

Republicans Find Little Comfort In Connecticut Election Returns

By LYLE C. WILSON
United Press Correspondent
Washington—(U.P.)—There is mighty little comfort for the Republican party and its ailing president in election returns from 128 small towns in in swing-state Connecticut.

The returns got lost last week in the big news breaks of the day, but they were the first since Mr. Eisenhower was stricken in the last days of September. Democrats did not sweep the state. Far from it. But among the towns they did win were Hamden, for the first time in 50 years; Sterling for the first time in 40; New Fairfield after a lapse of 35 years; and Ledyard after 30.

Eighty town administrations stuck with the Republicans and six deserted from the Democrats to fix Republican holdings after the election at 88 towns.

Twenty-five towns remained faithful to the Democratic and 15 formerly Republican towns switched, giving the Democrats a net of 40. Two towns held non-

partisan elections.

Not Major Defeat

These figures do not represent a major defeat for the Republican Party, but the trend obviously favored the Democrats who gained more than they lost.

The loss of Hamden especially is cause for GOP concern in the Nutmeg State. This is a big and important town in a congressional district which has sent a Republican to Washington in the last two congressional elections. The Hamden vote figured significantly in those 1952 and 1954 GOP victories.

Republican strategists doubtless will study the returns with care, being especially alert to any indication that the Connecticut Republican organization needs overhauling.

Swing-states are important even though they may be small, as is Connecticut, with only six votes in the electoral college. A basic Connecticut trend would be likely to extend considerably through New England where the Republican Party has made a substantial comeback and cannot afford to retreat.

Must Hold Their Own

New England has nine Republican senators and 23 representatives in the 84th Congress against three Democratic sen-

ators and 10 representatives. The Republicans must hold their own or, perhaps gain a bit in New England next year to achieve control of the new 85th Congress. In light of that necessity, the returns from Connecticut's small towns will not arouse Republican enthusiasm.

Returns from Connecticut's 1954 congressional and gubernatorial polling were mixed. Abraham A. Ribicoff, a Democrat, defeated Republican Gov. John Lodge, who sought reelection. But Connecticut sent five Republicans and only one Democrat to the House of Representatives. There was no senatorial election last year but Republican Senator Prescott Bush is up in 1956. The party cannot afford to lose him. Bush reached the Senate on President Eisenhower's coat tails in 1952 to complete the term of the late Democratic senator, Brian McMahon.

The swinging tendency of Connecticut elections is shown by some recent presidential returns. The state cast its electoral votes in 1936 and 1948 for Democratic candidates. It went Republican in 1940-44-52.

Dead line Sunday Classified is at noon Saturday; 10 a.m. Monday for Monday; other days 5:30 previous day

Jesse Neff Rites To Be Wednesday

Jesse Vincent Neff, 86, pioneer resident of Jackson county, died in a Medford convalescent home yesterday after having been ill for several months. Mr. Neff, born in Clay county, Missouri, Sept. 10, 1869, came to Oregon with his parents as a small boy and lived here almost 80 years, working as a carpenter and farmer.

Funeral services will be held at Conger-Morris chapel Wednesday, Oct. 12, at 1 p.m., with the Rev. C. W. Frost officiating. Interment will be in Central Point cemetery.

Survivors include two sons, James T. Medford, and Lee M. Portland, and five grandchildren. Mr. Neff's wife, Loma, died last year.

When the Neff family first came to the county they lived in the area now known as Blackwell hill, and later near the site of Talent. As a boy he attended school in Central Point and remembered well the late "Professor" Hall, well known early-day teacher in this county.

The victims of a Portuguese man-of-war — man, fish or crustacean — only makes matters worse by thrashing about in the water. By movement he is likely to draw more and more jellyfish tentacles about him. If he does not escape, a fatal dose of poison may be absorbed.

Woman Takes Life Of Son and Self

Oswego—(U.P.)—Bodies of an Oswego woman and her eight-year-old son were found in their home last Saturday by a neighbor. They were dead from the same pistol the woman's husband used 11 days ago to end his own life.

Clackamas county coroner Leslie Peaks listed as murder-suicide the deaths of Mrs. Margaret Emerline Schoonmaker, 46, and her son, David.

The woman was the widow of Dr. Perry L. Schoonmaker, a dentist who was found shot to death Sept. 28 in his car on the Columbia river express highway near Multnomah falls. His death was listed as a suicide.

United States Said Ahead On Peaceful Atomic Use

Des Moines — (U.P.) — A top Atomic Energy Commission official said today that the United States is two or three years ahead of Russia in developing peaceful uses for atomic energy.

But the official, W. Kenneth

On Peaceful Atomic Use

Davis, director of the AEC reactor development program, said this country is "losing" the race with Russia to educate "sufficient numbers" of atomic scientists and engineers.

Edith Green Denies Resignation Reports

Portland — (U.P.) — Rep. Edith Green (D-Ore.) has denied reports that she intends to resign her Congressional seat to seek election as Oregon Secretary of State.

Mrs. Green yesterday told a breakfast meeting of Multnomah County Young Democrats that she will seek reelection to the House of Representatives in 1956.

Mrs. Green, who had recently returned from a trip to Alaska, said she was "more convinced than ever" that the territory should be granted statehood, but she said she felt there was little hope statehood would be granted in the next session of Congress.

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