Mike As National Chairman?

After all the talk of recent months — sometimes blazing hot, sometimes cold — it now appears that our Michael V. DiSalie will be a topflight contender when the Democratic National Committee picks a new chairman at its New Orleans meeting early in December.

Here in Toledo there will be considerable speculation over whether or not he really will make that grade. Despite the fact that he's considered the shrewdest, smartest politicozan either party has produced hereabouts in a good many years, there will be some who will wonder if he is of big league caliber. It's hard to believe that a fellow townsman you've known all your life could be another Jim Farley.

Even though we've sometimes disagreed with him, and undoubtedly will again, we'll have to say this about Mike DiSalie, however. If the Democratic Party wants a national chairman who lives and breathes politics and knows the game from the precinct level on up, who may be able to wield his various factions together, and who believes that good government is the best politics, he's their man.

In the recent elections, when the Democrats did not score their expected sweep throughout the nation but won easily in Lucas County, Mr. DiSalie gave a masterly exhibition of his political virtuosity. Almost as though he merely wanted to show what he could do, he picked a political novice as the Democratic candidate for Congress — Lud Ashley, a young man of promise but virtually unknown — and masterminded his victory.

Bringing in, because he knew them, Governor-elect Edmund S. Muskie of Maine and Rep. William L. Dawson of Illinois to stimulate the party workers. Mr. DiSalie still didn't neglect the independent vote in this traditionally independent district. He gave special attention to the voters who prefer men and principles to partisanship — the "eggheads," if you please — and that may well have been where he got the plurality for Mr. Ashley.

What may be of greater concern on the national scene is that during this election Mr. DiSalie got the various elements of the Democratic Party to pull together as they have rarely done before. But that's his forte. Even when he held the thankless task as director of the Office of Price Stabilization, he managed to get along with southern senators, northern senators, and western senators, and their counterparts in the lower House.

For Mike DiSalie is a born manipulator, and sometimes we have thought he has gone too far at it. But he has good sound political sense which doesn't veer to either extreme, a ready wit, and a sense of humor to employ in the services of his party. And if he is chosen National Democratic Chairman, we expect he will do as much as anyone could to pull its factions together and will work as hard as anyone could to win elections.

Scientist Or Peddler?

Answering a request from Reporter magazine for his observations on the state of American science, Dr. Albert Einstein writes: "If I would be a young man again and had to decide how to make my living, I would not try to become a scientist or scholar or teacher." Instead, he declared, "I would rather choose to be a plumber or a peddler in the hope to find that modest degree of independence still available under present circumstances."

These are disturbing words from the great and respected scientist who once fled Nazi tyranny for sanctuary in America. Not that he intends his words to be taken too literally. Himself a man of courage, he would hardly counsel cowardice. But he does propose to warn of the risks of heresy-hunting in the realm of science and opinion.

By his own words an incorrigible nonconformist (who achieved greatness by rejecting scientific orthodoxy), Dr. Einstein has been disheartened by efforts to punish scholars and scientists who have fallen from political favor. He denies the legitimacy of "all inquisitions that are concerned with the private life and political affiliations of the citizens."

Beyond his conviction that scientists can be hobbled by fears of heresy, Dr. Einstein's outspokenness also reflects his concern for human beings, a concern heightened by firsthand experience with nazism.

This characteristic was perhaps best illustrated by an incident while he was traveling in China some years ago. Offered a ricksha ride, he refused to take it because "I will not be a party to the making of man a draft animal." He changed his mind only after his wife's reminder that the ricksha driver's livelihood was also involved.

Dr. Einstein may underestimate both the vitality of American freedom and the need for prudence in security matters. But his voice is a reminder of the dangers of following too closely upon the will-o'-the-wisp of total security.