest spectators could follow the action.

But there was action of other types. Girls rushed from office to office bearing returns; phones jangled; backs were slapped and estimates of victory margins flew through the air.

The Republican candidates involved in the race appeared briefly at half-open doors, then disappeared. At one point in the evening, GOP headquarters lost contact with the Governor completely.

Many were the analyses as to why Governor McKeldin was piling up his vote. Judge Simon Schonfield summed up the gen-

eral feeling: "It's his personality," he said.

Down below on the second floor, in the main ballroom, was a much more casual GOP gathering. There two television sets were installed beside a huge blackboard and returns kept coming in on all three. For a while the race appeared to be a contest between the blackboard and the video, because the figures were never the same.

The crowd began to gather at about 8 o'clock. At that time about 50 were on hand and the blackboard figures showed McKeldin about 6,000 ahead.

At 9 o'clock new figures were posted giving the Governor a margin of about 9,000 and the first of an evening of cheers went up.

A short while later the news was whispered that the Governor had carried Kent county for the first time in his four campaigns.

There was a low hum in the audience and spectators nodded at each other with a look that clearly meant: "That's a good sign."

A news flash between 9 P.M. and 10 P.M. reported that McKeldin and Dr. Byrd, his Democratic opponent, were running neck-and-neck, and there was a gasp of unbelieving surprise.

The audience dismissed it with a look at the blackboard which showed the Governor still leading by about 13,000.

At about 12.30 A.M. there was a flurry of excitement when a mattress caught fire in a room near the GOP nerve-center. But it could not match the excitement caused by the McKeldin victory.