An historical event of great importance in American political history has

been somewhat obscured by the personal victory of the President this week -dwd Wiral and that is the emergence of a powerful Democratic Party in the Middle and

Far West.

This election has seen the development of a new Democratic heartland -the group of states which this week sent liberal Democratic senators and representatives to the Congress or elected Democratic governors, and in many cases did both. Almost invariably in these states, and throughout the West, the President's 1952 majority appears to have been cut at the same time that his national majority was sharply increased.

The President's margin was cut in California, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon and Wyoming.

The Great Plains, the Mississippi Valley and the Pacific Northwest came through almost everywhere with decisive victories in the governorships and the Congress. There are two new liberal Senate Democrats from Colorado and Idaho to match the victory of Joe Clark in Pennsylvania. Wayne Morse led a Democratic wweep in the Congress and State House in Oregon. Democratic Senatorial candidates breasted the Eisenhower tide in California and Iowa and South Dakota and came within a hairs-breadth of bringing three more new Democratic liberals into the Senate.

Four outstanding Senate liberals from the midwest and far west were decisively re-elected -- Wayne Morse, Warren Magnuson, Tom Hennings and Mike Monroney.

Democratic congressmen were for the first time in years elected to the House from South Dakota, Kansas and Iowa. In addition, Democrats picked up two more seats in Oregon, two in California, one in Montana and one in Nevada, und ou in Missauri - Demuy Shot.

There are new Democratic governors in traditionally Republican Iowa, Kansas, Washington, Oregon, and Colorado, as well as re-elected Democratic Governors in Minnesota, Michigan and Missouri.

This pronounced increase in Western Democratic strength cannot be obscured by the President's personal victory. The vitality of the Democratic party is showing itself in just those areas of the country toward which our population centers are shifting. Farmers and ranchers have joined hands with the workers in the growing new cities of the West in a clear pattern of Jacksonian democracy -- led by liberal, hard-hitting and youthful leaders.

Two years, and four years from now, there will not be the special circumstances of an immensely popular Republican President running for office and a people frightened by the dangers of a possible major war; as there were in 1956. Then the latent strength of the eastern Democratic organizations will reassert itself. And we will have the new and powerful strength of the Democrats in the West to spearhead an overwhelming Congressional victory in 1958 and an equally decisive Presidential victory in 1960.

Possibly pudiet new <u>lutinol</u> Serate seats in 1958 - Arigina Unsemmin neverda

## Minnesota Historical Society

Copyright in this digital version belongs to the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, link to, or email content, however, for individual use.

To request permission for commercial or educational use, please contact the Minnesota Historical Society.

