

Pre-Primary State Politics 'Cool, Calm'

By THOMAS G. WRIGHT JR.
Staff Writer, The Statesman

Oregon's pre-primary politics two days away from the ballot box showdown, remained calm, cool and collected Tuesday except for the hurried activities of two Democratic presidential hopefuls seeking the state's 16 delegates to the national convention.

Despite the busy campaigning of Sen. Estes Kefauver, who will speak Thursday noon from the Courthouse steps, and Adlai Stevenson, who spoke there Monday, lagging interest in the Friday election pointed to a low turnout at the polls.

Political seers Wednesday were predicting all the way from a 45 to 55 per cent turnout of state's 392,128 registered Democrats and 378,778 Republicans. Lack of local contests in many areas was responsible for the low forecast.

Large Portion Seen

In Salem and the first Congressional district, a larger portion of Republican voters are expected to turn out primarily because of the nip-and-tuck campaign between former Sec. of Interior Douglas McKay and former State Sen. Philip Hitchcock.

Candidates had varying reports on the possible effect of a small vote. McKay's campaign manager, William L. Phillips said the size of the vote wouldn't change the outcome for his candidate, but Paul Hebbe, state manager for McKay's GOP rival, Philip Hitchcock, saw a distinct advantage in a small turnout.

"If we can come within 12 to 15,000 votes of McKay in Multnomah County, we'll beat him," Hebbe asserted. He said Hitchcock had good valley strength, particularly in the Eugene area and in eastern and southern Oregon.

Hebbe pooh-poohed a public opinion poll which credited McKay with a 2 to 1 lead over Hitchcock. He said a spot poll taken by 90 campaign workers in the Portland area contacted 3,500 homes and found a margin of sentiment for Hitchcock.

Multnomah Holds Key

Multnomah County apparently held the key for both candidates as they concentrated their efforts in the highly populated area. Except for a jaunt Tuesday to Coos Bay and North Bend, McKay scheduled all of his election-week campaigning in Portland for TV, radio and factory appearances. He is scheduled to wind up his campaign at 10 p.m. Thursday with a TV talk over KLOO, then return to Salem to vote in his home precinct at South Salem High School.

Hitchcock, who has kept up a galloping campaign of the state since March, had several factory visits and a flying trip to Hillsboro on his Tuesday schedule. Today he visits Oregon City, takes in two coffee hours and has two radio and TV commitments. Thursday's schedule, winding up with a KOIN appearance at 11:05 p.m., has several coffee hours and factory visits in Portland, his home town where he will cast his ballot Friday.

The Republican race for secretary of state has created some statewide interest and sentiment as election eve neared gave no clear-cut edge to either William E. Healy over Mark Hatfield, both of Salem. Hatfield's apparent valley strength appeared to be counterbalanced by Healy's strength in eastern Oregon. The margin of victory remained a guarded secret of Multnomah County voters.

Like an easy victory for Rep. Walter Norblad of Stayton though the Republican incumbent R. F. Cook of Silverton voiced optimism Tuesday that he would upset Norblad who has held the post for 11 years.

Attorney Jason Lee of Salem and Don H. Metheny, Brooks farmer, are seeking the Democratic nomination.

BOOKKEEPER DROWNS

PENDLETON — Harry Dalby, 68, a bookkeeper at a Pilot Rock sawmill, drowned in West Birch Creek six miles west of Pilot Rock. His body was recovered Tuesday. Police said Dalby possibly suffered a heart attack and toppled into the stream.

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