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EISENHOWER'S 'INVINCIBILITY' JUST ANOTHER GOP MYTH, SENATOR HUMPHREY SAYS

President Eisenhower's supposed "invincibility" is "just another GOP myth" being sold to the American people by high-pressure promotional tactics, Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D., Minn.) told the Minnesota State Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party's Annual Convention yesterday.

"The supposed popularity of President Eisenhower in public opinion polls is not being translated into votes at the election polls," Senator Humphrey said.

"Under Eisenhower, in spite of the opinion polls, the GOP has lost more elections than under any President in history, including Herbert Hoover.

"In many ways, we are being treated to a barrage similar to that of 1948, in which the certainty of a Republican victory was stated as fact -- only to be radically altered by the election results in November.

"We refuted Republican brain-washing techniques then, and we can do it again this November.

"Before anyone is misled by current prognostications of the Republican press, we suggest they consider the following factual election results of the last 3½ years:

"Eisenhower is the first President in this century to lose control of both houses of Congress.

"Democrats have won 25 of the 38 Senate contests held since 1952.

"Democratic Congressional candidates in 1954 won the largest percentage of popular votes in any off-year election since 1934.

"Democrats won 21 of 36 gubernatorial contests since 1952 and have won 9 new Governors in the key states of New York, Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, and Maine.

"Democrats have won 500 state legislature seats from the GOP since 1952, while losing only 5.

"Democrats have won control of 7 state houses and 2 state senates from the GOP.

"Of 325 Congressional Districts where both parties had candidates in 1954, Democrats had gains in 268.

"Since 1952, Democrats have won -- outside the South -- the mayoralties in the following large cities: New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Cleveland, Boston, Pittsburgh, Minneapolis, St. Paul, St. Louis, Indianapolis, Columbus, Providence, Buffalo, Des Moines, Albany, Troy, Tulsa, Reading, Trenton, Camden, Scranton, Newark, Jersey City, and Akron.

"Does that look like President Eisenhower's supposed popularity and influence has headed off the public's lack of confidence in Republican leadership," Senator Humphrey asked.

"Remember, Eisenhower won in 1952 by less than 7% of the vote outside the South. All of the elections and primaries since 1952 indicate that Eisenhower's pulling power is lower than will be required for a Republican candidate to achieve outside the South in order to win.

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"You can look the country over, state by state, and find such evidence.

"We know what happened in Minnesota in 1954, and we are confident what is going to happen when we re-elect Governor Freeman and our other DFL candidates this November.

"We know the Democratic trend is growing all over the nation.

"In the South, the leaders of the bolters to Eisenhower are no longer in power.

"In Indiana, the Democrats control 73 of the 105 cities, surpassing even the New Deal days.

"In Michigan, Democrats hold a majority of state offices for the first time in two decades.

"In Connecticut, the Democrats now hold the mayoralty in every major city.

"In New York, the percentage of enrolled Democratic voters is the highest in 10 years.

"In Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, Democratic registration is running far above the Republicans.

"The Presidential Primaries show the following results:

"In Maryland, the Democratic vote was 2½-1 over the Republican in the Presidential preference contest.

"In Massachusetts, Democrats cast 50.2% of the total vote.

"In Indiana, the Democrats polled their highest primary vote in history, gaining 90,000 while the Republicans lost 40,000 over 1952.

"In Illinois, Democrats won almost 50% of the total vote, compared to 32% in 1952.

"In Oregon, Democrats, in spite of big contest in Republican column, polled over 49% of the total vote and now outnumber the registered Republicans for the first time in history.

"In Pennsylvania, the Republican vote fell 250,000 and the Democratic vote increased 500,000 over 1952 -- a gain of 350%.

"In New Jersey, the Democratic vote increased 16 percentage points over the 1952 percentage and the Republican vote decreased 15 percentage points.

"In Wisconsin, the Democratic vote climbed 18 percentage points above the 1952 level and the GOP fell 18 percentage points.

"It should begin to be apparant to any observer that Ike's invincibility is another myth -- another of the many myths the Republicans have perpetuated on the American people," Senator Humphrey said.



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