

Iowa caucus sets national tempo

Analysis By WILLIAM KOGUT
Of the Emerald

Tonight the less than 10 percent of Iowa's voters who trudge to local churches, schools, firehouses and other public centers will set the tone for the 1980 Presidential race.

If the Des Moines Register and Tribune poll is any indication, the most interesting results of the Iowa caucuses should come out of the Republican caucuses.

Before the Republican candidate's debate in Iowa, Ronald Reagan was gauged to have 50 percent of the Republican vote. But Reagan, following the advice of campaign manager John Sears, shunned the debate as an unnecessary risk.

Sears is the same man who advised Reagan to name his running mate, Sen. Richard Schweiker, before the 1976 Republican convention opened, a strategy which backfired. You'd think Reagan would have

learned, but old dogs, new tricks and all that.

The six Republicans who showed up for the Iowa debate performed well, on the whole. Reagan, who decided not to participate, looked arrogant. His support, as measured by the Register's polls, dropped to 26 percent.

On the other hand, Sen. Howard Baker's support jumped from 7 percent to 18 percent. If Baker does that well tonight and Reagan does no better than 26 percent, Reagan will be perceived as faltering. In 1972, Sen. Edmund Muskie looked the same way in New Hampshire when he failed to garner more than 50 percent of the vote against George McGovern.

But don't count on Baker to do that well. The Iowa caucus is really a test of organization; the ability of a candidate to mobilize hardcore support. Baker hasn't built much of an organization in

Iowa, so he's relying on a media blitz instead.

George Bush, who jumped from 3 percent to 17 percent in the Register poll, has what's generally conceded to be the best organization in the state. Bush's game plan emulates Carter's 1976 plan, where Carter broke away from the pack in Iowa. Bush is beating Carter's record: He's spent 27 days in Iowa to Carter's 17 days in 1976.

John Connally actually dropped two points in the Register poll. He's now desperately stumping the state trying to avoid finishing a poor fourth. Illinois Rep. Phil Crane has a low 6 percent. Hoping Reagan will be forced to step aside, Crane presented himself during the debate as a young Ronald Reagan. The 69-year-old Reagan may keel over before the convention. "Reagan will be the Republican nominee, that is, if he doesn't drop dead before the convention," says Miz Lillian, the president's mother.

Sen. Bob Dole of Kansas was self-pitying in the debate. John Anderson was admirably forthright. But, in any case, neither man figures to have much of an impact on the caucus results. Perhaps realizing the futility of campaigning in Iowa, Anderson has spent the last week campaigning in New Hampshire.

Surprisingly, Reagan, following Sears' advice to run his campaign on a "national basis," has also spent most of this last week outside of Iowa.

So come tomorrow morning, don't be surprised if George Bush, ex-U.N. ambassador and ex-CIA director, comes close to Reagan and the media labels him "the real winner of the Iowa caucuses." Yet, don't expect Bush to repeat Carter's rise from obscurity just because Bush may get off the ground much as Carter did in 1976. When the 1976 race moved south, Carter was on his home ground and seemed to be building momentum. But when Bush moves south, he'll be in Reagan and Connally country and his momentum might stall.

On the Democratic side of the Iowa caucuses, Carter has campaigned by staying in Washington and acting presidential while simultaneously making personal phone calls to his Iowan supporters.



Graphic by Tom Eitel

The Iranian and Afghani crises have worked to Carter's advantage, as has Sen. Ted Kennedy's inability to focus his campaign themes. Kennedy's main complaint against Carter was his supposed failure to lead, but now Carter appears to be leading, although to where is anyone's guess. Kennedy was also taking Carter to task for his positions on energy and inflation, but with foreign affairs dominating the headlines, Kennedy's speeches on economics seem out of touch.

As a result, since last August the poll standing of Kennedy and Carter has dramatically reversed in Iowa. Carter is now ahead of Kennedy by 57 to 25 percent.

Carter's standing with Iowa

Ralph Nader to speak today

Consumer activist Ralph Nader will speak in McArthur Court at noon today. There will be no charge.

Nader will speak on the rights and responsibilities of the consumer and how they relate to the future energy supply.

Nader's speech wraps up the ASUO Surviving the '80s Conference.

farmers may have suffered at the start of the embargo, but grain prices have not plummeted as expected and Vice Pres. Walter Mondale (remember him?) has been stumping the state saying that opposing the embargo is unpatriotic.

