

President To Visit Dallas, 3 Other Texas Cities Soon

Political Motive Hinted

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WASHINGTON — President Kennedy is planning to test Texas' political waters with a whirlwind tour of the state that would include a Dallas appearance, The Times Herald learned Friday.

Still in the talking stage, the presidential trip would be a one-day affair with a breakfast speech in Dallas, a luncheon in Fort Worth, an afternoon coffee in San Antonio and addresses in Houston.

On a visit to Dallas last April 22, Vice President Lyndon Johnson told The Times Herald he hoped the President would make such a visit to Texas. The Times Herald exclusively reported the proposed itinerary of the trip at that time.

The trip would serve the dual purpose of raising funds for the Democratic party which appears now would be a 25-plate affair — and testing political sentiment in advance of the 1964 election.

NO DATE SET

No date has been set, although a suggestion has been made to Texas Democratic leaders that it be scheduled within the next month.

A trip to Texas, one of the hottest states in electoral vote strength, would be another in a growing series of visits being set up in doubtful states.

The planned trip would be the first since national polls began to show a waning of Kennedy's strength, primarily because of the civil rights riots, and the emergence of Arizona Sen. Barry Goldwater as the leading GOP contender for 1964.

President Kennedy will launch a five-day tour into the heart of Goldwater country later this month and Thursday announced a one-day stop in Arkansas for Oct. 7.

NARROW MARGINS

Significantly, all the trips — while billed as "nonpolitical" — are being made into states where there was only a thin margin between victory and defeat in 1960.

As President Kennedy has made four trips to Texas. One was a hurried, two-hour trip to Dallas to visit the dying Gen. Rayburn at Baylor Hospital. Others were to Bechtel for the Rayburn funeral, to Houston in the
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fall of 1962 and to El Paso last June.

Texas is the virtual birthplace of the Draft Goldwater movement that has mushroomed into a national business and skyrocketed the senator to the top of the Republican heap. Dallas' Peter O'Donnell, state GOP chairman, is national chairman of the Goldwater forces.

In 1960, Kennedy won out a narrow victory in Texas that was attributed largely to the bipartisan attacks of Vice President Lyndon Johnson. The Kennedy-Johnson ticket won with 58.5 per cent of the vote, challenging up a slim 46,233-vote plurality out of 2,311,670 votes cast.

Since then, the obvious growth of Republican strength, the civil rights crisis, the stalemate with Cuba and criticism of the administration's economic policies have combined to keep Texas and its 23 electoral votes in the "doubtful" category.

Democratic leaders feel the 1964 outcome in Texas will be highly important if traditional Southern support vanishes in the wake of the civil rights dispute.

SOME OPPOSITION

Reports here, however, indicate that some Texas leaders facing reelection next year are less than enthusiastic about a presidential visit, fearful that it could damage individual races within the state.

But confronted with mounting reports that his popularity is declining and that he may be in trouble, the President is going all out to see for himself and to shore up his supporters.

A trip beginning Sept. 25 will take Kennedy to Minnesota, Wisconsin, Montana, Utah, Wyoming, Nevada and California after a brief stop in Pennsylvania.

SENATE RACES

All the states were marginal in 1960 with Kennedy winning only three. Minnesota, Pennsylvania and Nevada. Most have senators loyal to Kennedy facing reelection next year.

The President's 1960 Iowa Arkansas win took him into another marginal state, which he won in 1960 with only 30.2 per cent of

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