Sears discusses chances of Republican comeback

By Carson Agnew

State Representative John W. Sears discussed what would be necessary for the Republicans to make a comeback in a talk Tuesday night at a meeting of the MIT Young Republicans in the Van Nuys Room. "The candidates for the State Legislature from Wards 3 and 5 (the Beacon Hill-North End area) said that readjustments in political philosophy are of prime importance."

"Again and again," according to Rep. Sears, "the old stereotype of Republican and Democrat are changing." All Republicans are not always in favor of a strong foreign policy, nor a wholly warless state. Northern Democrats are not always in favor of massive aid or welfare, or unnecessary spending.

Especially after the election of John F. Kennedy as President, the Democratic party has had a transvaluation of new blood from younger men who see new ways to correct old wounds. President Johnson’s problem, Mr. Sears remarked, is that he is no longer getting any new ideas, for the intellectuals have all left Washington and Mr. Johnson himself can only fall back on the ideas of Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Need leadership

New ideas and aggressive management are especially needed in the nation’s cities, Mr. Sears added. Over the last decade or more, and for some time to come, the good, managerial brains of the country have settled in the suburbs, and devoted their efforts at community service to suburban problems.

Chance for comeback

Only when good men are willing to work in the cities for the cities can things be improved. On local party committees good minds with fresh ideas will have to be found. Here, according to Sears, lies the big chance for the Republican Party to make its comeback. "The Rise of the City Republic" could influence more people in a small area, and eventually overthrow the Democratic control of city governments. "For there are few cities in America which have had more than one Republican mayor in the last century," says Sears.

Mr. Sears feels that, in Boston in particular, the efficiency of government should be increased, while the cost cut where possible. He favors the use of running and tax assessments to encourage improvements, and urges that a court to adjudicate landlord-tenant problems be set up. Local control is especially important, he feels, where it will not impair efficiency, and would have preferred an "Inner Belt subway" to an Inner Belt highway. He voted to extend local control on the route of the Belt in the last legislative session.

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