

THE POLITICAL MILL

By GOULD LINCOLN

To Make N. Y. Safe for JFK in '64

The Kennedy organization is moving early and fast to make New York "safe" for the President in next year's national election. Not only have the known political talents of his brother-in-law, Steven E. Smith, been called upon to help bring Democratic unity in the Empire State, but all the resources of the Democratic National Committee are thrown into the effort. It has been announced that Democratic National Chairman John M. Bailey is to make a five-day, nine-city swing through New York beginning with a talk at a fund-raising dinner April 23, sponsored by the New York County Democratic Committee.

The Kennedy organization backed Mayor Robert F. Wagner in his 1961 race for a third term as Mayor of New York. Mr. Wagner was the fair-haired boy who was to get rid of former Tammany Leader Carmine De Sapio and former Democratic State Chairman Prendergast, who were out of favor with the Kennedys, notwithstanding the fact they had carried the State for President Kennedy by almost 400,000 votes in 1960. It was a good fight, but one that has persisted in the party ever since. When it came time to pick candidates to run for Governor and Senator against Republican Gov. Rockefeller and Senator Javits, the White House and Mr. Wagner stepped in to nominate a new figure with a big name — U. S. Attorney Robert M. Wiggenthau, for Governor — and James B. Donovan, the lawyer who was working on avenging the Bay of Pigs Cuban Freedom Fighters from 1961 Castro's fall, for Senator. Gov. Rockefeller was re-elected by more than half a million votes and Senator Javits by more than a million.

Try Rebuilding Party

The Kennedy organization is still in the process of trying to get the Kennedy organization to have trying its own candidates, including a unified effort. But the poison is still there.

Whether it can be drained off remains to be seen. President Kennedy is himself personally popular with millions of voters in the State. But Gov. Rockefeller has twice been elected Governor, and the Kennedys are not taking any chances. They probably look with considerable favor on the Conservative Party, organized in New York last year with Republican backing, to bring about the defeat of both Gov. Rockefeller and Senator Javits. The same

outfit already is laying its plans to defeat the Governor for the G. O. P. presidential nomination and to defeat Senator Keating for renomination. This Conservative Party polled about 141,000 votes in the 1962 gubernatorial election for its own candidate, which reduced Gov. Rockefeller's margin of victory over Mr. Morgenthau. This Conservative Party wants the G. O. P. to nominate Senator Barry Goldwater for President or some other conservative. What it will do if Gov. Rockefeller is the party choice and Senator Keating is renominated will be determined later. It may try to get its own candidates on the ballot. The only effect of such an operation would be to aid the President and the Democratic nominee for Senator.

Senatorial Problem

The Democrats in New York do not have to worry about a presidential nominee. They know. The party's senatorial nominee, however, is another thing. It won't be easy to push over Senator Keating, who has gained in favor and stature since 1955. Mayor Wagner has long had ambitions to follow in his father's footsteps and sit in the Senate. There have been rumors, however, that his health is not too good and that he may not wish to leave such a campaign. Also, the party has raised a big question in New York City by his effort to have a four-cent sales tax and his fight over \$3 billion city bonds. His Democratic colleagues is

over these proposals. City Controller Abraham D. Beame has come up with alternative fiscal plans, some of which would necessitate a special session of the State legislature. Mr. Beame says he doesn't think the Governor would fail to issue such a call to help the citizens of New York. So Mr. Beame may be putting a firecracker under the Governor as well as advancing his own candidacy for mayor when Mr. Wagner steps out. City Council President Paul R. Screvane has been regarded as the mayor's choice to succeed him.

Other Democrats are eyeing the senatorial nomination. Mr. Morgenthau has not given up his interest in politics, as evidenced by his attendance at many party functions. Representative Sam Stratton, an up-stater who was brushed aside for the nomination last year, is expected to try again, and perhaps Mr. Donovan, who did

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