Now, at the Democratic caucuses, a voter must stand up to show which candidate he or she favors. The possibility of rising publicly to oppose a President coping with foreign crises might make many a voter think twice of going for Kennedy.

Any candidate who has less than 15 percent of the vote in a caucus room doesn't get even one delegate. That's why California Gov. Jerry Brown withdrew from the Iowa caucuses: With the Register poll showing him with only 4 percent, it looked like he was in danger of being embarrassingly shut out. He had only involved himself in the Iowa race so that he might appear in the Democratic debate. When that debate was cancelled because Carter said he was too busy handling crises, Brown's *raison d'être* in Iowa evaporated.

So, all in all, Carter's chances in Iowa look good and Kennedy must look to New Hampshire to give his candidacy the momentum it so desperately needs.

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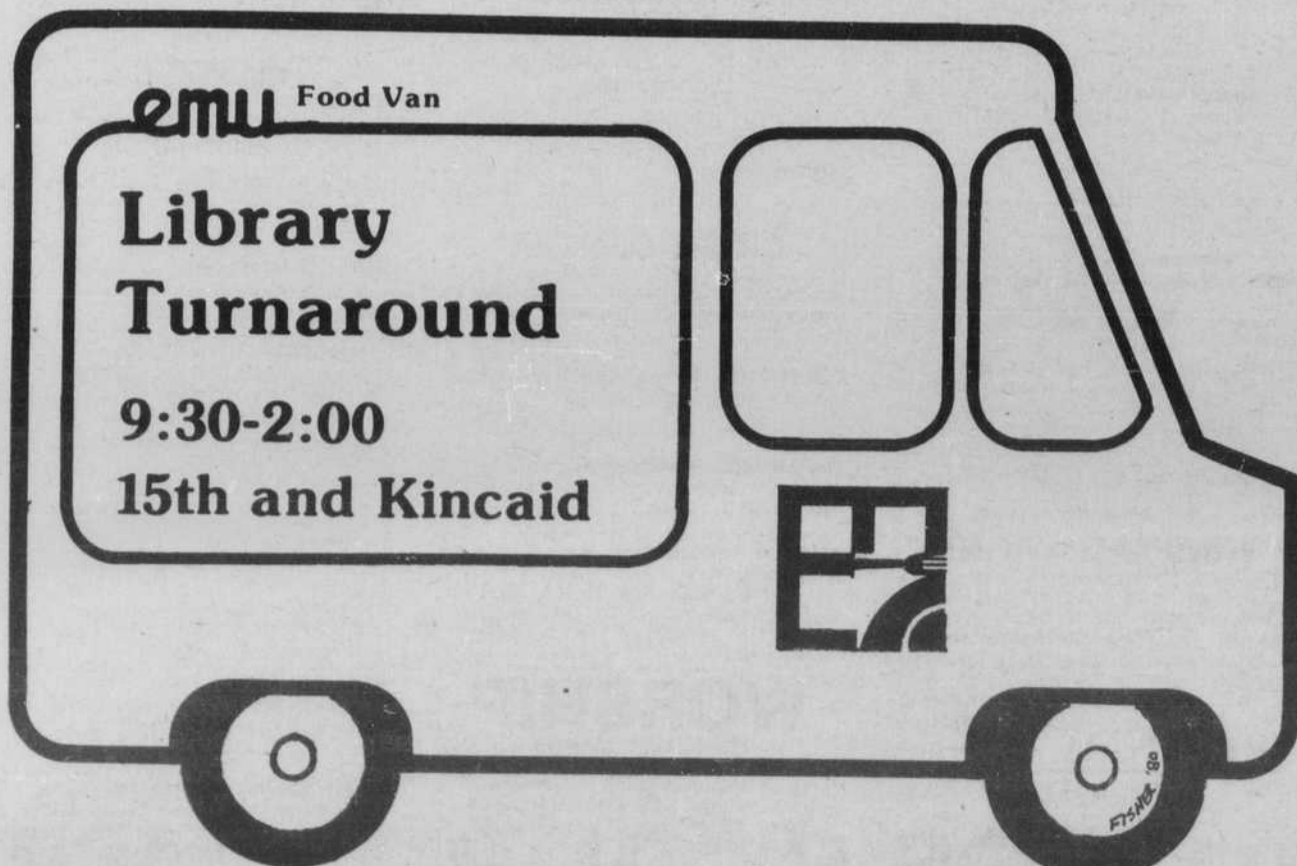
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