Outgoing Republican speaker Joe Martin settled back at his desk and faced the crowd of reporters (fully a score) with the quip, "I don't know what a Republican can say after this election."

"Would he serve as minority leader? He wouldn't say that he would, but he didn't mean that he was running from it, but he hadn't made up his mind. He wanted to "talk to the boys." Was he available? "I wouldn't say yes or no."

In Boston he had been quoted over the weekend as proposing a reorganization of the GOP, getting closer to the people, that it had "too many Brahmins." What did he mean? Well, said Little Joe, he had been talking of Massachusetts Republicanism, but he supposed it would be a good thing all over. He wouldn't say about some states. He presumed "there'd be a reorganization after a defeat...you have to have some reorganization..."

"I would not say what form it should take..." Regarding the Brahmins, he meant that the party should have a number of people "who have been there a great many years on committees and their enthusiasm has waned." He thought too that newer faces and groups should be brought into party councils, though that might not apply..."
"in states like Iowa and Kansas."

Regarding the future Congressional program, Joe said the GOP would have to "wait and see what is proposed."

"But," he said regarding the future course of Congress, "I cannot believe that President Truman will not get anything he wishes, if he really wants it." He said he meant that to "make whole the great program, what if Truman really wanted to put up a fight for it he would get it. Why shouldn't he?" Joe asked, with a majority of 90 in the House and 12 in the Senate. As for the Republican role, "it is hard to say at this moment what it will be. We'll have to wait until the other fellows lead... Before two years are over I think we will justify ourselves as a loyal opposition. As for myself, I am going to cooperate whenever I think their proposals are to the interest of the country." (Joe later hedged on whether he thought the GOP should undergo a philosophical realignment to the more liberal side, wouldn't talk on that.) Joe remarked that he was in "a happy mood" in one sense, for he had been "relieved of a lot of responsibility."
He admitted, regarding the election outcome, that it's like a lot of the pollsters. I didn't think we had a chance to lose, although we did have reports that the President was making gains in the last two weeks. (Then he listed factors in the GOP defeat)

"1. I think Dewey was right when he said that one large factor of defeat was overconfidence. That hurt us."

"2. I believe prosperity was as determining a factor as any. People in the cities may have been afraid they might lose some jobs, and in the farm belt the farmers wanted to keep their income levels. That may have caused them to vote for the administration in power and its party."

"3. Organized labor gave the Democrats the money and machinery to make their fight. Speaking of political organization, the Democrats are worse off than we are. But labor came through for them."

"Now about the poor strategy of Dewey's high level campaign. I have no answer on that. It looked all right for awhile. The polls probably threw them off. President Truman by his hard-hitting campaign made a great difference for himself. He appealed to a lot of people, and he gained in the last two weeks, yes I do think he gained by it."

"He came through my"
the Thursday before election, and he made a very favorable impression. A good many people spoke to me about him afterward, said they liked him. Yes, the President helped himself campaigning.

Joe plans to make some speeches next over the next week in Alabama, Florida, New York, nothing extraordinary, mostly to trade groups, then try to get some rest.