Popularity of Ike, War Said Vote Factors

(Story also on page one.)

By the Associated Press

Adlai Stevenson's defeat and President Eisenhower's victory Tuesday apparently were made up mainly of two factors.

The people still like Ike and showed it.

They were worried a bit about world conditions—shooting in Hungary and Egypt. And they showed that.

The peace and prosperity Eisenhower and the GOP proclaimed throughout the land was a potent campaign theme. Voters just weren't in much of a mind to make a change—particularly after the clash of arms sounded across the Atlantic from mid-Europe and the Middle East.

Clearly, a renewed threat of war swung some ballots to Eisenhower.

Furthermore, for Eisenhower and Stevenson there simply weren't any tremendous, fundamental differences in approach to most major problems at home and overseas. Stevenson had little new to offer in the way of political wares.

Couldn't Sell

Stevenson tried, with such ideas as ending the draft and the testing of hydrogen bombs, but he couldn't sell them to enough people to make a showing.

Even on the farms, peace outweighed prosperity as a compelling issue. The farm belt "revolt" the Democrats had predicted certainly was no angry, massive rebellion.

It did make itself felt in some congressional and gubernatorial contests. But aside from Missouri, Eisenhower hauled in all the nation's breadbasket states.

To Secretary of Labor Mitchell it looked as though the election results "dispel forever the myth that the Democratic party is the party of labor."

Into Ranks of Labor

Obviously many working men disregarded the recommendations of the AFL-CIO high command that they vote for Stevenson. Some did, of course—perhaps the majority of them. But the way Eisenhower ran in big cities offered evidence that his popularity extended to some extent into the ranks of labor.

The election produced no signs that there is a labor vote as such, or a farm vote, or a Negro vote. The evidence pointed instead to the idea that American voters are an independent lot who vote for the man rather than the party—and split their tickets in a significant number of instances.

City Vote for Ike

In Louisiana, the city vote switched to Eisenhower under the impetus of war fears and the help of Negroes. Baltimore, with a large Negro population, went for Eisenhower with all of Maryland. So did Chicago.

Evidently Eisenhower's moderate approach to the racial and civil rights issue helped him with white Southerners and didn't alienate Negroes to any great degree. The President, in contrast with Stevenson, never openly endorsed the Supreme Court decision outlawing racial segregation in public schools.

He campaigned in Dixie on the basis that civil rights problems should be solved on a state and local basis wherever possible. Stevenson told the South the Supreme Court decision was right and deserved support.

Lop-Sided Win

Whatever the reasons, Eisenhower rolled up the most lop-sided election victory in recent political history, although he still fell short of the incredible record the late President Roosevelt set in 1936. Trying for a second term then, FDR took every state but Maine and Vermont. He rolled over Republican Alf M. Landon by a margin of nearly 11-million votes.

For Stevenson, the results this time probably have written "finis" to his attempts to become president. The two decisive defeats he has suffered would seem to foreclose a third try.

Buried in Suez

In Chicago, where Stevenson kept the election night watch, party leaders advanced the thought that whatever chances he might have had, were buried in the sands of Suez when shooting began in Egypt.

Stevenson's press secretary, Clayton Fritchey, said party leaders all over the country had come up with "a prevailing belief this election was a horse-race until the foreign crisis arose."

Stevenson himself offered no reasons or alibis for his defeat.

Before the end of the week, Stevenson promised a statement outlining his future political role. Fritchey hinted that Stevenson might make some money-raising speeches to help pay off the party debt of perhaps a million dollars. He did that after the 1952 campaign.

He Knew Theory But Practice, No

FAREHAM, Eng. (INS)—Royal Navy lieutenant John Turner told the court he had a degree in engineering. Then policeman Harold Hudson described Turner's car:

One tire was so worn the fabric showed in three places; the handbrake wouldn't stay in the "on" position; the silencer was split; one door wouldn't shut properly; the body was falling apart; the license plates were loose; a front fender, with its headlight, could be lifted four inches; the footbrake pulled the car to the right.